

Africana Library Collections: A Guide

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The Center for African Studies and The Library
University of California, Berkeley

Introduction

Africana at the University of California, Berkeley is present in more than twenty campus libraries. This guide provides information concerning the most important of these collections, estimated to number more than 180,000 volumes. The Library embraces Doe Library, which emphasizes the humanities and social sciences, the Moffitt Undergraduate Library, and 20 subject specialty libraries devoted to the pure and applied sciences, professional schools, and other subject fields, such as music. The Library acquires materials from all African countries, and amongst varied methods of acquisition, participates in programs offered by the Library of Congress to acquire Eastern and Southern African newspapers, government documents, and books gathered by the Nairobi Field Office. Library collections on the Berkeley campus encompass books, periodicals, pamphlets, documents, manuscripts, maps, audio-visual materials, newspapers, microfilms, and other materials. Departmental collections and a number of libraries administered by institutes and foundations, some located on campus, others nearby, complete the University Library system. Although most materials in departmental and institute libraries are not listed in The Library's catalogs, this guide notes particular strengths of these libraries and also Africana collections in the Law Library, UC Data Archive and other libraries nearby the Berkeley campus.

DOE LIBRARY

Doe Reference Collection

East Reading Room, 2d Floor / 642-6657

This collection which focuses on the humanities, official publications, and selected areas of the social sciences is an ideal place in which to begin exploration of Africanist resources on the Berkeley campus. These 25,000 non-circulating volumes include dictionaries, directories, encyclopedias, bibliographies, almanacs, handbooks, indexes, biographies, statistics, and other items which provide either brief factual information or references to more detailed sources of information. Here are located the *African Biographical Archive*, and *The International Statistics Index* massive works accessed via microfiche. Also present are current statistical yearbooks from most African countries, while earlier years are shelved in the Main Stack. For further information, see [African Government Information](#).

Extensive and very useful electronic indexes and many CD-ROMS from national and international organizations cover many topics on contemporary Africa.

Main Stack Collection

While specialized collections are found in libraries throughout the system, Doe's Main Stack collection concentrates on African history, politics, social sciences, literature, and linguistics. African history is well documented by secondary sources, and the writings of African novelists, poets, and dramatists are extensively represented. The collection embraces works in major European languages, as well as in Afrikaans, Arabic, Swahili and Yoruba and some ninety additional African languages. Also available are a sizeable number of African language dictionaries and grammars. Through exchange agreements with many Russian academic institutions, The Library has acquired most of the books and serials on the subject of Africa published in that country since World War II. The greatest strength of Berkeley's collection is in its serials and documents. Through purchase, gifts and a large number of exchanges, there are available complete or nearly complete runs of the publications of such organizations as the Institut Fondamental d'Afrique Noire (IFAN, Dakar), the Rhodes-Livingstone Institute, the International African Institute, the Academie Royale des Sciences d'Outre-Mer (Brussels), the Hakluyt Society, Afrika Vaerein (Hamburg), the Societé des Africanistes (Paris), and the South African Institute of Race Relations. The Library subscribes to most of the standard Africana periodicals as well as to many unusual ones from India, Eastern Europe and Africa. Conference proceedings are also well represented. The former Library School Library has merged with the Main Stack Collection; it focuses on international and comparative librarianship, including information services, publishing, the book trade, and libraries in Africa.

Government materials comprise an extensive collection of official publications of the United States, foreign governments and regional and international governmental organizations. Collection strengths include national development plans, censuses (population, housing, agricultural, manufacturing, etc.), central bank annual reports, and statistical compendia on all topics. The Library acquires nearly all publications from the International Labor Organization, International Monetary Fund, Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, United Nations Development Fund, and the World Bank. The Library has depository status with the United Nations, Contracting Parties to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), and the European Union. The library also receives material from the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, the Organization of African Unity, the Arab League, and various regional organizations, such as the African Development Bank, Economic Community of West African States, Southern African Development Co-ordination Conference, and West African Economic Commission.

Although material is collected from all countries, particular collection strengths in Africa include Botswana, Egypt, Ghana, Kenya, Nigeria, Senegal, South Africa, and Zambia.

Current Periodicals (Doe Reference Center)

East Reading Room, Floor 2, Doe

This collection comprises recent unbound issues of periodicals which, when bound, will reside in the Main Stack.

Newspapers and Microforms (destined to move to Room 40 Doe)
150 Doe Library / 642-1975

Current holdings include newspapers from Egypt, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Namibia, Senegal, South Africa, Tanzania and Tunisia. In addition a number of older African titles and short runs of other titles are also available. One may borrow many retrospective titles through inter-library loan, including extensive materials available through the [Cooperative Africana Microfilm Project \(CAMP\)](#) at the Center for Research Libraries. In addition this location also provides access to Doe's extensive holdings of Africana microforms which include the Church Missionary Society Archive, many governmental records, and much else. Please see a bibliography of these materials, [Africana Microform Collections at the University of California, Berkeley](#)

The Bancroft Library

2121 Allston Way [a temporary location through 2007] / 642-3781

As the primary rare books and special collections repository of The Library, The Bancroft houses such materials as first editions of early voyages to Africa and a unique collection of early publications in the Yoruba language, the William and Berta Bascom Yoruba Collection. Some manuscripts, especially in the History of Science and Technology Collection, include accounts of expeditions to, and descriptions of Africa. This collection includes the papers -- field notes, correspondence, writings, lecture notes, and other materials of Berkeley anthropologists William R. Bascom, Burton Benedict, Elizabeth Colson, J. Desmond Clark, and William A. Shack.

Other important papers in this collection include **Annie Montague Alexander**, African Safari (1904); **Samuel A. Barrett**, Cudahy-Massee Expedition (1928); David Prescott Barrows, North and West Africa (1923-24); **Bay Area Committee to Save Biafran Children**, (1968-70); **James Leishman Buchanan**, South Africa (1902-10); **Charles Butters**, South Africa; Cecil B. Griffin, Egypt (1914-18); **Kathleen Hau**, Oberi Okaima language, Nigeria (1953-1961); **Phoebe Apperson Hearst**, correspondence relating to Egypt (1897-1917); **Franz J. Lee**, speech on Apartheid (1960); **James B. de Lopez**, voyages along African coast, (1867-1870); **Walter Clay Lowdermilk**, former French and British colonies (1969); **Karl Friedrich Meyer**, South Africa (1906) and Tanzania; **Louis Christian Mullgardt**, Egypt (1922-23); **William Neufeld**, Liberia (1961-1965); Nigerian Manuscripts, from 3rd to 8th Centuries A.D.; **Frank Norris**, Uitlander insurrection, South Africa; **George F. Noyes**, Egypt (1854); **Papeles Varios**, Spanish manuscripts, includes expedition against Oran (1744); **Alphonse Louis Pinart**, French-African (Ogooue) vocabulary (ca. 1870s); **Rebecca Hourwich Reyher**, discussion on African women (1973); **William Sharp**, travels in Africa (1893); **Paul Schuster Taylor**, land reform in Africa; **Tebtunis Papyri**, North Africa (3rd century B.C. to 3rd century A.D.); **Stewart Edward White**, travels in Africa; **Ernest Abram Wiltsee**, South Africa

(1940s). Other collections include the papers of Mark Twain (including accounts of his visits to Africa, and a manuscript of *King Leopold's Soliloquy: A Defense of His Congo Rule*).

Moffitt Library

642-5070

The Moffitt Library supports the undergraduate curriculum, including peace and conflict studies, area studies, current events, development studies, women's studies, the North-South debate, and environmental issues. A number of reference sources, including encyclopedias, bibliographies, and fact books relate specifically to Africa, as does a good collection of general research tools.

Media Resources Center

150 Moffitt Library / 642/8197

Africana holdings include more than 140 African cinematic videos/dvds, and over 600 African non-fiction (documentary and ethnographic) films. Items in the Center are accessible through Pathfinder, Berkeley's web catalog by selecting the format designator Films/Videos/Slides. The Center maintains an [African cinema videography](#) of its holdings.

SUBJECT SPECIALTY LIBRARIES

Anthropology Library

230 Kroeber Hall / 642-2400

Africa is well represented in the Anthropology Library: almost every category collected, including prehistoric archaeology, physical anthropology, social and cultural anthropology, anthropological linguistics, human evolution, and the social behavior of primates, contains material on Africa. Traditional African art exhibition catalogs are selectively collected. The library is especially strong on ethnographies of African cultures South of the Sahara.

Bioscience and Natural Resources Library

2101 Valley Sciences Building / 642-2531

Subject emphases are agriculture, medicine, flora and fauna of the world, zoology, botany, entomology, forestry, conservation-resource studies, nutritional sciences, nutritional anthropology, food policy, and redevelopment projects. Among agricultural topics covered relative to African studies specifically are women in traditional agri-economic roles, the use of pesticides, and agricultural economics. Food and natural resources topics include pastoral and nomadic life, famine, drought, disease, and land use

and utilization. Also collected are books on insects and arachnids of Africa, pest control problems, and entomology in human and animal health.

The library receives almost all the relevant materials published by the United Nations and its Food and Agricultural Organization, as well as materials on exchange from Ministries of Agriculture throughout the world. It is a depository for U.S.D.A. (United States Department of Agriculture) publications, many of which cover foreign agriculture. Particularly well represented are Nigeria and South Africa. The Holl Collection, a collection of cookbooks from around the world, covers cookery from many African countries, as well as the cooking of specific types of food, for example cassava. Also available are publications from international governmental organizations doing field work in Africa, such as the Collaborative Research Support Program, and the Consultative Group for Agricultural Research, plus many other international agricultural organizations, including those concerned with development. The forestry collection includes materials on dendrology, desertification, forest economics and agroforestry.

Thomas J. Long Business and Economics Library

Haas School of Business / 642-0370

The collection embraces materials on finance, banking, business (especially small business) for Africa, as well as international and foreign periodicals on development, finance and business. Also available are Country Reports (quarterly) and Country Profiles (annually) put out by the Economist Intelligence Unit (Great Britain), which cover almost every African country.

Earth Sciences Library and Map Collection

50 McCone Hall / 642-2997

The collection includes monographs, serials and reports in geology, geophysics, physical geography, climatology and paleontology. In addition to current material, almost every African country is covered by periodicals and geological surveys done by the former colonial powers during their periods of colonial occupation. The Map Collection offers general, topographic, satellite images, nautical and aeronautical charts, thematic maps, and city plans. Overall there are for the continent more than 11,000 maps and 100 atlases, as well as at least one place name dictionary for every African country. Particularly well represented countries are Kenya, Tanzania, Ghana, Togo, Benin and Gambia. National and regional atlases include subjects such as agriculture, vegetation, population, history, etc. Also included are bibliographies of African maps and atlases and histories of cartography.

Education/Psychology Library

2600 Tolman Hall / 642-4208

The collection includes periodicals on psychology and on international and comparative education, including some African education titles, most frequently from Zambia, Nigeria, South Africa, and West Africa. The Educational Resources Information Center

(ERIC) is an index which includes abstracts of journal articles and unpublished research (conference proceedings, technical reports, etc.) on Africa. The library has on microfiche the full text of ERIC's research reports. Some children's literature books published in Africa, often folkloric, can also be found.

Environmental Design Library

210 Wurster Hall / 642-4818

The Environmental Design Library focuses on architecture, landscape architecture, and city planning. Included are materials on vernacular architecture (i.e. that which is indigenous to an area), third world environmental design, appropriate technology (which includes ecological design) and historical gardening and landscaping. The collection provides some materials specific to Africa, including a few journals, as well as general international materials, particularly journals and some United Nations publications. The *Ekistic Index*, an excellent international environmental design index, is also available.

Jean Hargrove Music Library

642-2623

The Music Library contains an extensive collection of monographs, serials, scores, and recordings, including the field of ethnomusicology. Much information on Africa will be found in the serial collection. Music subject headings have changed throughout the years; when looking for current materials, use the subject heading (Music-Africa). For older material search under such terms as clan/ethnic group name.

Public Health Library

42 Warren Hall / 642-3511

Subject area strengths are: health care delivery, population statistics, health education, maternal/child health, occupational health, AIDS, and applied public health. Some documents are received by the Public Health Library from respective Departments of Health of many African countries. These documents provide mortality statistics, health statistics, family planning and birth control information. The library has depository status with the World Health organization (WHO) and also receives some WHO Regional Office for Africa Occasional Papers, and WHO Afro-Technical papers.

Social Welfare Library

216 Haviland Hall / 642-4432

The Social Welfare Library includes a small collection on international social work, with materials on Africa. Some general international materials contain case studies from Africa. The collection also includes journals, international conference proceedings, and publications of the International Association of Schools of Social Work.

OTHER CAMPUS COLLECTIONS

Institute of Transportation Studies Library

412 McLaughlin Hall / 642-3604

The library collects materials on all modes of transportation, e.g. railroads, aviation, shipping, roads, traffic engineering, bus lines, paratransit, and the like. Among modest Africana holdings are important transportation research reports from South Africa.

Law Library

240 Boalt Hall / 642-4044

The Law Library contains one of the most substantial African law collections in the country. Primary source materials on Africa are in the KG classification, which is alphabetical by area, then by country. Within each country the collection is broken down into legislation, court reports, journals, treatises and monographs, with concentration on Francophone Africa and South Africa, although materials are collected from all regions. It is suggested that researchers use indexes such as the *Index to Foreign Legal Periodicals* as well as materials on comparative law. The Library contains a small collection on Islamic law, with some materials in Arabic, but most are in English, French, and German. Current collecting emphases include e commerce and trade, human rights, including women and children's rights, land tenure, land policy and reform, international criminal law, including the International Court of Justice, and environmental law. There are some materials on customary and traditional law.

Phoebe Apperson Hearst Museum of Anthropology

Kroeber Hall / 642-3681

The photographic archives, (photographs, negatives and slides of items in the collection), include images of African art objects, artifacts and village life. The artifact collection itself has over 20,000 objects relating to African archaeology and ethnology; only a few of these objects are on display at any given time. The museum concentrates on collecting documented items only, and items which were utilitarian in value to the original users, e.g. hunting, household and clothing items. Emphasized is West Africa, especially Nigeria and Ghana. Services available to users include a free artifact identification service. The public is encouraged to use the resources of the staff of the museum, for consultation or identification.

UC DATA (UC DATA Archive and Technical Assistance)

2538 Channing Way / 642-6571

UC DATA, the chief archive of electronic social science information for the University of California, should not be overlooked as a resource for Africana. The library contains primary source data sets on such topics as public opinion, ethnic populations, income distribution, health and aging, and international relations. Among its holdings are data sets on the African continent as well as on some individual African countries. The library is a member of the Inter-University Consortium for Political and Social Research (ICPSR), the largest repository of electronic research data for the social sciences in the

world, which includes information international in scope. UC DATA staff can help researchers find data sets by subject whether they are held in-house or by ICPSR. Berkeley researchers may borrow the latter.

Water Resources Center Archives

410 O'Brian Hall / 642-2666

This collection concerns water resources and climatology. The older African collection contains chiefly materials on Egypt (Nile) and North Africa. More recent holdings include South African materials. Also relevant are international documents such as conference reports and United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization publications.

NEARBY LIBRARIES WHICH COOPERATE WITH THE UC BERKELEY LIBRARY

Graduate Theological Union Library

2400 Ridge Road / 649-2500

The GTU collection focuses chiefly on the Christian religion, with some Islamic materials, but with relatively little emphasis on traditional religions. Works are spread throughout the collection by denomination. Periodicals are alphabetical by title and include a few Christian periodicals from Africa. The Library has several classification systems, so materials are in such classes as BV 3500-3630 (missions in Africa), MX-MZ (missions and Christianity in Africa), and OG 21-29 (indigenous religions in Africa). Records and studies of missionary work in Africa are well represented.

A microform collection of the archives of several Christian denominations, as early as 1775, deals with missionary work across the world. Microforms which include missionary work in Africa are those of the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions papers, Church Missionary Society proceedings for Africa and the East, 1801-1920, Council for World Mission Archives of 1775-1940, the IMC/CBMS [International Missionary Council/Conference of British Missionary Societies] Archives for Africa and India 1920-1945, Society for the Propagation of the Gospel African Archives, the Wesleyan Methodist Missionary Society (London) Archives, and the Presbyterian Church in the U.S.A. Board of Foreign Missions. The microfilm of the Baptist Missionary Society Archives, 1792-1914, is at Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary Library in Mill Valley. Also present are a number of audio cassettes and tape reels which focus chiefly on African oral theology.

Stanford University

Stanford, California 94305 / 650-725-3505

Berkeley cooperates very closely with Stanford University in Africana collection development efforts. Each library collects more intensively in those areas which support the Africanist curriculum of its own campus. The result is that Berkeley acquires materials in such subjects as architecture, forestry, music, and librarianship, which are not taught at Stanford, and Stanford collects more intensively in other areas, especially in

ephemeral and archival materials and in newspapers from Africa. Stanford's Africana Curator, Karen Fung, maintains [Africa South of the Sahara](#), the premier gateway to electronic information for African Studies on the internet.

[Cooperative Africana Microform Project \[CAMP\]](#)

Center for Research Libraries [CRL]

6050 South Kenwood Avenue

Chicago, IL 60637 / 773-955-4545 or 800-621-6044

The Library is a member of the **[Cooperative Africana Microform Project \[CAMP\]](#)** which was founded in 1963 as a joint effort by North American research libraries and the Center for Research Libraries to collect, purchase, and promote the microfilming of publications and archives concerning the nations of Sub-Saharan Africa. CAMP purchases expensive microform sets and authorizes the original filming of serials and unique research materials not only in North America, but also in Africa and Europe. CAMP acquires the microforms of selected newspapers and journals, government publications, personal and corporate archives and Africana originally in paper format. Also included are personal papers of historians, journalists, anthropologists, geographers, and political leaders as well as materials in English, French, Portuguese, Spanish, German, and other European languages, as well as titles in Swahili, Xhosa, Zulu, and other African languages. If there is a negative copy of a specific title, CAMP will purchase a positive print with the consensus of the membership. Positive copies of items in CAMP are available to members at cost. Materials held by CAMP circulate to readers at member libraries for extended periods via interlibrary loan.