

## **UGANDA: CATALOGUING REPORT**

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### **History of cataloguing in Uganda**

The development of cataloguing is entwined with the establishment of Makerere University Library Services, which is the oldest University in the East African region. Makerere University started out as a University College with the library at the centre in 1922. MacPherson (1964: 92) states that staffing the library from 1950-55 was difficult because there were no locally trained staff as a result; this created a burden on the senior library staff (non-Africans) with ordering, cataloguing and supervision. She goes on to say that plans to have a local training scheme for library assistants never materialized due to lack of time and money. From 1956, library assistants worked for librarianship examinations and also librarians from other institutions came to Makerere for practical experience and where possible some went overseas for further library studies. By 1961, the University Library, had started taking on graduate recruits to the library as trainee assistant Librarians. These would later start graduate training in librarianship from the U.S.A and United Kingdom.

Another important landmark in the development of cataloguing in Uganda is the establishment of the East African School of library and Information Science (EASLIS) at Makerere University. It started out as the East African School of Librarianship (EASL) in 1963. The School, as fondly referred to, has trained librarians from Uganda, Kenya and Tanzania over the last three decades. At the start, the library courses that were taught

led to the award of a library certificate. The course duration used to be six months and covered organization, Technical processes (cataloguing inclusive) and reader's services. Overtime a diploma course was started and at the end of the 1980's upgraded to a Degree course in library and information Science. At Diploma and Degree levels cataloguing and classification are core courses. The cataloguing is divided into theory and practical sessions preparing the graduates for practical work. Until 1995, Ugandan cataloguers used Anglo American cataloguing rules 1 (AACR1). The change to AACR 2 was introduced first to Makerere University by a Library fellow, Dorothy Washington from USA and their use spread to other libraries. Together with the late Dorothy Clarke, they introduced practicing librarians to authority control and the MARC format.

### **Current State of Cataloguing**

The library profession has grown over the years and Library and Information (LIS) graduates are employed in several sectors. The majority are employed within the academic sector, government ministries, embassies, etc. (Kigongo-Bukenya 2000) In the Academic sector, Uganda has 5 public universities and 8 private universities. Librarians employed within these universities carry out cataloguing duties on a day to day basis. At school, the librarians take cataloguing and classification as core courses but emphasis is put on Sears' subject headings and Dewey decimal classification thus explaining their dominance in most university libraries in Uganda. (See table below). Out of the 12 universities cited, it's only Agha Khan and Makerere Universities using Library of Congress Subject Headings (LCSH) largely because they are more comprehensive. Secondly, the librarians take advantage of the Library of Congress catalog online thus reducing on original cataloguing. Increasingly, copy cataloguing is the norm in these two libraries. Thirdly, budgetary constraints dictate on what system to use. The multivolume LCSH is definitely expensive and out of reach for majority of these

of libraries On the other hand, it is easier to adopt Sears' List of Headings because it is cheaper and handy. This is the mostly used thesaurus even in smaller libraries and few also employ the Universal Decimal Classification (UDC). On automation, the preference is UNESCO's ISIS (CDS and WINISIS) because it is free of charge.

	Institution	Cataloguing Rules used	Subject Headings	Classification Scheme	Library system	Com. Format
1	Agha Khan University	AACR 2	LCSH	LCC	Library soft	
2.	Bugema University		Sears	DDC 20 <sup>th</sup> ed		
3.	Busoga University		Sears	DDC	-	
5.	Kyambogo University	AACR 2	Sears list	DDC (British International ed.)	-	-
6.	Makerere University	AACR 2 R	LCSH 29 <sup>th</sup> ed Mesh	DDC 22 <sup>nd</sup> ed NLM	VIRTUA	MARC 21
7.	Kampala Intern. University	-	-	DDC 20 <sup>th</sup> ed	-	-
8.	Mbarara University	AACR 2	Sears Mesh	DDC NLM	-	-
9.	Nkumba University	AACR 2	Sears	DDC 20 <sup>th</sup> ed	WINISIS	-
10.	Uganda Christian Univ.	AACR 2	Sears	DDC 22 <sup>nd</sup> ed	-	-
11.	Uganda Martyrs Univ. (Nkozi)		Sears	DDC 21 <sup>st</sup> ed.	CDS/ISIS	-
12.	National Library of Uganda	AACR2	Sears	DDC 21 <sup>st</sup> ed	WINISIS	-

The downside is, despite the fact Uganda boasts of a Library and Information Association and a consortium of Uganda University Libraries (CUUL) there is no collaborative effort towards cataloguing. The National Library of Uganda (NLU) newly established by the National Library Act, 2003 is yet to fulfill its role as the National Bibliographical Agency. There is not a national cataloguing in publication program in place yet though individual publishers are increasingly including cataloguing in publication data and a private publisher is currently acting as the ISBN agency. Further still, is the waning interest in cataloguing in Uganda LIS curriculum.

## REFERENCES

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