

THE UNIVERSITY OF ZAMBIA LIBRARY: PAST, PRESENT AND THE FUTURE

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THE UNIVERSITY OF ZAMBIA LIBRARY: GENERAL OVERVIEW

Zambia

- ◆ The Republic of Zambia is a landlocked country in central Southern Africa.
- ◆ Former British colony.
- ◆ Was called Northern Rhodesia prior to gaining independence in October 1964.

Federation Years

- ◆ Part of the Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland from 1953 to 1963
- The hodesias” comprised Northern Rhodesia (present day Zambia); Southern Rhodesia (present day Zimbabwe) while Nyasaland is the present day Malawi.

Borders

Zambia is a landlocked country which shares borders with Angola, Botswana, Namibia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Tanzania, Malawi, Mozambique and Zimbabwe.

Population

- ◆ Zambia has a population of about 10 million.
 - ◆ 73 ethnic tribes.
- English is the official language but there are seven (7) local languages used on the national radio and television broadcasting; namely: Bemba, Nyanja, Tonga, Lozi, Luvale, Lunda and Kaonde.

Economy

- ◆ Copper mining (declining due to low world copper prices) stay of the country.
- ◆ Agricultural exports
- ◆ Tourism
- ◆ Manufacturing industry weakened by cheaper imports

THE UNIVERSITY OF ZAMBIA

- ◆ Set up in 1965, one year after gaining independence from Britain.
- ◆ Located in Lusaka, the capital city
- ◆ Has a student population of some 4,500 excluding 500 distance learners.
- ◆ Predominantly an undergraduate university
- ◆ Postgraduate programmes on the increase.

Schools

- ◆ The following schools constitute the University of Zambia:
- ◆ Agricultural Sciences
- ◆ Education
- ◆ Engineering
- ◆ Humanities and Social Sciences
- ◆ Law
- ◆ Mines
- ◆ Natural Sciences
- ◆ Medicine
- ◆ Veterinary Medicine

Directorates/Institute

- ◆ Directorate of Research and Postgraduate Studies
- ◆ Directorate of Distance Education
- ◆ Institute of Economic and Social Research (INESOR)

The University of Zambia Library: General Overview

- ◆ Historical Background
- ◆ Established in 1965 initially at the Ridgeway campus, now housing Medical School
- ◆ Moved to the current building on 27 August 1969
- ◆ Declared national reference for Zambia on official opening on 27 August 1969

Mission

To provide an environment in which the University can conduct its core function of teaching, research and the provision of informed public service.

Structure

- the Main Library
- Veterinary Library
- the Medical Library

Divisions

- Readers Services

- Special Collections
- Technical Services (Cat. & Class., Serials, Acquisitions)
- Bindery and Photographic Units

Library Collection

- ◆ 170,000 volumes
- ◆ About 1200 journal titles
- ◆ Most of the collection is too old due to lack of funds to replenish it
- ◆ No budget for book purchases or periodical subscriptions in the past 8 years
- ◆ CD-ROM facilities/Internet compensating for lack of current journal subscriptions

Library Automation: Initial Efforts

- ◆ Interest in the computerisation of the library dates back to 1974
- ◆ In 1975, with the assistance of the Computer Centre all the periodical holdings were manually entered onto A3 coding sheets

Good Progress Made

- ◆ By late 1975 nearly 25% of the journal titles were keyed onto IBM punched cards using PL/1 high level language
- ◆ The Computer Centre personnel did data entry and even produced test results

Change of Personnel

In 1975 the person who initiated the automation process in the University Library was transferred to the Department of Library Studies as Lecturer

- ◆ He continued to supervise the library automation exercise
- ◆ In 1976 there was change of top leadership in the University of Zambia Library.

Automation Exercise Abandoned

From 1977 to 1981, the person who had spearheaded the computerisation of periodicals was out of the country pursuing further studies

- ◆ During that period, the library automation exercise was abandoned due to lack of support from the top library leadership

Automation Suffers Further Setback

- ◆ The IBM punched data cards were thrown away, and so were the 75% of the manually coded A3 sheets
- ◆ That marked the end of the initial initiative

1984 Stock Taking Exercise

- ◆ In 1984 the University Library conducted a major stock taking exercise
- ◆ The purpose of the exercise was
 - to determine how many books were in the Library
 - to determine the value of University Library books as fixed assets
- ◆ The exercise was spearheaded by the Bursar's office

Data Entry

To obtain such information the Computer Centre was requested to design a file structure for the Assets Register. Library Books file.

- ◆ The manual data entry was done by Library staff while the Computer Centre did the data processing

Unsuitable File Structure

- ◆ The file structure used for the Assets Register was unsuitable for library use
- ◆ Major shortcomings included missing key fields like subject, ISBN, publisher etc. Field lengths for Author and Title were too short and thus made it virtually impossible to distinguish one title from another in a sorted list.

In-house Local Databases

In 1990 the University Library started creating its own in-house local databases to solve specific library management problems using our little knowledge of dBase Plus. By using personal computers in other Sections of the University, the Library has developed dBase Applications for managing the following

Short Loan Collection (SLC)

Consists of nearly 3000 reading materials in short supply recommended by teaching staff for courses being taught in the current academic year. Printed indexes are produced for students to identify materials they require for a particular course listed under a particular Lecturer name

Output

- ◆ SLC Indexes are printed for:
 - the Main Library
 - the Veterinary Library
 - the Medical Library
 - the entire Library system
- ◆ Online retrieval is available

Serials Management

- ◆ This is a list of all journals held in UNZA Library

Output

- ◆ Indexes are printed for
 - the Main Library
 - the Veterinary
 - the Medical Library
 - the entire Library system
- ◆ Online retrieval is available

Newspaper Indexing (dBase version)

- ◆ This started as an experimental newspaper indexing project earlier this year (1999).
- ◆ Articles appearing in selected local newspapers are indexed
- ◆ Descriptors for each article are freely picked from the article itself.

Output

- ◆ A printed index can be generated at any time
- ◆ Online retrieval is available

Demand driven

The newspaper database was developed for newspaper articles indexing upon experiencing difficulties (by staff and researchers) in retrieving information from the newspapers.

- ◆ Demand for news information has increased as a result of the newspaper index.

Newspapers indexed

These include Times of Zambia, Sunday Times of Zambia, Zambia Daily Mail, Sunday Mail, The Monitor, The Post (online) and National Mirror.

Newspaper Indexing (CDS-ISIS Version)

- ◆ The news database contains newspaper articles indexed from the Zambian daily and weekly newspapers.
- ◆ The newspapers covered are limited to those titles received by the University Library .
- ◆ This could be a limitation

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Inventory Monitoring System

- ◆ This consists of an inventory of all the equipment in the Library such as computers
Designed to provide information on every piece of equipment in the Library such as location, type of equipment, serial number, model number, condition etc.
Such information can be used to trace stolen Library equipment and for other purposes

Output

- ◆ List of all equipment in the Library
- ◆ List of all computers in the Library
- ◆ List of all equipment (by Library i.e)
 - Main Library
 - Veterinary Library
 - Medical Library
 - Entire Library System
- ◆ Labels for all equipment in the Library

Online searching by

- ◆ Equipment name
- ◆ Serial Number
- ◆ Model Number
- ◆ Part Number

AIM Database

The African Index Medicus (AIM) database is an index to health literature generated in and by African countries including Zambia. It is created in CDS-ISIS

AIM database is printed and distributed to member countries and to organisations outside the region. It is accessible on the Internet from the Medical Library web site.

Sponsors

Association for Health Information and Libraries in Africa (AHILA) with support from WHO initiated the project to create the African Index Medicus.

Ernesa Database

- ◆ ERNESA is short for Educational Research Network in Eastern and Southern Africa, and the Secretariat is based in Gaborone.
- ◆ Among the objectives ERNESA are:
 - to promote application of relevant research findings to educational policy-formulation and educational practice in the region.
 - To ensure the utilisation of research for decision making.

Zambian Chapter

- ◆ The Zambian chapter of ERNESA is ZAMERA (Zambia Educational Research Association).

Output

- ◆ The database contains summaries, findings and recommendations/conclusions of research papers in education. Outputs include:
 - Index by Author
 - Index by Subject
- ◆ Online retrieval is available

Zamin Data Base

- ◆ ZAMIN is an abbreviation for Zambian Information.
- ◆ The database consists the following:
 - theses and dissertations
 - undergraduate students final year projects
 - University of Zambia staff research papers and other publications
 - government documents and publications on/about Zambia

Output

- ◆ The ZAMIN database contains over a thousand records. Outputs include:
 - Index of theses and dissertations by either Subject, Author or Degree (M.A. and Ph.D).
 - Index of undergraduate students final year project by either Subject, Author, Year or Departmental/School.
 - Index of staff papers by either Subject, Author, Department or Year

Output

- Index of government documents by either Subject, Ministry or Agency.
- Comprehensive index of all the above by Subject.
- ◆ Online retrieval is available

Future Plans

Plans are underway to install the database on the Library network for all users to have access (currently on Special Collections computer).

UNZALIBS--UNIVERSITY OF ZAMBIA LIBRARY SYSTEM

- ◆ With financial support from FINNED the University of Zambia Library installed Dynix Library System in June 1995
- ◆ The following modules were fully paid for:
 - Cataloguing, Acquisition, Circulation, Online Public Access (OPAC), Serials, Reserved Book Loan (Short Loan Collection)

Initial Modules Implemented

- ◆ Cataloguing and Online Public Access were implemented immediately
- ◆ The other modules could not be implemented due to some logistical problems

Retrospective Conversion

Retro Link Associates of Provo, Uta, U.S.A. contracted to convert UNZA Library manual card catalogue into US MARC format. FINNIDA paid for conversion

- ◆ The conversion was done in eight months. Over 120,000 records were converted

Process of Retrospective Conversion

An experienced technician from Provo, Uta, U.S.A. carried out onsite imaging of our Official Shelf List (OSL) onto a data tape in UNZA Library for two weeks in June 1995

- ◆ The data tape was then used to convert our card catalogue into US MARC
- ◆ Converted records were loaded into UNZALIBS in March 1996

Implementation of OPAC

- ◆ OPAC was implemented soon after retrocn was completed.

UNZA Library takes a lead

By March 1995 UNZA Library had become the first major Library in Southern Africa outside South Africa and Namibia to have a fully machine readable catalogue.

UNZALIBS connection to the Internet in June 1996 also meant that our OPAC was accessible world-wide to any interested users with password access

CD-ROM Literature Searching

Following installation of UNZALIBS, UNZA Library expanded its provision of more than 30 CD-ROM databases pre-cashed into a CD-ROM file server and searchable over the network:

System Breakdown

On 8 October 1998 UNZALIBS became dysfunctional after a BNC hub blew up and could not be replaced easily. The Compaq Proliant 4000 also developed other hardware problems.

The system is expected to be reinstalled this October 1999 following procurement of new and more reliable (Y2K compatible) Dell Poweredge 2300 file server

Distance Learning at the University of Zambia

Due to limitations of teaching and laboratory space as well as bed space, the University of Zambia is not able to admit all persons who are eligible to enter University.

In order to cater for those who are unable to do full-time study, the University offers distance learning through the Directorate of Distance Education. This year some 500 distance learners have been enrolled.

Schools Offering Distance Learning Courses

- ◆ Currently distance learning courses are offered by the following Schools:
- ◆ Education
- ◆ Humanities & Social Sciences
- ◆ Natural Sciences.

Conversion to Full-time Study

When distance learning students have completed half the course load, they are converted to full-time status until they complete the degree.

Degree Programmes

- ◆ Currently the following degree programmes are offered by Distance Learning:
- ◆ Bachelor of Arts (B.A.)
- ◆ Bachelor of Arts with Education
- ◆ Bachelor of Education (Special Education)
- ◆ Bachelor of Education (Primary)
- ◆ Bachelor of Arts (Library and Information Studies)-- to be offered in the near future

Diploma in Adult Education

- ◆ Diploma in Adult Education (D.A.E) is offered entirely through distance learning

1998/99 Course Offerings: School of Education

First Year Courses

Semester 1

- ◆ Administration in Adult Education.
- ◆ Research Methods in Adult Education.
- ◆ The Origin and Development of Education in Zambia.
- ◆ Introduction to Special Education.
- ◆ Introduction to Religious Studies.

Semester 2

- ◆ Managing Adult Education Programmes.
- ◆ Statistic in Adult Education.
- ◆ The Role of Adult Education in Development.
- ◆ Special Educational Needs.
- ◆ Introduction to Religious Studies.

Second Year Courses

Semester 1

- ◆ Community Development.
- ◆ Communication Practice.
- ◆ Sociology of Education.
- ◆ Religion & Ethics I.

Semester 2

- ◆ Dynamics of Planned Change.
- ◆ Mass Education
- ◆ Educational Psychology.
- ◆ Religion and Ethics II.

1998/99 Course Offerings : School of Humanities & Social Sciences

First Year Courses

Semester 1

- ◆ Communication and Study Skills.
- ◆ Introduction to Literature and Writing Skills.
- ◆ Introduction to Micro-economics.
- ◆ French Language I.
- ◆ Beginners French I.
- ◆ Africa and the World.
- ◆ Introduction to Language.
- ◆ Introduction to Philosophy II.
- ◆ Introduction to Public Administration.
- ◆ Introduction to Sociology II.

1998/99 Course Offerings: School of Natural Sciences.

First Year Courses

Semester 1

- ◆ Introduction to Human Geography 1.
- ◆ Introduction to Mapping.
- ◆ Techniques in Geography I.
- ◆ Mathematical Methods I.

Semester 2

- ◆ Introduction to Human Geography II.
- ◆ Introduction to Physical Geography.
- ◆ Mathematical Methods II.

Second Year Courses

Semester 1

- ◆ The Geography of Africa.
- ◆ Quantitative Techniques in Geography I.

Semester 2

- ◆ Geography of Zambia
- ◆ Quality Techniques in Geography II
- ◆ Mathematical Methods IV
- ◆ Distribution of Learning Materials

Types of learning materials for Distance Learning students

- ◆ Lecture materials
- ◆ Library books

◆ Student Assignments

Transmission of Distance Learning Materials

- ◆ Lecture materials are sent to students by ordinary postal mail
- Students send their written assignments to their lecturers through the Directorate of Distance Education by the same postal mail
- ◆ Library books are usually given to Distance Learning students during the annual two-week residential school.

Residential School

- ◆ The residential school gives Distance Learning students an opportunity to interact with their tutors.
- ◆ Students in remote parts of the country use the residential school to borrow University Library books for home use.
- ◆ They may keep the books for six months or more. They can also renew books by mail

Problems Affecting the Distribution of Learning Materials

- ◆ Postal services are not very efficient especially since their privatisation as part of the economic liberalisation in Zambia
- ◆ Students in remote parts of the country are not able to borrow or renew Library books for distance learning from Lusaka.
- ◆ Unreliability of postal services leads to loss of lecture materials, Library books or student assignments

Use of IT to distribute Distance Learning Materials

- ◆ The Use Information Technology can Improve the distribution of learning materials

Belgian Support

Under the Belgian Programme for institutional University co-operation between Flemish Inter-University Council (VLIR) the Belgian Government is assisting the University of Zambia in capacity building through various programmes the Directorate of Distance Education is being assisted in improving the delivery of distance learning course materials and support services to distance learners through the use of information and communication technology.

General Objectives of the Belgian Support Programme are

- ◆ to Enhance the quality of distance education
- ◆ to Increase the number of courses offered

Specific Objectives

- ◆ to enhance capacity building
- ◆ to automate administration of distance learning, including the production of course materials
- ◆ to improve the quality of courses by using the Internet accessed through provincial learning centres to provide printers and scanners at provincial learning centres for reproducing (printing) learning materials downloaded from the Internet
- ◆ to distribute limited hard copies of reading materials through the provincial learning centres.

Implementation

- ◆ The Belgian VLIR Support includes the Installation of a network server for storing course materials.

Personal computers will be located at each of the eight learning (provincial headquarters) centres for use by distance learners

- ◆ The implementation will be done in phases:

Phase One

Computers will be supplied to Livingstone in the Southern Province and Kitwe in the Copperbelt Province. This will commence by December 1999

Phase Two

- ◆ Phases two and subsequent ones will be implemented as soon as lessons have been learned from phase one.

Full scale implementation

- ◆ This will include the following:
- ◆ Training lecturers how to write lecture materials in HTML format for transmission via the Internet.
- ◆ Training students how to use the new technology.
- ◆ Involve other specialists in the production and use of video and audio materials.

SUMMARY

- ◆ This presentation has attempted to give a general overview of the University of Zambia, its Library
- ◆ Early attempts to computerise the Library when the then top leadership was perhaps not ready

Computerising Without Computers!

- ◆ Determination to embark on local database creation using borrowed equipment and limited know how gave us a headstart
- ◆ This provided a learning opportunity which became handy when we were ready for full scale library automation
- ◆ Development of local databases to solve practical problems

Donor Support

Implementation of a commercial library management system was made possible with generous support of the Finnish Government through its bilateral co-operation with the Zambian government

- ◆ We are most grateful to the Finnish Government for their timely assistance

Distance Learning

- ◆ Efforts are being put into improving the delivery of distance learning by using information communication technology
- ◆ This is one sure way of increasing access to higher education in Zambia and should be commended