

Report from visit to USDM library (UDSL) week 46, 2009, including comments related to points of interest during the visit.

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Marit Sørli from Geological library at UBO (University Library of Oslo) and Vibe visited the UDSL in week 46.

Facts and challenges for USDM (webpage <http://www.library.udsm.ac.tz/index.php>)

Staff and leader group

Number of staff: ca. 100

Among these is ca. 25 academic staff: they have a Bachelor's degree in a major subject and then Master's Degree in librarianship on top. The academic staff teaches in this Master's curriculum, the degree in librarianship being offered at UDSL.

The rest of the staff consists of librarians with Bachelor in librarianship, drivers, clerks, and some staff with training courses in ICT.

The library mainly serves staff and students at USDM. Secondary it serves other researchers, also from abroad, who have to pay a small fee.

The leader group of the library consists of the Library director and ca. 15 academic staff members. Based on a meeting with this leader group, certain points of focus were agreed to highlight during our visit. Those points of focus reflect the main areas for the PITRO project and what seem to be main challenges at UDSL.

Associate Library Director Dr. **Amina A.A. Kabudi** will be the representative for UDSL for the project.

Digitization project

The UDSL East Africana Rare and Archival Research Collection wishes to digitize resources from their collection. The project is described in a 9 pages proposition presented us by the head of the collection, **P.D. Mwaimu**. We were showed the collection and will below present details and our suggestions for how to handle this further.

- Maps (including old German maps), local newspapers (like East African Standard Public, Dar-es-Salaam Times from 1923), the Hans Corry Collection (450 items, documents and pictures)

Suggestions: This material is unique and probably historically interesting for the world to have digitized. It is, however, outside the scope of UBO and the PITRO project. Vibe will contact IFLA in case there are any funds offered by the organization available for this material.

- Published and unpublished works pertaining to the study of Kiswahili language and history of the Swahili speaking people. Single sheets and letters, some A3. Easy to digitize.

Suggestions: The PITRO programme states that “The research project in the the field of education focus on the use of Kiswahili in schools,” Maybe some of this material is of interest for this research project, so that UBO should try to force digitalization. Vibe will contact the people responsible for education about this.

The Reference and Document Delivery Section

Head of this section is **Dr. C. Kapaya**. There are 2 other staff members. Dr. Kapaya has PhD, the others Masters. One is specialist in Kiswahili, **Chausiku Mwinyimbegu**. The section is in charge of electronic resources, and also in charge of teaching information literacy.

Teaching.

Program for students: Students have lessons 30 in every group, 900 all together. Evaluation sheet after one week. Lessons are given when they start to study, then once again later in the study.

The academic librarians teach their own subjects.

The library has a teaching room with some old machines. At the time of our visit none of these machines worked.

Researchers are invited on voluntary basis for learning how to search. They often don't want to come, but want the librarian to come to their office. The offices are small and hot with a lot of dust (- and machines don't like dust!)

Suggestions: No action should be taken from UBO in terms of teaching. UDSL seems to have a good program and good teachers, and efforts should concentrate on machines, internet connection and electronic resources (see later on).

Electronic resources.

UDSL has a local database which is functioning. 3 machines are in use in an open area, and they were all surrounded by many students locating books, articles etc. in the library (see http://www.library.udsm.ac.tz/Library_Services/Library_Catalogue.php).

Databases with Full-Text Journal Articles. UDSL has a list of 27, including Blacwell, Cambridge University Press, Wiley. We did not succeed in accessing one single full-text article during our visit. The reference librarian did not know whether this was because the donors had stopped paying, or if the internet did not work. The databases had been paid by a Swedish initiative called SIDA/SAREK. See later on for suggestions.

E-books could be accessed from one machine only, and that machine did not work at the moment.

ILL. This has earlier been paid by SIDA/SAREK. Material has been provided from British Library. For a year, however, UDSL has had no ILL, because the funding was stopped in 2008. ILL has always been centralized and managed by the main library.

Suggestions: Is it possible to establish some kind of interlending from UBO, by making UDSL able to search in BIBSYS? This service has been provided by University library of Bergen in Norway to University Library in Makebe, Uganda. 40 items has been sent by fax to Uganda each year.

Acquisitions Section

Lack of resources seems to be a major problem at UDSL. So where does money come from and to where does it go? This is what we concluded after our visit to acquisition section.

Printed books.

The main library gets money for books directly from the university (government?). In 2009 the sum is 90.000 Us dollars. Besides the main library there are a number of small department libraries, among which the library of School of education seems to be best equipped. Many of the department libraries have no permanent staff. We visited School of education, Environmental department and Economics department, the three that have regular staff in the library. The department libraries also get a sum from their department to buy printed books and printed periodicals.

There used to be a Book Donation Project which was stopped in 2005. Then the practice used to be: Out of 4 copies, 2 copies remained in the main library and 2 were given to the department library.

The situation for the students seems quite alarming. More recent books can be borrowed for 2 hours in the science library, and there is no copy machine that works.

Suggestions: How to find donors for books? Maybe IFLA has contact with publishers. Another challenge is how to make sure the books stay in the department libraries if they go there, and do not disappear into researchers' private offices. Centralizing as much as possible to the main library seems to be a good strategy.

Printed periodicals.

In 2009 no money has been given to main library for printed periodicals. They have relied on donations, and from a number of 3000 that decreased to 1800, this year they have only 100 subscriptions. In the science library the last printed periodical seemed to be from 1997, except for some single copies from 2009.

Suggestions: Maybe same as for printed books. Even if e-journals are taking over as a resource, it may take a long time before UDSL can manage with less printed periodicals.

E-journals.

As mentioned before (see the Reference and Document Delivery Section) SIDA/SAREK has probably stopped funding electronic resources. There used to be a Journal Donation Project (JDP) that probably is stopped. Also, the main library gets almost no money from the departments for electronic resources. Whereas the departments have given money to buy printed periodicals for their own little library, most of them do not want to give money when e-journals are paid centrally, organized centrally and to the benefit for all researchers and students at campus. THIS WAS VERY MUCH THE SAME PROBLEM AT UBO!

Last year all departments were asked to pay for central electronic resources. Only 4 said yes: Science department, Arts and Social department, Economics department, and Commerce department.

Suggestions: Money from the government and the university must be centralized and go directly to the main library!

Dr. Kabudi told us that there are plans for a consortium in Tanzania for e-resources among 20 universities.

ICT section

Dr E.F. Wema is head of this section. In charge of hardware/software. 6 persons work in the section, and two of them are also involved in teaching.

1 network administrator – technical person. Systems administrator.

1 in charge of the library automation system. AdLib, Dutch company. OPAC. Plans for upgrading. SIDA/SAREK installed it. University is paying.

Head of the section is librarian. He is maintaining all the machines and upgrading. Upgrading is not yet centralized. Operating systems: Windows XP, Fedora (Linux), MacIntosh (used to

have). Applications: Microsoft Office 2007 or 2003, Open Office, Firefox or Explorer.
Software: Adobe Acrobat. Database, software: AdLib, CDS ISIS (UNESCO). Mail program: Squirrel, Webmail, Outlook.

1 takes care of computer repairs.

1 is responsible for the newsletter and website.

1 is assisting with network.

The section has 1 server for the library system and 1 for backup. Could also be used for digitization.

Problems with slow network.

HUB and switch are slow. Cabling was done 10 years ago. General infrastructure is old at the university. Need of money for changing relays on the university. Problems with management when students use internet; there are no virus checks.

Suggestions: next time Vibe comes to UDSL, she brings an IT person with her for further investigation of the IT resources, problems and possibilities. Instead of renewing the infrastructure etc., should UDSL rather start working with mobile networks? Mobile communication seems to work well in Tanzania.

Overall conclusions.

Centralizing of resources to the main library seems essential. If not, the main library will be gradually more marginalized at USDM.

To increase funding to the library, 5-10% of the students fee should go to the library.