The term 'Public Library' has had and still has many different connotations. It is not even possible to say that a public library is one which is not private; or that it is one which is available generally to the 'public' or that it is one supported substantially by public funds. Institutions have been turned 'public libraries' which have no such claim to the name.

In a memorandum on 'The development of public library services' prepared by the Public Libraries Section of the International Federation of Library Associations and adopted at the International Congress of Libraries and Documentation Centres at Brussels in 1955, it is said that "it is the purpose of the public libraries to make it possible for all men, according to their needs and circumstances, to enjoy whatever benefits full access to books and related forms of record may bring them. The public library is only one of the many means to access,
including libraries of other kinds and the personal possession of books. Cooperation between public libraries and other libraries should be developed to the maximum."
The public library "is concerned with all material of value to the individual and the community and it is its duty not only to most existing demands but also to encourage and facilitate wider demands from more people."
The public library should be a local service provided by the local authority but the 'responsible local authority should be the largest consistent with geographical and other conditions which will nevertheless attain the advantages of local control."

UNESCO is playing a great part and needs the fullest support of all those who realize how essential good public libraries are in the spreading and consolidation of genuine civilization. Without public libraries there can be no true democracy, no real freedom of mind or of body.

The United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) was the agency established, and the local public library is one of its most important concerns. UNESCO's purpose is to contribute to peace and security by promoting collaboration among the nations through education science and culture in order to further universal respect for justice, for the rule of law, and for the human rights and fundamental freedoms which are
affirmed for the peoples of the world, without distraction of race, sex, language as religion by the charter of the United Nations.

The role of the public library was discussed at the UNESCO Seminar on Public Libraries held in Malmo-Sweden, in 1950, which stressed the need for public libraries in the emergent and the less developed countries. The Delhi Library which was opened in 1951 with the support of UNESCO and of the Indian government, was the first modern free public library in India. A further seminar on public libraries was held in Sao Paulo, Brazil, in 1951, which led to the establishment of a pilot public library at Medellin, Colombia. At the Ibadan seminar in Nigeria in 1953, the West African Library Association was founded. In 1957 a third pilot public library was planned at Enugu in Eastern Nigeria.

In order to assist emergent countries in the planning of a public library system, UNESCO has issued a number of practical manuals.

In 1963 IFLA published a long term programme under the title 'Libraries in the World'. It stresses the decisive importance of the public library, for it alone can reach every one in the dissemination of information:

While in the whole library world great developments can be observed, the greatest development is of particular importance, the more so as it not only means a rapid increase in number and size in those countries in which the public libraries have long been in existence, but also implies the introduction and expansion of the public library system in
newly developed countries. For however important other types of libraries may be to these countries, it is clear that the first thing which is needed is the public library and therefore it is this library which together with the school, figures largely in all projects for national education in underdeveloped countries. UNESCO... has put particular stress on the development of public libraries in newly developed countries. What it has achieved is remarkable, both in the conviction which has inspired it and in the energy with which it has been pursued...

The services provided by the public libraries differs greatly from one country to another, depending upon the extent to which primary, further and higher educational facilities are developed.

61. EAST AFRICA

61A. BURUNDI

The Ministry of Education maintains a single public library facility in the capital city of Bujumbura. It maintains a collection of approximately 26000 volumes.

61B. ETHIOPIA

Libraries as a public service began to make some impact in post-war Ethiopia largely through the establishment of the National Library. It was inaugurated in 1944 by the Emperor who appointed Sereke Berhan Gebre Egzy as its first director. A catalog of the 272 manuscripts in the possession of the library was published in 1970 in Amharic, the first bibliographical publication of the

In October 1968, William B. Paton, Librarian of Lanarkshire, Scotland Country Library, visited Ethiopia at the request of the Ethiopian Government under the UNESCO participation programme and stayed for 3 months; he had been asked to prepare a long term plan for nationwide development of public and school library services and to make recommendations concerning the future of the National Library. He recommended that it should leave to the University library and its Institute of Ethiopian studies branch. The responsibility for national and reference functions, which these libraries were fulfilling to some extent already, and should concentrate its resources on public library functions, while becoming in effect the headquarters of the control public library of a countrywide public library system.

The only other public library financed from government funds is that of the education Department in Asmara, though a few municipal authorities have sponsored local libraries in cooperation with groups of volunteers.

The most active among libraries supported by foreign governments is the American Library, founded in 1952. It is a public library sponsored by United States Information Service and it has pioneered library service in the provinces. In the 1960s reading rooms were opened, often in the cooperation with the Ministry of Education,
in Dissie, Dera, Dawa, Dondar, Harar, Jumma and Mekele though the Herar Library had subsequently to be closed. The library of the British Council has a good collection of 20000 volumes, situated in Addis Ababa and it has a branch in Asmara.

61C. KENYA

The history of Kenya's present library structure and practice must be dated from the establishment of formal British administration of the area in 1895.

The largest and best known library in pre-independence Kenya was the MacMillan Memorial Library, was established in 1931 by Lady MacMillan, the library occupied one of Nairobi's most impressive buildings. By 1961 the collection numbered 55000 volumes and included many rare items of Africana. The MacMillan Library was essentially a private institution.

Independence brought about no immediate and spectacular changes in the Kenya Library scene. In general, developments have tended to follow patterns established earlier. Perhaps the most significant trend in the post-independence period has been the steady increase in size and importance of the library of the University of Nairobi.

Only modest progress has been made in the provision of public library service.
There are also a number of Asian subscription libraries. Desai Memorial Libraries (1942); SeifBin Salim and Ismail Rahim tulla Trust Libraries. The only multi-racial public libraries are those of the British Council in Nairobi (1948); Kisumu (1952) and Mombasa (1951) with a combined issued of nearly 90000 books in 1964 and membership of 7000; and the libraries of the Bureau. In Kampala, the Municipal Library was being developed to serve the Urban community, while the Bureau and the Ministry of community development were jointly building up book collections at various community development centres, all over the country, for use in the adult literacy campaigns.

THE EAST AFRICAN LITERATURE BUREAU

At the East African Governors' conference held in 1944 "Mrs Elspeth Huxley was commissioned to tour East Africa and to recommend what Governments should do to improve the provision of books and magazines for the African reading public." She arrived in Nairobi on October 28, 1945 to inquire into the needs of Kenya, Uganda, and Tanganyika (now Tanzania) in regard to popular literature and to make proposals as to how these needs could be met. Upon the completion of her mission, Mrs. Huxley published her report which has been discussed already.

A big step was taken in 1958 when the first EAIA conference was organized at Muguga, Nairobi, on December 12-13. At the conference the following motion was unanimously approved:

that the EAIA having discussed the proposal by the chairman of the Association, Mr. D. A. R. Kempe, B.A., F.L.A., the statutory Library Boards should be set up in East Africa. The Association heard with interest that memoranda submitted by the EAIB were being considered by the Ministers of the East African Governments and recorded its support for the proposals outlined in these memoranda and offered assistance to its professionally qualified members in preparing detailed plans for such Boards. 3

The East African governments accepted the motion. Towards the end of 1959, the secretary of state for the colonies announced his willingness to make grants for the development of library services of the kind outlined above.

In June 1960, the British Council appointed Sidney Hockey as the libraries organiser for East Africa with the following terms of reference:

Survey the area and present to East African Governments plans for the development of free public library services in each territory;

advice on the allocation of the British Government funds to the British Council on the assumption that financial responsibility for the recurrent expenditure would be met by the territorial governments; and assist in the initial development of the services being set. 4


It was very easy for the East African governments to respond because the East African Library Association has already made plans in anticipation of British and copies of those plans were made available to Hockey while he was still in the United Kingdom. Thus when he arrived in East Africa he already had solutions to a number of problems. In addition, Hockey was experienced in running public libraries both in Great Britain and the West Indies. He believed that the only satisfactory way of developing public library services in East Africa was to set up in each one a central library organization, financed by the central government, which will pool all existing resources and ensure that the assistance which is being offered by the U.K. and many organizations which are interested in Africa was used to the best advantage.5

In December 1960, the Hockey Report on the Development of Library services in East Africa was published. His plans were unanimously accepted. Some of his recommendations included the establishment of national library services boards in each of three East African countries and the East African School of Librarianship at Makerere University in Kampala, Uganda. In August 1965, the KNLs board was created by act of Parliament as a statutory board (the Kenya National Library Services Board Act, Laws of Kenya Cap. 225) and it was gazetted in April 1967.

Hence, the KNLS board is the direct product of the EALB and the EAIA. To date the KNLS board has a national network of free libraries in Nairobi. The headquarters is the National Lending and Reference Library, with branch Libraries in Eldoret, Embu, Garissa, Kakamega, Kisumu, Mombasa, Makuru and Nyeri.

STRATEGIES OF THE KNLS

The KNLS board was pledged to establish branch libraries in all the provinces and in each of Kenya's forty-two districts by 1980.

Unfortunately, this objective has not been fulfilled and will likely remain unfulfilled until the turn of the century. The development and expansion of KNLS has been retarded mainly because of a lack of qualified personnel, and this situation is untimely to change.

Furthermore, it is questionable whether KNLS has ever attempted to measure the effectiveness of its services public library effectiveness can be defined, as Tottardell and Bird State, "as the degree in which the public library satisfied the needs for information of the whole society, and on the other hand, the degree in which the public library propagandaizes itself in this society as an institution which is able to satisfy these needs for information."

One area in Kenya librarianship that needs serious
examination is that of salaries. The salary of the Chief Librarian Executive Officer, for example, is not adequate for a leadership position. The salary is within the salary range of the senior assistant librarian of the University of Nairobi and Kenyatta University college. In fact, the KNIS board has served as merely a training ground for librarians.

The situation is unlikely to change in the near future in as much as the training programme is haphazard and irregular. Most of the training programmes for staff are dependent upon foreign scholarships offered mainly by the British Council. Because of financial constraints, some aspects of development can take place only in alternate years. That is, KNIS recruits some staff, purchases books, and trains staff in separate years. For a glance at the Board's financial history from 1967 to 1978, as table 6.1 shows.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
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<tr>
<td>1967-68</td>
<td>9,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>1968-69</td>
<td>9,000</td>
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<td>1969-70</td>
<td>35,000</td>
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<td>1970-71</td>
<td>45,000</td>
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<td>1971-72</td>
<td>70,000</td>
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<td>1972-73</td>
<td>80,000</td>
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<td>1973-74</td>
<td>1,80,000</td>
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<td>1974-75</td>
<td>1,24,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>1975-76</td>
<td>1,54,950</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1976-77</td>
<td>N.A.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1977-78</td>
<td>1,95,900</td>
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</table>
In 1967 the board had a grant that was adequate only to meet the board's expenses on salaries and office expenses. This picture has continued to date as Ng'ang's stresses, in his M.L.S. Thesis (1979). The Development of Public Libraries in Kenya, Past, Present, and Future.

In December 1978, President Daniel Arap Moi called on the nation to wipe out illiteracy:

The development of our country is the development of the people and that is the strategy which will continue, to guide us in future. The time has therefore come to mount a special programme, for the elimination of illiteracy within a specific period of time I believe that we in Kenya, with the kind of determination we have shown in the past in dealing with difficult problems, should be able to eliminate illiteracy in our country within five years.

What programmes has the KNLS board established to help answer the presidential call? Admittedly, money is generally scarce in Kenya and of course, libraries have felt the financial pinch.

THE NAIROBI CITY LIBRARIES

Even before Kenya attained independence in 1963, it was realized that racial segregation would no longer be tolerated and so, on October 17, 1960, the trustees of the McMillan Memorial Library transferred management of the library to the Nairobi City Council which formally assumed control on January 1, 1962. Immediately after independence, aid from the British Council enabled the establishment of the Kaloleni branch in 1967 and East
lands branch in 1969.

The dilemma which the Nairobi City Library Service faces is stagnant library services. It has no programme for any kind of development. Support from the City Council has dwindled for more than six years; and not only has there been a drop in readership but also the council no longer recruits new staff.

In 1978, the chairman of the city council's Finance Committee told the press that, "the council made a sound financial gain in 1978-79 and that as a result of this the council promised to give more additional welfare facilities to the residents of the city.

Negotiations are currently underway to have the KNIS assume complete management of the city libraries services, just as it has taken over the Self Bin Salim Library and Free Reading Room in Mombasa. From the city libraries service point of view, such a move would enable the city libraries to offer better services to its residents. The Council is expanding in all directions, every year. Now estates are being built and the overall planning includes schools, markets roads, clinics, and playgrounds. But never is there a mention of libraries. This is unfortunate in a city that is increasing incredibly. During the 1969 census, the population was 500,000; this figure increased to 700,000 in 1980. Nairobi enjoys
the highest literacy rate (over 80%) and of the 3.5 per cent annual birth rate. Nairobi would claim to be in the lead. The same could be said of its highest health facilities and, consequently, its low death rate. In short, every thing good for the better of the community is in Nairobi -- still there is but no library expansion.

61D. RWANDA

Before Rwanda's independence in 1962, there were two categories of libraries: one for Europeans, and another for Africans. A library was set up in Kigali for Europeans before the 1940's. It contained 2,300 books in 1946. It remained the only library for Europeans in Rwanda until independence. Ten public libraries were established for indigenous persons between 1947 and 1954; the most important, at Kigali, had a collection of 2623 books in 1960. By 1970 none of these libraries was still in existence. Since independence, there has been no governmental responsibility for libraries. The foundations of public libraries was taken in charge by the embassies, religious institutions, the National University of Rwanda, and others. The French Cultural Centre Library was founded in 1967 in Kigali and later extended its branch libraries in Gisenyi and in Butare. Also worthy of mention are the several libraries in Kigali. Such as the American Cultural Centre Library, the Protestant Centre
Library (CEITAR), the Club Bafiki Library, which was founded in 1975, by the Dominican Fathers in Nyamirambo, and the University Extension Library in Butare. The public libraries have few trained workers and because the shortage of the books in Kinyarwanda, the national language, are used almost exclusively by the minority able to read both French and English.

61E. SOMALIA

Local Government Council Library was founded in 1958 at Hargeisa. But public library system is not developed till now. Libraries are established with the help of foreign governments such as British Council Library at Mogadiscio and American Library with the help of United States Information Service.

61F. TANZANIA

The genesis of the library movement in Tanzania dates back to the 1940s. Before that period very few libraries existed. Some of the few institutional libraries founded before the Second World War were Government Secretariat Library in Dar-es-Salaam (established in the 1920's); the Mineral Resources Library, Dodoma (1925); the Mpwappwa College of National Education Library (1926) etc.

Public libraries in the accepted modern sense did
not exist. There were small collections maintained by private organizations such as the Women's Service League in Dar-es-Salaam.

A booklet published by the colonial government in the 1940's or in the 1950s, 'Station in Tanganyika Territory', listed 26 government stations, 10 of which had libraries, either good or small. In the 1950, there were plans to establish libraries in Town Council office and community centres as stipulated by the 1946 Municipalities Ordinance, which empowered Municipalities and Town Councils to establish, acquire, erect, construct, maintain, assist and promote libraries, art galleries and museums. However, plans did not materialize mainly because of lack of funds.

The Annesley scheme, as already pointed out, failed to materialize because of lack of funds. However, in 1959, Britain indicated that it would provide substantial grants for the development of library services in line with the Annesley plan. The Secretary of State for the colonies, on recommendations of the Literature Bureau, appointed Mr. S.W.Hockey as Library development organiser. His terms of reference were:

1. To serve the area and to present to the various governments, plans for the development of free public library services in each territory.

2. To advise on the allocation of capital funds which were to be made available to the British Council for this purpose by the British government, on condition that recurrent expenditures would be met by the territorial governments.
Tanganyika, as it was then called, was the first country to adopt Mr. Hockey's report and the first to pass the necessary legislation to implement his major recommendations: that is, it authorized establishment of a board to coordinate and control development of a new service built on the foundation of the libraries operated by the East African Literature Bureau.

The 1963 Act - like those of Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Uganda, and Kenya were very much influenced by the Gold Coast (Ghana) Ordinance of 1950. The act empowered the board which consisted of 10 members appointed by the Minister of National Education, to promote, establish, equip, manage, maintain and develop libraries in mainland Tanzania. During the same year, Mr. E.M. Broome, a British Library Expert, was appointed the first director of library services. With this appointment in 1963, public library development in Tanzania began in earnest.

In 1964 the Tanganyika Library Service was formally established as an organization independent of the East African Literature Bureau, and in 1965 a pilot library was opened in temporary premises in Dar-es-Salaam. It started with the collection of 30,000 books from the East African Literature Bureau and 20,000 books from the British Council.

Following its transfer from the East African
The National Central Library, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania.
Literature Bureau in April 1964, the pilot library continued to operate a limited service to registered readers. However, the premises soon became inadequate for the purpose.

Since the establishment of the National Central Library in 1963, the Library Services Board has been preoccupied with ways and means of extending library facilities throughout the country. It has, indeed, undertaken a Herculean task.

When the Tanganyika Library Service was launched in April 1964, its governing board inherited a proposal from the government for the provision of a new Central Library in Dar-es-Salaam. This project, originally considered part of the post-independence 3-year development plan (1961-63), had of necessity to be carried forward into first 5 year development plan (1964-69). However the projects were not implemented as the expected foreign aid did not materialize. The present set up consists of the National Central Library in Dar-es-Salaam as the headquarters of a nation wide, library service made up of the various regional, district, and village libraries. Membership for readers is free, both at the headquarters and at all branches.

But provision of library services to rural areas is very important because about 90% of the population
lives in villages. The government has given high priority to the elimination of illiteracy.

61G. UGANDA

The earliest attempts to provide a public library service were made in the late 1940s as part of the post-war efforts to improve conditions in the country. Under the ten-year development plan (1946-56) social services were emphasized; among such services were lending libraries. This project listed a few years before it was abandoned. In 1948 the East African Literature Bureau, an interstate institution (serving the three countries of Kenya, Uganda, and Tanzania), started a public libraries programme based at Kampala. It was composed of two services: (a) circulating book boxes, which were loaned to subscribing institutions, (b) a postal loan service to subscribing individuals.

A modern public library service was introduced with the 1964 Public Libraries Act, which provided for a national headquarters and regional libraries under a Public Libraries Board. The Board is responsible for the headquarters library in Kampala with over 100,000 volumes and 18 branches through the country. Its other functions include a postal lending service to individuals, a book-box loan scheme to institutions, and a mobile library service.
The Kampala Library, Uganda.
Much is yet to be discovered of the great kingdom which flourished before the advent of the Europeans to West Africa: Ghana (5th century A.D.), Mali (c.a 1312-1327), Goa, or Songhai (Ca. 1590). These civilizations were essentially the outgrowth of the trans-Saharan Commerce with Muslim North Africa, and little is known of whatever records may still exist in the form of Arabic manuscripts.

One must therefore turn to the colonial period to find the beginnings of present day library history in West Africa. The earliest libraries of this period fell into the categories of educational or cultural exports from England or France and formed a necessary ingredients of colonization. Among the earliest dated libraries are those of an educational institution, Fourah Bay College, Sierra Leone (founded 1827), and a research institute, the Bibliothèque du centre de Recherches et de Documentation du Sénégal at Saint-Louis (1837). The National Public Library of Liberia (1926) has its roots in the library of the "Agents House" (i.e. the agent of the American Colonization Society) in Mounrovia, established in 1826.

The library history of Sierra Leone lending library in 1873 attached to a Catholic Day School in Freetown and a subscription library opened in 1887 by the trustees of the William Wilberforce Memorial Hall,
Aside from a few such early libraries, library development in West Africa was a product of twentieth century. Government records date to the beginning of colonial governments, but the earliest known effort in West Africa to lay down regulations for the keeping of these records occurred in 1913.

A few government operated libraries in Nigeria also date back to the early part of the 20th century, such as the Law Library of the Federal Ministry of Justice, Lagos (1900), and the library of the former Medical Research Institute, Yaba (1910).

From 1900 onward the beginnings of public library service could be seen in the work of such public-spirited individuals as J.A. Thomas of Sierra Leone, who in 1900 endowed a public library in Freetown consisting initially of his personal books; and Bishop Aglioby of Ghana, who opened a library of some 6,000 volumes in the Bishop's Boys School, Accra, in 1928 and permitted interested members of the public to make use of the books.

From 1950 onward development of libraries in West Africa moved rapidly. This rise has been attributed by a pioneer librarian who began her career in West Africa as a British Council Librarian and ended it as director of library service, Ghana Library Board to the following
factors:

(a) the establishment of University Colleges and
the accelerated development of education
generally, and

(b) the interest of the British Council, which
was initially responsible for the growth of
the public library movement in West Africa.

62A. BENIN

A Central Library Service under the Ministry of
Youth. Popular Culture and Sports has established
provincial libraries at Abomey, Natitingou, Ouidah,
Parakou, and Porto Novo.

62B. CAMEROON

Most of the public library services in Yaounde' and
Douala are provided by cultural centres attached to the
embassies. In Yaounde there are four main ones, the
British Council Library, the American Cultural Central
Library, the French Cultural Central Library and the
German Cultural Central Library. These serve about 15
per cent of the population. Many of them are understaffed
and hold between 5000 and 17000 volumes. Some of them
also provide children's section and hold films, records
and tapes.

62C. GAMBIA, THE

Libraries in The Gambia have been the poor relation
of other essential services; they had never been planned before 1972. The missionaries had libraries in their various missions. Between 1944 and 1945, Bishop Daley of the Anglican Mission in The Gambia opened a library and reading room known as the Bishop Daley Library. It was a subscription library and existed until 1949.

Government departments had their own little libraries -- specialized and geared to the work done in the particular department; therefore the few literate people who were not in such offices or who could ill afford to pay for membership of the Bishop Daley Library had no access to a library.

In 1946 the British Council opened its first public library in The Gambia. Children could join only upon the recommendation of their headmaster or headmistress. The adults who joined were the elites of society plus Europeans and African expatriates. It was a subscription library -- books, furniture and equipment -- to the Government of The Gambia. The book stock then numbered 25000 volumes. The library was handed over to a non-professional librarian who did his best to maintain the service.

In January 1963, the development was terribly slow as libraries were not included in national planning. Furthermore, it seemed that libraries were not fully appreciated by the handful of literate people.
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. National Library expands book stock with increased book vote each year (D. 28,000)</td>
<td>(D. 32,000)</td>
<td>(D. 36,000)</td>
<td>(D. 40,000)</td>
<td>(D. 44,000)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Agreement with Department of Education to expand library development into provinces. This will necessitate: (a) increased vote; (b) increased establishment (4 potential librarians + 8 sub-librarians); (c) recruitment for training</td>
<td></td>
<td>Library building programme</td>
<td>Staff trained abroad</td>
<td>Libraries opened in: Basse; Georgetown; Mansakonko; Brikama</td>
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<tr>
<td>3. Schools library service—book box scheme—restarted for primary schools</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Each with a librarian and 2 staff members</td>
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<tr>
<td>4. Training of primary school headmasters in basic librarianship at National Library</td>
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<tr>
<td>5. Ministry of Overseas Development/British Council presentation of small libraries to all primary schools</td>
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Fig. 4.1. Proposed flow chart for national library development, 1977–82.
Books and other related material continued to be made available by the British Council, in turn supplemented with gifts from foreign embassies in The Gambia. The library services in general were concentrated in the Capital Banjul. When the British Council's library services to the provinces ceased to operate, the situation became rather gloomy.

In December 1976, the Gambia Library Board Act was passed. In its recent meeting the library board discussed a five year development programme for the Gambia National Library Service. Figure shows the proposed programme in a flow chart.

The Waller Commission advocated a unified library service under one authority and recommended that the post of Chief Librarian be established. This post should be held by a professional librarian who should supervise the whole library complex. All library staff should report to this officer and they should be interchangeable to ensure uniformity in training and opportunity.

Ghana was the first black African country to create a nationwide public library system. In 1928 Bishop

Aglionby, the Anglican Bishop of Accra, mooted the idea of providing a library service for the "growing literature" in the cities. He donated an initial amount of £1000 and persuaded the then British Colonial Government to support the public library movement in principle.

The coming of the British Council to Ghana in 1943 marked an important phase in library development in the country. The council started at the onset to develop a country-wide service. It thus initiated an articulated pattern to be later adopted by the Ghana Library Board when it was established in 1950. The council made available to the Board the services of its librarian, Evelyn J.A. Evans, who developed upon this foundation a service that reflected in every detail her experience in the British Country Library System, and the Council's entire bookstock was transferred to the Board.

This background and experience facilitated the establishment of the Ghana Library Board with authority to "establish, manage and maintain" libraries in Ghana.

The year 1950 was a significant landmark in the history of public library service in Ghana. The Gold Coast Library Board Ordinance Cap 118 which was passed in the Legislative Council in December 1949 came into operation on 1st January 1950. This legislation made the Gold Coast Library Board, the second public corporation in the country after the Cocoa Marketing Board, 1947. As a
statutory body, the Board's first efforts were devoted to the appointment of staff and the conditions of service with respect to staff and salary scales. A working committee was appointed to make recommendations on these matters and later on a standing committee was appointed to deal with ordinary matters, referring other matters to the Board when necessary.

The British Council's donation of 27000 books without which the Aglionby Library could not have opened in 1946 was much appreciated by the Board. More book donations came to the Board from the British Council and from individuals. On March 31, 1951 the Board had 49,923 books in stock.

Fortunately in Kumasi, in 1950, the British Council was running a library for 400 readers on behalf of the Library Board, with an average book stock of 3000 which was changed at frequent intervals.

Further 237 miles north from Kumasi, in Tamale the Library Board had deposited 2,500 volumes in the Tamale Social and Cultural Institute for readers and others in search of literary and other forms of cultural recreation.

The Accra Central Library which is housed in one of the most beautiful buildings in Accra was officially opened by Governor Sir Arden Clarke in 1956. The Ashanti Library Branch was opened in 1951 and a permanent Regional
Library built in 1954 in Kumasi. The Sekondi Branch Library was opened in September 1952 assumed Regional status in 1955.

The Cape Coast Branch Library which was opened in 1951 was later to become a Regional Library in 1960. The Volta Region Library opened in 1954 assumed Regional status in 1964 and the Northern Branch Library opened in 1954 became a Regional Library in 1964.

The Central Library was the mother library which brought into being the other branch libraries which later gained the status of Regional Libraries. Table 6.2 shows the development of branch libraries from the period of 1950-1975.

Library centres were established at various places during 1950-1970. Table 6.3 shows the dates of their opening. But no library centres have been opened after September 1970 because the Board decided to turn the existing library centres into full branch libraries.

As each Branch Library developed into a Regional Library, new and modern buildings were put up to house the libraries with provision for adult lending and reference etc.

By 1955 the Ghana Library Board's activities, expanding facilities and services were becoming known outside the country and requests for information about it were received from distant countries like Thailand,
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of Branch Library</th>
<th>Date of opening</th>
<th>Name of Branch Library</th>
<th>Date of opening</th>
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<tr>
<td>Osu and Kaneshie</td>
<td>July 1950</td>
<td>Tema</td>
<td>November 9, 1962</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Koforidua</td>
<td>April 1955</td>
<td>Dodowa</td>
<td>November 1962</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tarkwa</td>
<td>July 6, 1956</td>
<td>Akim Oda</td>
<td>December 13, 1962</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dunkwa</td>
<td>August 17, 1957</td>
<td>Obuasi</td>
<td>October 13, 1963</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hojoe</td>
<td>July 1, 1958</td>
<td>Sunyani</td>
<td>March 20, 1970</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kpandu</td>
<td>July 1, 1958</td>
<td>Nkawkaw</td>
<td>April 24, 1970</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jasikan</td>
<td>July 1, 1958</td>
<td>Axim</td>
<td>July 1, 1971</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Konongo/Ooiumase</td>
<td>July 1959</td>
<td>Navrongo</td>
<td>October 1972</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Keta</td>
<td>February 27, 1960</td>
<td>Peki</td>
<td>July 1, 1973</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Takoradi</td>
<td>1960</td>
<td>Winneba</td>
<td>July 1974</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Table 6.3
Library Centres - Years of Opening

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sl.No.</th>
<th>Name of Library Centres</th>
<th>Date of opening</th>
<th>Sl.No.</th>
<th>Name of Library Centres</th>
<th>Date of opening</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Offinso</td>
<td>July, 1958</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>Akosombo</td>
<td>April, 1964</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Bevekum</td>
<td>October, 1958</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>Bawku</td>
<td>June, 1964</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Damango</td>
<td>April, 1959</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>Tumu</td>
<td>July, 1965</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Lawra</td>
<td>1959</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>Gambaga</td>
<td>August, 1968</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Wa</td>
<td>January, 1960</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>Salaga</td>
<td>September, 1966</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Akropong</td>
<td>Early, 1960</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>Asamankese</td>
<td>October, 1968</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Bibiani</td>
<td>September, 1961</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>Nyakrom</td>
<td>August, 1970</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Aboso</td>
<td>April, 1962</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>Elmina</td>
<td>September, 1977</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Tsito</td>
<td>November, 1963</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Western Australia, Jamaica, and the United States of America.

The work of the Library Board came also to the favourable notice of UNESCO which initiated the Board to host a seminar on the Development of Public Libraries in Africa in the seminar of 1953. Unfortunately no suitable accommodation could be found during the crowded summer period in the Gold Coast and so the venue was shifted to Ibadan, Nigeria.

May 17, 1956 as a date that will long be remembered in the history of public library system in Ghana. Speaking at the opening of the Accra Central Library on the same day (May 17, 1956), the Prime Minister, Dr. Nkrumah said that to a Gold Coast emerging on independence library facilities for all throughout the length and breadth of the country were an immense help to the people, and this could only be achieved by intelligent use of our educational facilities. In this respect he said the country was indebted to the Gold Coast Library Board for the progress it had made....

Speaking at the same ceremony, the representative of the library Association of Great Britain and Northern Ireland Mr. Edward Sydney said, "As a librarian with much theoretical and many years practical experience of the problems involved, I am persuaded that the Board has been unusually fortunate in the quality of its high

leadership, professional and administrative skill."

With the opening of the new Accra Central Library the Board intensified its activities and expanded its services and facilities.

In 1970 the Library Board took some important decisions. Regional Advisory Committees on libraries were created to advise the Board on development services at the regional level and to encourage, full use of the existing library facilities in the regions.

In 1972, the Ghana Library Board established a schools and colleges library unit neither the Board's system with a grant of £400,000 to improve libraries in schools and colleges.

Since the Ghana Library Board assumed responsibility in 1950 under the Library Board Act to establish, equip, manage and maintain public libraries in the whole country it has provided a bookstock to meet the various needs of all the different sections of users in the community. The Board has a book selection which also caters for constant revision to meet changing tastes and demands.

During the decade 1950-51 to 1959-60, a total amount of £242,829.70 was spent on the acquisitions of 266,000 volumes at an average cost of £0.91 a volume. The cost of book provision for the second decade was £6,362.51

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at $1.78 per volume; and for the last four years of the period 1970-71 to 1973-74, an amount of $2.99 per volume.9

The Aglionby Library, inaugurated in 1946 formed the nucleus of the library services in the country with an initial stock of about 5000 from the British Council. Apart from this the British Council provided a Book Box Service in places outside Accra. The Council handed over its stock of 27000 volumes to the Gold Coast Library Board when it was inaugurated in January 1950. By the end of 1951 financial year there were 49,92310 volumes covering all subjects.

The first decade after the establishment of the library services witnessed great strides in the acquisition of books. The total book stock for this period, 1950-60 was 266,666 volumes, of which 124,150 (46.57 per cent) were adult non-fiction 59,516 (22.3 per cent) were fiction and 83,000 were children's books (31.13 per cent).11

The stock of 362,271 volumes for the decade 1960-61 to 1969-70 should a rise over that of the first decade by 95605 volumes.

In the two decades bookstock in the social sciences

10. Ibid., p. 55.
11. Ibid., p. 55.
and in the pure and applied sciences comprised more than 44 per cent of the adult nonfiction stock. These three main classes formed 44 per cent of the adult non-fiction stock in 1950-51 to 1959-60 and rose to 55 per cent in 1960-61 to 1969-70. 12

In the years 1970-71 to 1978-79 a total of 234,805 volumes has been added to stock.

The aim of the Board is first to provide general reading material for the literate population not enrolled in any formal education programme. The second aim is to acquire materials that will satisfy the information needs of the literate public.

The Board also maintains children's library service.

COMMERCIAL LIBRARY SERVICE

In 1967, a novel feature in the Ghana Public Library service was introduced: the opening of a commercial library in the office formerly occupied by the director of library service. The need for a commercial library was evidenced by requests from commercial and industrial establishments as well as private individuals seeking information on trade and commerce. The flood of questions, by letter and telephone, was so great that a large room once used by the Director was reallocated for this purpose. The objective of the service is to provide

every kind of commercial information from all sources for the requirements of trade and industry in Ghana. It provides quick reference on more general subjects and detailed information required by the manufacturer, wholesaler, retailer, consumer, government, and private agency. Such information once obtained only through painful search, has become available through a well organized library service.

To satisfy the demands of this service, a comprehensive collection of the latest editions of town, trade, and professional directories was acquired. The main general and commercial trade journals and newspapers, air and shipping timetables, government publications, especially the gazette, telegraphic codes, and a lost of other ephemeral materials were also collected.

Through this service, the library board has assumed a unique role in the economic development of the country. Unfortunately, the service is restricted to Accra, largely because it is expensive. Since most commercial and industrial establishments have their headquarters in Accra, the service amply meets their needs.

RESEARCH LIBRARY ON AFRICAN AFFAIRS

In 1960, three years after independence, Ghana was declared a Republic. By that times several other African
states had also achieved independence or were about to do so. The concept of African Unity was also becoming to emerge when therefore, George Padmore, the Great son of Africa, died in 1961. Kwame Nkrumah decided to erect a memorial in honour of this great Africanist, as well as personal friend and adviser on African affairs. With Padmore's work in the Pan-Africa movement known internationally, a memorial was a fitting tribute. In the opening address Nkrumah clearly set out the objective of the Library:

There is indeed an urgent need for a centre of Research into the life of the peoples of the African continent to which the student can turn for current information on historical narratives in this period of tremendous change and political upheaval.

Today the library stands unique in Africa; it is the only public library devoted entirely to African studies. It is gradually assuming the functions of a national library for Ghana.

The library began with a modest collection of one thousand books, the growth was steady, and today its collection stands at twenty-four thousand. This collection includes part of George Padmore's personal library, material collected from the Bureau of African Affairs after Kwame Nkrumah was overthrown, and some rare books. In addition, it houses a large stock of pamphlets and unpublished material which are original sources for
research workers. A distinctive Ghana collection has been built over the years, including complete sets of government publications and newspapers. This library publishes the 'Ghana National Bibliography'.

The library board made a significant decision in 1965 when it assumed the mandate of the Technical Advisory Committee to carry out some of the functions of the National Library.

**PROBLEMS OF THE BOARD**

By 1961, a little over ten years after its establishment the board was operating a nationwide public library service. New libraries continued to be opened, though at a slower rate than in the preceding decade; readership and bookstock were expanding; and a special mobile service to schools, started in 1959, provided very successful.

The early 1960s ushered in some real difficulties for the board. A service of this magnitude required a substantial book fund and foreign exchange for its upkeep. Ghana began to experience difficulties in her overseas reserves and strict measures had to be instituted to control imports. The open general licence to buy books during the 1950s was brought to a halt, and book buying had to be tailored to diminishing import licences.
Unlike many other developing countries which depend for library development on foreign funds and agencies, Ghana has built its library service essentially from local resources. This is not to deny that the British Council play an initial role, by giving the staff of the library board books and furniture. The council continues to help through book donations and scholarships. The international communication Agency of the United States, the Federal Republic of Germany, and the USSR, among other have also lent minor assistance. The Ghana public library service has been built largely on self reliance. Ghana's government considers library development a basic requirement of its people's educational and recreational needs.

As presently constituted, the Ghana Library Board is responsible for running all public libraries in Ghana, including the Commercial Library Service, the Research Library on African Affairs, and the schools and colleges library department. Administratively, the service is based on nine political divisions known as regions, with each having a regional library.

The board, in existence for over thirty years now, performs functions which other library agencies normally exercise, and it has managed to undertake these functions with an incredible measure of success. Undoubtedly, government and the general public recognize the board as the agency for library development. These often take the
form of advice on the establishment and running of libraries and the training of staff.

The traditional library practice that has characterized the board's work over the last thirty years no longer satisfy the demands of a developing country whose population is largely semiliterate or illiterate. This class of people, mostly farmers and semi-educated artisans, needs to be constantly educated and informed on new ways of improving their standard of living. Accordingly, the board is presently engaged in a study to establish the best means of employing the new developments in audio-visual technology as effective library tools.

To undertake these functions, the legislature should establish a new body with adequate authority and financial support. What is contemplated is a National Library, the public library, library services to schools and colleges, and a department to be directly responsible for library provision to Parliament, the ministries, and quasi-government organizations.

The National Archives of Ghana began in 1946. Its existence was regularized by an ordinance which established it in 1935. It is charged with responsibility for preserving all public records that are of value to the nation.
62E. GUINEA

Efforts were made to expand public library service beyond the capital of Conakry through the Partie Democratique de Guinee (PDG), which is responsible for certain quasi-government functions. It began its programme with about 600 volumes per lot (30 lots), mostly donated by friendly governments.

62F. IVORY COAST

In 1952 the colonial government established a municipal library in Abidjan, the capital city of Ivory Coast. By 1963 it contained over 5,000 volumes. The library was reorganized in 1969 and by the end of 1970's had over 50,000 volumes. In 1964, as part of Unesco pilot project, the government installed a public library in one of the busiest markets in the Abidjan area. From a collection of 3500 volumes in 1964 the holdings of the Bibliotheque Centrale de Lecture Publique grew to 19,000 volumes in 1976. The only other public library is the 8,000 volume collection of the Centre Cultural Jacques Aqua in Bouake, the second largest city.

62G. LIBERIA

As powerful agents of public enlightenment, public libraries are opened to all citizens; their services are not restricted to a particular group, as in the case of
academic school, and special libraries. Public libraries in Liberia serve all sectors of the population the young, the old, the high, the low, housewives, scientists, businessmen, professors, politicians, new readers, as well as sophisticated readers. Individuals who have not completed their formal education can obtain much assistance in their communities' public libraries.

There is a proliferation of literacy programmes in Liberia; these programmes are arranged through the public library services. If the public libraries did not provide materials where could one expect the newly literate people to obtain materials to utilize their new acquired reading skills? A public library in every literate community, no matter how small the beginnings, is part of the answer to Liberia's literacy problem.

Public libraries are an integral part of education. Without public libraries, literacy programmes and adult education would be wasted, primary school pupils would revert to illiteracy, and the balanced social and political developments of the nation, which require that the people's cultural needs not be ignored, would suffer. Therefore, public libraries should follow the trail blazed by literacy in Liberia. Only through a vast network of free public libraries can the people be well read and well informed. Books and related materials, through the
public library system, must be readily available to satisfy the demands and needs of the population whatever their age or ability, so that they can derive information, enjoyment, and a broader outlook, and be able to enhance their moral, spiritual, and cultural life.

The public library system in Liberia was organized in 1926, but little progress was made until 1958, when its first trained professional and qualified Liberian librarian was appointed director of the public library system.

The laws of Liberia provide that all public libraries be under the supervision of the Ministry of Education. In 1937, the first and last Act was passed by the national legislature, Republic of Liberia, which gave birth to the public library movement. The act states:

The Secretary of Public Instruction (now the Minister of Education) shall superintend the operation of all public libraries and museums and the enforcement and observance of the laws relative to such instructions. He shall if possible provide a public library in each of the principal towns in country, and for this purpose he shall solicit the assistance of the town authorities. He shall continue the establishment of the libraries in each principal town from year to year as funds become available. The governance direction, regulations, and upkeep of the libraries as established shall be vested in the Secretary of Public Instruction (now Minister of Education). He shall include in his annual report to the Legislative a statement concerning the condition and budgetary requirements of such libraries and the progress in their establishment.13

In 1961, the late Secretary of Public Instruction, the Honorable Nathaniel V. Massaquoi, noted that the public library system operations were hindered by two major factors:

The Library Division... is inadequately financed. However, we noticed with deep regrets that about eighty per cent of its budget is for salaries, leaving very little of any fund for programme, development. This is altogether inappropriate and has been greatly responsible for the drawback in the effective operation of the library.

A second factor is the lack of appropriate housing facilities for the library; it is now situated on the second floor of the Museum building, a building that was designed for Museum purposes and consequently inappropriate for library use.14

In the same report, the late secretary made the following recommendations to the Liberian government for implementation. He recommended15

(1) ... that the Director of Libraries, who has no competent assistant, be provided with two competent assistants; and that appropriations provide for better appointment between salaries and programs. Also that funds be made available which will enable the Director to purchase equipment and additional books for the library.

(2) ... that a special vehicle be purchased (Land Rover) to be used as a travelling Library both for transferring books from and to branch libraries and for providing excursions into other areas... We also recommend that either a Library building be constructed or an appropriate building be made available to house the library.

15. Ibid.
On July 7, 1964, the late President William V. S. Tubman appointed and commissioned Dr. Augustus F. Caine as Secretary of Education for the Republic of Liberia. In his first annual report, Dr. Caine pointed out the conditions of the public libraries. He summed up the developments and roles of the public library system in these words:

While substantial progress has been made over the last three years in the acquisition of new books, far more needs to be done. As the level of education Mourovia and the country continues to use, as university education and secondary and elementary school increases, tremendous demands are being put on the Public Library. We need reading material that is suitable for the need of students and members of the public in all levels of education. This means many more books and space than we have at present.

(1) ... the quality of library which a community maintains is a measure of its interest in education;

(2) ... We recommend the sum of $ 50,0000 for acquisition of new books and periodicals and the making of new shelves.....

The statements quoted above clearly suggest the financial problems the public library system encountered after its inception in 1958, and how difficult it has been to achieve its objectives and carry out its mission. Despite these financial constraints, public libraries are becoming a viable agent of social change and a center of Information.

The present administrative headquarters of the public library system is located in Monrovia. It is administered by one professionally trained librarian with many years of experience in library administration. It continues to function both as a free public library for the Monrovia community and the hub library for the branch library reading rooms in the countries and territories of Liberia. Either as a result of the new emphasis in teaching in Liberia with collateral and supporting materials, or just because of the sheer quest for knowledge and information, the resources of the public library system are now in great demand and use. In fact, both the space and contents of the library system have proven inadequate to the demands now being made upon the library services being offered by the public libraries. There is an urgent need to provide more adequate space and up-to-date facilities to accommodate the growing number of readers seeking information.

Branch library reading rooms in the countries and territories are designed to serve as country/territorial libraries. In the absence of established school library programmes, they are now being used as school libraries as well. The reason is that for many schools in these areas they constitute the only sources of reading and reference materials.

The increased use of library resources suggests
that Librarian teachers are gradually turning away from the old method of teaching by text books alone and are including collateral and other useful and relevant library materials.

The Education Sector Plan, 1969-70, urges financial support for public libraries:

Equally important in a general way is the development of the public libraries, and the public library has significant role to play in the education of both adults and children and no hitherto received sufficient support. In particular more is needed for the purchase of books, periodicals and shelving. The prospective agreement with Unesco should do much to improve the situation.\(^{17}\)

The role of education in Liberia's development cannot be overemphasized. The pace and direction of the economic and social developments in the year ahead will be profoundly influenced by actions which the Liberian government takes today regarding its public education programmes.

Liberia is looking to the public library system as a major source of information. The public library information programmes have become indispensable for the future of modern urban life. Now that Liberia is attempting to eradicate illiteracy, information has become vital for the Liberian people. The modern trend of the public

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library system, as an information center, is to make all educational facilities, up to and including University education, easily accessible to all.

62H. MALI

Before 1960 several public libraries existed in the main towns of the districts, municipalities, military camps, and some central jails; the most important one was in Bamako. They failed because of lack of staff. They were replaced by foreign documentation centers, all in Bamako, the most important being the French Documentation Center, the Soviet Documentation Center, and the American Documentation Center.

In 1976 a campaign for public reading was launched; it aimed for the opening of 44 public libraries within five years at the district level; 21 were open by 1979. Every public library starts with a collection of 300 books, going up to 500 the second year and up to 1000 towards the end of the third year. Such public libraries own a variety of works of general interest.

62I. NIGER

The educational system in this country is not adequately developed. The Ministry of National Education is responsible for primary schools, secondary schools, and
teacher training colleges. Literacy programmes were ongoing in the 1970s and were conducted in the major African languages of the country. But there is no public library system.

62J. NIGERIA

Behavioural studies of man make it clear that he is a multigoal directed creature. Studies of group behaviours have led some organizational theories to conclude the organizations share this characteristics. Thus statements about the purpose and responsibilities of the Nigerian Public Library have been many. The decrees of the National Library Board, the East Central Library Board, the Mid Western Library Board, the Rivers Library Board, and the South Eastern State Library Board, furnish arguments in support of the several functions of the Public Library: a resource for scholars, a centre of information and aid for students, a means for self-education, and a centre of amusement. It is for these reasons that any group of laymen and even if librarians can seldom agree on the purpose of the public library beyond the provision of reading and related materials presumed in some broad sense to contribute to the well being of readers, and the facilitation and occasionally the stimulation of the use of these materials.

Due to historical reasons the development of public library services in Nigeria is a recent phenomena. Prior to 1950 the need for libraries in Nigeria was only first being demonstrated by the British Council which established an experimental library service in Lagos and later transferred it to the Lagos Town Council in 1946 and renamed it the Lagos Public Library. Following regionalization in 1951, the British Council decided to make large book gifts to each of the regions to serve as nuclei of regional library service. This, the Council did between 1951 and 1953. Public libraries were started, but their objectives and programmes were not clear. Today almost total responsibility for public library services is in the hands of the state government, with hardly any central guidance. It is interesting to observe, that public libraries in Nigeria are tending to develop along roughly similar lines throughout the country. Library services is reasonably good in cities, poor in small towns, and simply non-existent in rural areas.

Public library development in Nigeria has been somewhat uneven as is shown in Table 6.4. The UNESCO public library project in Enugu, in Eastern Nigeria in the late 1950s was designed as a model for other parts of Nigeria. That pilot scheme had the greatest impact in Eastern Nigeria, which was later split into four states, all of which have established highly successful library
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State</th>
<th>Date Founded</th>
<th>Readers</th>
<th>Professional staff</th>
<th>Collections</th>
<th>Recurrent Budget N</th>
<th>Branches</th>
<th>Mobile Libraries</th>
<th>Controlling authority</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Anambra</td>
<td>1959</td>
<td>10,508</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>83,258</td>
<td>537,910</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Board</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Benue</td>
<td>1976</td>
<td>2,405</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>12,000</td>
<td>50,000</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Ministry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cross River</td>
<td>1967</td>
<td>11,747</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>102,755</td>
<td>552,600</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>Board</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gongola</td>
<td>1976</td>
<td>?</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>6,000</td>
<td>22,000</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Ministry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Imo</td>
<td>1976</td>
<td>18,654</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>10,350</td>
<td>600,000</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Board</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kaduna</td>
<td>1968</td>
<td>?</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>65,000</td>
<td>?</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Board</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kano</td>
<td>1969</td>
<td>8,358</td>
<td>?</td>
<td>40,000</td>
<td>?</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Ministry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kwara</td>
<td>1968</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Ministry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lagos</td>
<td>1966</td>
<td>5,278</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>234,000</td>
<td>?</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Ministry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Niger</td>
<td>1976</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Ministry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ogun</td>
<td>1976</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Ministry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ondo</td>
<td>1976</td>
<td>500</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>14,715</td>
<td>59,060</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Ministry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oyo</td>
<td>1954</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Ministry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plateau</td>
<td>1968</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Ministry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rivews</td>
<td>1970</td>
<td>2,775</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>344,157</td>
<td>624,810</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>Board</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
services. The public library services in these states have been successful, largely because they were established by law and are run by boards, which with their status of public corporations, exercise fairly wide discretion in running their own affairs. The other not so successful library services were established as an arm of a government ministry, with the director of library services responsible to a permanent secretary for the running of the service, Kadima is the only other state to establish a library board.

The usefulness of any public library depends on its ability to serve the community as a general centre of reliable information and to provide opportunity encouragement for people of all ages to educate themselves continuously. Wilson and Stephenson 19 described an information service without due attention to the needs of users as no information service at all. Through its provision of current newspapers and periodicals, the public library can serve as public information centre, through its circulation of books and other learning resources to the citizens, it can become the chief instrument for free distribution of knowledge in a democratic society.

As Lowel Martin rightly indicated in his famous study of the Chicago Public Library:

Oddly enough, public libraries do not customarily maintain statistics that show many different people use them who these people are.  

In the seventh volume of 'Advances in Librarianship' Zwerzig and Dervin observed that in the past we liked to prove the library's value by counting circulation of materials whereas today we (librarians) are more likely to count the number of users. They suggested that neither is really useful:

Although circulation and library use themselves have meaning for librarians, as such neither measure has meaning for user or client. The real questions are: why did someone use the library? What does the person find useful that a library might be able to provide? The important question then is not library use, not library users, but library uses.

The UNESCO seminar provided the first opportunity for librarians working in West Africa to get together, and led to the formation of the West African Library Association at the Seminar. The inaugural conference of the association was held in Lagos in September 1954, and its journal WALA News (the first issues were titled West.

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African Libraries) began publishing the same year. The formation of a professional association lent a great impetus to the pave of library development. At both federal and state levels, the West African Library Association played a vital catalyst role, a role, since assumed by the Nigerian Library Association, its successor organisation.

In March 1955, a delegation of Nigerian members of the West African Library Association presented a memorandum entitled "Library Proposals for Nigeria" to the Federal Minister of Social Services. The proposals included the following prerequisites for library development in Nigeria:

(i) the establishment of a library Advisory and consultative committee.

(ii) the necessity of an enabling legislation the provision of libraries in the regions, and for the establishment of a Federal Library Authority.

(iii) Federal responsibility for training of high-level manpower, including the provision of a library school.

(iv) Bibliographical services.

(v) Reference and research services.

(vi) Book preservation and binding.

(vii) Book selection.

In 1960, all libraries in Nigeria (there were 10, including public, university, college and research) had
between them 31 professionally qualified staff, a total book stock of 379,300 volumes and an expenditure of ₦301,954.

PUBLIC LIBRARIES IN LAGOS STATE

The only public library services in Lagos state are located within the city. The state of Lagos, which was created in May 1967 by incorporating the city of Lagos with the colony province of Western Nigeria.

The most important library service in Lagos is the City Council Library Service. It was opened in August, 1946, as the Lagos Public Library, and was jointly managed by the British Council and the Lagos Town Council. By 1954 the library was made up of a central library on Lagos island and a small branch at Yaba (opened 1948) on the mainland. It had a stock of just over 7000 volumes and two professional staff, both of them Nigerians. The Yaba branch of the library was run on a part-time basis until 1962 when a full branch with a new building was opened. In 1963, the city council asked Dr. Irving Leiberman of the school of Librarianship, University of Washington, Seattle, then visiting director at the Institute of Librarianship, Ibadan to conduct a survey of the city's library needs. Among Dr. Lieberman's many recommendations were: the establishment of 10 new branches

In 1972 the Lagos City Library Service was chosen as Nigeria's subject for a proposed research project of the International Association of Metropolitan City Libraries (INTAMEL). The purpose of the project was "to find out by means of surveys and case studies, the present form and extent of public library facilities, with a view to evaluating the academy, effectiveness as well as prospects for development and expansion of public libraries consonant with the pace of overall national development."

There are two other "public" library services located within the city of Lagos named as the British Council Library and the American Library.

The British Council began a library service in Lagos in 1943 and cooperated with the Lagos Town Council to run the Lagos Public Library from 1946 to 1950. It founded its own library service in Lagos in 1951.

Initially, the British Council Libraries were intended to provide a full public library service, but with the establishment of public library services in various parts of the country, the aim of the service has become somewhat modified.

The American Library in Lagos was founded in 1946.
PUBLIC LIBRARY SERVICES IN THE WESTERN STATE

Public library services in the Western State originated in the World War II reading rooms, which were taken over by local government authorities at the end of the war. A proper public library service was not established until 1956. The library had a total bookstock of 82,088 in 1972, and 88 periodicals were currently received. The library is a depository for all publications from the state under the Western Nigerian Publications Law of 1959.

PUBLIC LIBRARIES IN THE MID WESTERN STATE

The areas now known as the Mid-Western State of Nigeria were, until 1963, the Benin and Delta Province of the Western State of Nigeria. Although it is the oldest of the new states in the country, the Mid-Western State has as many difficulties as any of the newer states created by decree in May 1967.

The Government of the Mid-Western State took a decision in August 1969 to establish a state library. At the end of the civil war, John and Priscilla Harris, respectively former librarian of the University of Ibadan and former library advisor to the Federal Government of Nigeria, were requested to carry out a survey of the library needs of the state. The Harris report, entitled 'A Library service for the Mid-Western State of Nigeria' was submitted to the government in April 1970. The Mid-
Western State thus became the second state in Nigeria to have a public Library service controlled by a board established by law. Under the edict, the board is empowered:

(i) to establish and maintain a state library service;

(ii) to provide services expected of libraries of the highest standard;

(iii) to take over responsibility for all existing State and Council libraries, including those in ministries;

(iv) to encourage the establishment of libraries in the State and to make available to institutions in the state the widest range of books and other records of intellectual behaviour;

(v) to operate the following services, among others:

(a) A Central reference library

(b) A school library division

(c) A public library division.

Mrs. Priscilla Harris was appointed the first director of the library in October 1970, and 2½ years later the Central Library was opened in Benin, in April 1973. A branch was opened at Orerokpe in Western Urhobo Division in May 1974. A mobile library service was launched in June 1974, partly with a grant of N 10,000 from the British Council.

A Mid-West Book Depot was opened in 1972, to fulfil the need of books.
The only library service available in Northern Nigeria before the second World War was a subscription lending library run by the Church Missionary Society from Lagos. In 1952 Miss Joan Parkes, who was originally employed by Western Nigeria government to organize its Native Authority Libraries was invited by the Northern Nigerian government to set up a regional library service. A service with the headquarters in Kaduna was soon established. The only success of the Regional Library was the Kaduna Lending Library, which by 1956 had a stock of 27000 volumes and a readership of nearly 4000.

In 1962 the government took advantage of the Commonwealth, Technical Assistance Programme to secure the services of Mr. F.A. Sharr, Librarian of the State of Western Australia, to survey libraries in the region. In his report entitled 'The Library Needs of Northern Nigeria', Mr. Sharr recommended the following policies for the development of libraries in the region:

1. A partnership between Regional Government and the Native Authorities in two phases:

   (a) Government to establish a model library in each of the 13 provincial headquarters. Native Authorities will provide buildings while the government will be responsible for the supply of books and staff.

   (b) Government to supply bookstock to any native Authority outside the Provincial Headquarters, justifying this need by way of an educated population, provided that an approved building was available.
3. A Library school to be established at Ahmadu Bello University for the training of staff at a lower level and the degree level.

The Sharr report was accepted by the Government in 1964 as the basis for the development of library services.

As part of the implementation of the Sharr Report, provincial libraries were set up in Bornu and Sokoto, and a library Board was proposed. To help in further implementing the Sharr proposals, the services of a library adviser were requested through British Technical Assessment in 1967.

**BENUE PLATEAU STATE**

The state library service is under the library division of the State Ministry of Information. The government allocated the sum of N 180,000 for the construction of modern branch libraries in each of the six divisional headquarters in the State in its 1970-1974 development plan.

**KANO STATE**

The Kano State Library was opened in 1969 as part of the Ministry of Information. The Library's readership is made up mainly of students at all levels; but the information needs of business the professions, and government, as well as the leisure reading needs of the general public are served. Kano State Library service Committee was established in 1972 to formulate library
policies and advise the librarian on their implementation.

As of March 1974, the State Library had a bookstock of 38,213 volumes.

In 1972, the State Librarian submitted recommendations for library development in the State to the government. These recommendations envisaged:

1. A regional library service with headquarters in metropolitan Kano, and branches in all administrative headquarters.

2. A reading room in every district or village where there is sufficient library to warrant it.

3. The provision of a mobile library service which will operate from the branches.

4. The establishment of a library in every post primary institution, to be manned by a library assistant under the supervision of a teacher librarian.

KWARA STATE

In Kwara State, the library is located in the State capital Ilorin as the nucleus of a state library service.

NORTH CENTRAL STATE

The North-Central State Library is the most fortunate of the new state library services. It inherited the Kaduna Reference Library, completed in 1963 and unaffected by the decision to divide the resources of the Northern Regional Library among the new states. The library's budget for the 1971-72 financial year stood at N 30,000.
NORTH EASTERN STATE

The North Eastern State library service was organized around Bornu Provincial Library which was started in 1965 as part of the implementation of the Sharr Report.

NORTH WESTERN STATE

The only full branch of the Northern Regional library service was located in Bida in the southern part of the new North Western State. In 1964, as part of the implementation of the Sharr Report, the Sokoto Provincial Library was opened in Bokoto, capital of the new State.

PUBLIC LIBRARIES IN EASTERN NIGERIA

With regard to the development of public libraries, the government of Eastern Nigeria in the 1950s seemed to have done everything right. First, the most experienced Nigerian public librarian and at the time librarian of the Lagos Municipal Library, Kalu Okorie was asked to make a library survey of the region. Second a Library Board Law was passed, following closely on the Gold Coast Library Board Ordinance of 1959. Mr. Okorie carried out his survey in March and April, 1955, a law was passed soon afterwards, and then Mr. Okorie found himself charged with the responsibility of carrying out his own proposals. The Eastern Regional Library Board held its first meeting in November 1955 and in May 1956 its first service was opened in a prefabricated volumes, mainly gifts from the United
Mr. Okorie's proposals for a regional library service had envisaged as:

1. Divisional libraries based on each of the five divisional headquarters.

2. Mobile libraries operating either from the Regional Library headquarters or from the divisional libraries.

3. A book-box service from the regional headquarters to the more remote areas of the region.

4. A postal service for the benefit of those who could not be reached by any of the above services.

This scheme of service and the government determination to implement it impressed UNESCO. Following negotiations it was decided to site UNESCO third public library pilot project in Enugu. At the UNESCO Seminar on the Development of Public Libraries in Africa held in Ibadan in 1953, it was decided that UNESCO should sponsor a pilot project in an African territory to demonstrate public library development. The agreement which was reached in 1957 provided briefly:

1. That the government of Eastern Nigeria allocate a minimum of £12,500 (i.e. N 25000) per annum for a period of 5 years, and erect a building from which a public library service could be operated.

2. UNESCO was to provide an expert for a period of 12 months, and financial and other assistance for the 5 years of the duration of the agreement.

Following this agreement, a mobile library service
was provided by UNESCO was launched in Enugu in 1958. In July the same year, the foundation stone for the building of the Regional Central Library, already under consideration before the UNESCO agreement, was laid. The new Regional Library was officially opened in March 1959.

At the end of the period of the agreement between Eastern Nigeria Government and UNESCO, Mr. Stanley Horrocks, Borough Librarian of Reading and the UNESCO expert originally appointed in 1957, carried out an assessment of the service. The assessment was considered by the Regional Seminar on the development of Public Libraries in Africa held in Enugu in 1962. The 1962 seminar was intended as a follow up to the Ibadan Seminar was intended as a follow up to the Ibadan Seminar of 1953.

With the completion of the headquarters of the service the implementation of its development programme made rapid progress. Two more vans were added to the mobile library service by 1960. The first of the Divisional Libraries was opened in Fort Harcourt in 1962, a second Divisional Library located at Ikot-Ekpene was opened in 1964, and third was commissioned in Umualria in 1965. The last of the divisional libraries, Onitsha, was opened in January 1966. A film on the library's services, 'The Written Word, was made jointly by UNESCO and the Regional Ministry of Information. The Board's Seventh Annual
Report for the period 1963-1965 aptly reflects the stage of the development of its services in the title 'consolidation and the Future'.

On the eve of the civil war in Nigeria in 1967, the Eastern Nigeria Library Board had over 156,000 volumes in its system of divisional and branch libraries. As a result of the creation of states in the Country, there are now three state library services in the former eastern Region Nigeria.

EAST CENTRAL STATE

In spite of the very hard condition prevailing inside the State of Bafra during the Nigerian Civil War, some kind of library service remained in existence. The Biafra Library Board as the Eastern Nigeria Library Board was renamed continued to provide services from each of its Divisional Libraries until the town in which it was located was abandoned to the Federal forces.

The library situation in the East Central State at the end of the war in 1970 was like that -- most of the libraries created during the war were destroyed; the Divisional libraries at Onitsha and Umuahia needed reconstruction. The stock in the Central Library at Enugu was 23,000 volumes, and by the end of 1971 both children's and adult's services were operating. In August 1971, an edict establishing the East Central State Library was
promulgated and in September of the same year the board was appointed. One of the first tasks of the board was to discuss the development plan for libraries in 1970. The plan proposes:

1. Reconstruction and development of existing libraries (Enugu, Umuahia, Onitsha, Owerri and Aba).

2. The completion of Abakiliki Divisional Library and the Enugu pilot library project.

3. The upgrading of two existing branch libraries in Owerri and Aba to divisional libraries.

4. Establishment of six branch/rural libraries.

Reconstruction of the Divisional Libraries at Umuabia and Onitsha proceeded a pace and they were reopened for service in June 1973.

Book stock in the Board's system on March 31, 1973 stood at 59,316 volumes and issue to adults totalled 53,993. Issues in the children's library for the same period were 42,991. In February 1973, a Research and Training Division was established to take care of the Board's continuing staff training programme and occasional training requirements of government departments. The board spent N 202900 on its service in the 1972-73 financial year. There were plan in the financial year ending March 31, 1974 to complete the Enugu branch library pilot project, to be located at Uwani in a growing part of the Capital City.
SOUTH EASTERN STATE

The oldest library in the south eastern state was the Calabar Urban Council's reading room, founded in 1945 following a gift from an enthusiastic British district officer. The library was eventually taken over by the Eastern Nigeria Library Board and administered by its as a branch library from 1964.

The former Chief Librarian of the Lagos City Library was appointed State Librarian in 1969, and a service was operated from the Calabar Library beginning late that year. By the end of 1972, the book stock of the Calabar Library stood at nearly 20000 volumes. The Ikot-Ekpene Divisional Library was reopened in February 1973 with nearly 9000 volumes.

In November 1973, an edict establishing the State Library Board was passed. The law empowers the board to 'establish, equip and maintain' the state library and extend services to any other institutions it might deem fit; to establish and maintain mobile and divisional libraries; and to formulate and determine policies for library development in the State.

But out of these 12 States only 3 by the State Library systems namely East Cartral, Mid Western and South Eastern, are established by law and governed by a State Library board.

The UNESCO Public Library pilot project located in
Eastern Nigeria was designed on a model for other parts of the continent of Africa to follow. The project appears to have had the desired effect on the new states in Eastern Nigeria, and on the Mid-Western State.

The functions of public libraries are universally accepted and may be summarized as follows:

Education: to provide the means for self development through formal or informal education.

Information: to bring required information to the individual or group by exploiting the resources of the library or by reference to other agencies.

Recreation-Leisure: to promote the proper use of leisure time by providing materials for relaxation and the development of general interests.

Culture: to assist members of the community in developing interest in and appreciation of, the arts.²²,²³

**EDUCATION**

Public libraries in Nigeria have perhaps made the greatest impact in education. A visit to the central reading room of any of the State Library Services will provide ample evidence. There is usually a large number of students from secondary schools in the vicinity, as well as workers and traders preparing for the general certificate of education examinations which can be taken by external


candidates.

Public libraries in Nigeria have met the needs of these sections of the population, not only by providing reading space but also by stocking text books required for most examinations. But, as Rita Enwonwu has pointed out, the public served by these endeavours constitutes only a small minority of the population\(^2\). The question is whether the public library has a duty to the illiterate majority and, if so, how best to discharge this duty Enwonwu has suggested that the librarian should take over the actual teaching function in order to help create a potential reading public.\(^2\)

The State libraries in Anambra, Inw Rivers, cross Rivers, and Bundel have done a good job. All have mobile libraries, and each has an active programme for creating permanent libraries in rural areas through the establishment of divisional branch libraries.

When public libraries have failed most in Nigeria is in finding a helping role in the campaign against illiteracy. In the old Northern Nigeria, the Northern Regional Literacy Agency(NORIA) was responsible for this important social service but never seemed to receive any help from the library service. Perhaps this is one of the


\(^{25}\) Ibid.
problems that the conference of Nigerian State Librarians could examine at one of its annual meetings.

INFORMATION

The principal consumers of the information services provided by public libraries government departments. But this service has begun to lose some of its significance because of the development of well managed libraries in key government departments. This service is supplemented by the National Library of Nigeria which was established in part as a government reference library. The creation of state branches of the National Library in the past few years ensures even easier access to this supplemented service.

In an increasingly complex world, this function of the public library has been greatly emphasized in the developed nations. The public library regards it as a major task to arrange and make accessible information which can be applied to problems of individuals and groups alike. In this connection, the public librarian has become an Ombudeman or an expedites. To achieve these objectives, public libraries have established information and referred centers, sometimes called neighbourhood information centres. These centers are even more important in the urban and city library services.

RECREATION/LEISURE AND CULTURE

The basic aim of any services provided in this area
is to encourage proper utilization of leisure time. A spinoff could be the greater use of the educational and information service provided by the library. Indeed, recreational and cultural activities could be planned with this spinoff in mind.

Nigerian public libraries have made few strides in the recreational/cultural area. One such activity which most of the library services have established is the children's story hour, which is an important extension service of the children's library. Such activities hardly exist in the adult services department.

One new approach to this function of the public library is being planned for a library recreation complex at Aba in Inio. The Imo State library service hopes that the recreation centre will attract a lot of nonusers who will be drawn to the library because of its proximity to the recreation centre.

The public library in Nigeria has a long way to go before it becomes a force for social progress and change. The road is full of obstacles, not the least of which are recognition of the importance of public libraries and finance, but opportunities for innovation and experimentation abound. It is left for the public librarian to recognize these opportunities and to make the best of them.
Senegal's educational system as a whole, to allow for easy adaptation to national requirements or needs. In 1959, just before many African Countries gained their independence, John Stirckland observed that the patterns of library services in Africa were strongly determined by the colonial attitudes of France and Great Britain, the two major colonial powers in Africa.²⁶ In other words as John Dean rightly notes: "those emergent countries, which have, through their colonial experience, inherited the educational concepts of less forward looking metropolitan powers, are quite often inhibited in the development of their educational and library systems by attitudes, which seem to owe much to medieval scholasticism."²⁷

During the colonial period, Senegal was regarded by France as territorie d'outremer or overseas province, which was then organized into a centralized authoritarian Federation of French West Africa, with Dakar as the Capital. Until 1945, no African in Senegal had any political rights unless he had first become a French citizen. The erudite former President of Senegal, Sédar Leopold Senghor was not only a French citizen but also a member of the French Parliament.

Like other African countries, in Senegal, there is a remarkable cultural, linguistic, and ethnic diversity, with Wolof, Peul, Tukutor, Sere and Deola as the major ethnic groups. French is both the official language of the country and the language of instruction in schools. But there is a very high rate of illiteracy and low educational development. The few literates concentrate in the cities, especially Dakar, Capital of Senegal, while the vast majority of the people live in ignorance, poverty and disease in the rural areas.

The highly centralized educational and library systems, going back to the Revolutionary Period, which puts all University, national regional and approved public libraries in France under the jurisdiction of one central agency Direction des Bibliotheque et de la lecture Publique, created in 1845, is reflected in the educational and library systems in Senegal. The country, almost to the letter, perpetuates the colonial educational pattern geared towards producing an intellectual elite.

The Senegalese educational system is very closely modelled upon the French system. Pre-school education is for ages 3-5; primary education for ages 6-11, with certificate d'Etudes Primaires Elementaires awarded upon the successful completion. The secondary education is of two types; the first type -- the Lycee offering a seven-year programme leading to a Baccalaureat, and the second
type-college d' enseignement general offering two types of programmes.

The assignment long provides for the students' advancement towards a Baccalauriat after the Brevet (4 years) and the enseignement court prepares the students only for the Brevet. Admission into the University of Dakar, which is extremely competitive, is generally through the Baccalauriat.

Among the cultural and educational agencies or institutions which have contributed to the library and educational development of the country are the Alliance Francaise, an agency for the propation of French culture, center, the British council, the Institut Foundamental d'Afrique Noire (IFAN), founded in 1936, for the scientific and humanistic studies on Black Africa; the University of Dakar which grew out of the Institut des Hautes Etudes, established in 1949, by French; and the Bureau Regional de L'Unesco pour l'Education en Afrique (BRREDA), created in 1970.

Up-to-date information on the library situation in Senegal is scanty and difficult to locate. The only three reliable published sources though dated, appears to be the World of Learning, 1979-80[28] the Director of Documentation, Libraries, and Archives Services in Africa[29] and Handbook


In Senegal, there are no public libraries specifically built to serve the general public and whose use is free and unrestricted, as in the English speaking West African Countries. The general public seems to be served by the following libraries: the library of the Alliance Francaise, with 10,000 volumes; the library of the French Cultural Centre which is popular with students and children and which contains over 10,000 volumes and 100 current periodical titles, and the library of the American Cultural Centre with over 6000 volumes dealing with American Culture, history, politics, and African literature. There is also a good collection of general reference works. Access to this library is entirely free whereas the library of the Alliance Francaise is open to the public only on a subscription basis.

62L. SIERRA LEONE

As in many commonwealth countries in Africa, the British Council of the United Kingdom seemed to have laid the foundations of a public library system in Sierra Leone prior to the achievement of independence. Its local office in Freetown operated lending the reference libraries open to the public in Freetown and also in Bo located in the

provinces. It also supplied books to libraries which had been established through local efforts, as in the cases of Port Loko, Bonthe and Kenema.

The British Council became less directly involved with the development of libraries in Sierra Leone when the Sierra Leone Library Board Ordinance was enacted in 1954. This ordinance was modelled after the library law of Ghana, which was the first library law in British West Africa. It empowered the board "to establish, equip, manage and maintain libraries in Sierra Leone." The minister of education is empowered to appoint the chairman and 14 other members. Its first chairman was Dr. Davidson Nicol, former Vice-Chancellor of the University of Sierra Leone.

The Board had good start, under the leadership of Mr. J.T. Strickland, who was appointed in 1960 as its first Chief Librarian and Secretary. By 1962 it had established five part time libraries in the provinces and a book service to primary schools, and it had sought the improvement of libraries in Secondary schools and teaching colleges.

The board's headquarters and central library a two-storey building was formerly opened in 1964. It was built with the financial support of the British Council (£35,000), a building appeal fund, and a substantial contribution by the Sierra Leone Government. The governments of France, USSR, and the United States, and the English Speaking Union
of the commonwealth donated books to the board. Similar donations were received from the British Information Services and from Mrs. O Berwick Sayers, who gave books and periodicals in librarianship from her late husband's library.

By the publications Ordinance as amended in February 1962 the public library was assigned the status of one of two copy right libraries in Sierra Leone. It is therefore required to public an 'Annual List of Publications' received through the provisions of this ordinance.

The board once had the responsibility for secondary school libraries, but this service was discontinued when the annual library grant to secondary school was stopped by the military regime in 1967. Secondary schools now develop their own libraries through the efforts of enthusiastic teacher/libraries, donations and school contributions.

**ADMINISTRATION AND GENERAL ORGANIZATION**

The Sierra Leone Library Board is responsible to the Ministry of education. It forms part of the schedule of an assistant chief education officer in ministry, who is also responsible for archives.

The organizational chart of the public library system is given in Figure 6.11 while technical services are centralized, each regional and branch library provides other services similar to those offered by the Central
Library in Freetown.

Ministry of Education

Sierra Leone Library Board

Central Library

Regional Branch Primary School Library Service

THE CENTRAL LIBRARY

The Central Library's Lending Department has a stock of fiction and nonfiction books and a small collection of books by and about African authors. There is also a fair collection of local and overseas periodicals and newspapers.

Its Reference Department maintains a West African Collection which incorporates a Sierra Leone collection.

The Margaret Scoggin Memorial collection forms part of the reference section of the library. This collection was established in 1971, when the Sierra Leone Library Board was selected as a suitable recipient of a repository collection of American Children's books of international interest, presented annually to several libraries within expressed interest in books for children from other countries.
REGIONAL AND BRANCH LIBRARIES

The three regional libraries located in Bo, Kenma and Makoni, were established in 1962, 1964 and 1966, respectively. Their staffs consist of a librarian, two library assistants, and cleaners. They are open from 9.00 to 6.00 P.M. Monday to Saturday.

Though there is provision for ten branch libraries, only seven of them are in existence. Two branches are to be constructed as new buildings in the Western and Eastern areas of Freetown.

According to information received from the Sierra Leone Library Board, the Board Libraries were established as in Table 6.5.

Table - 6.5

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of library</th>
<th>Year of Establishment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Magburaka</td>
<td>1961</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kailahun</td>
<td>1961</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kambia</td>
<td>1962</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pujehun</td>
<td>1962</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bonthe</td>
<td>1964</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mattru</td>
<td>1964</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Koidu</td>
<td>1965</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Problems and Prospects in Public Library Development

The Sierra Leone Library Board's main problem is lack
of funds for the appropriate stock development and hiring of adequate professional staff to ensure a more vigorous public library development throughout Sierra Leone. Public library development from 1966 to 1976 is illustrated by the date in table

Under the British Library Development Programme the government of the United Kingdom has allocated the sum of £ 210000 to be spent on the construction and extension of public library buildings in Freetown, Kenema, and Makeni, and the provision of books and equipment.

Table - 6.6
Public Libraries Growth in Sierra Leone 1966-1976

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>1966</th>
<th>1976</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Book fund (in Leones)</td>
<td>7,818</td>
<td>16,222</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Book and periodical stock</td>
<td>262,124</td>
<td>347,932</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Loans</td>
<td>142,610</td>
<td>126,354</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of readers</td>
<td>38,313</td>
<td>97,065</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Professional</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Para Professional</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Salaries (in Leons)</td>
<td>16,590</td>
<td>32,703</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Togo does not have organized public library system. It was thought that the National Library would play an important role in the development of such a system in the near future.
The library of the Centre régional d'études et de documentation économiques, founded in 1972 in Lomé, houses more than 35,000 volumes and 100 current periodicals. It publishes the 'African Trade Union News', in English and in French.

62N. UPPER VOLTA

There is no public library system. Library facilities are available to the public primarily through the cultural centres in Onagadougou, most notably those of Germany, the United States, France, Libya, and the Soviet Union.