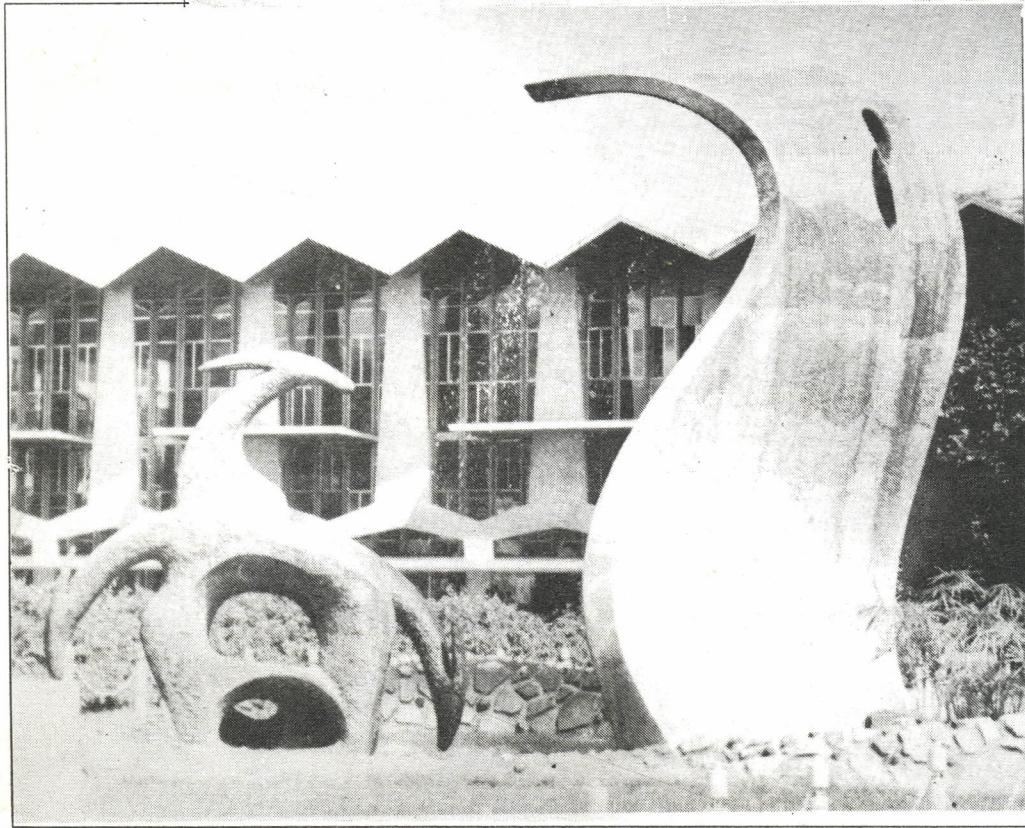




# Library Newsletter

ISSUE NO. 1

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## INSIDE:

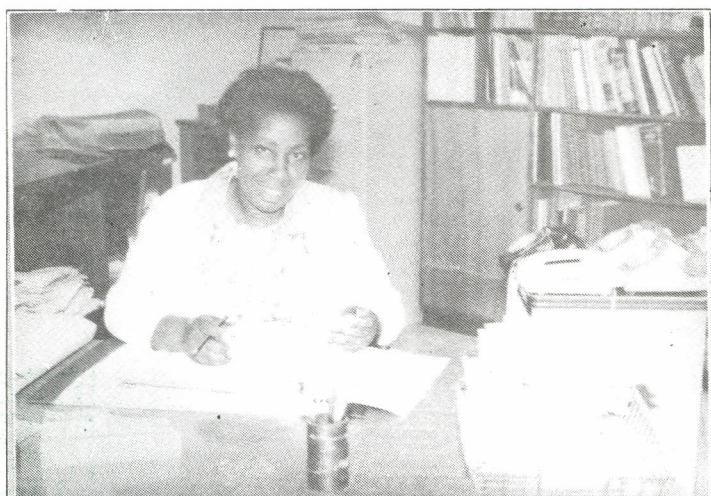
- **Circulation**
- **Staff News**
- **Law of the Sea Centre**
- **The Computer Unit**
- **The Medical Library**
- **Library Partners**
- Plus much more**

# ***From the Desk of the Librarian***

The University of Nairobi Library has endeavoured, over the years, to provide a basis for academic excellence in the University of Nairobi. In order to fulfill this mission, the library, which is composed of a system of twelve libraries, provides information which supports the teaching and research role of the university.

This newsletter is meant to highlight some of the current activities taking

place in the library so as to inform and encourage students and staff to make use of the vast information resources available to them. The activities include reference services, user education and



*Mrs Mary Kimani, the University Librarian*  
assistance, inter-library loan facilities and book binding.

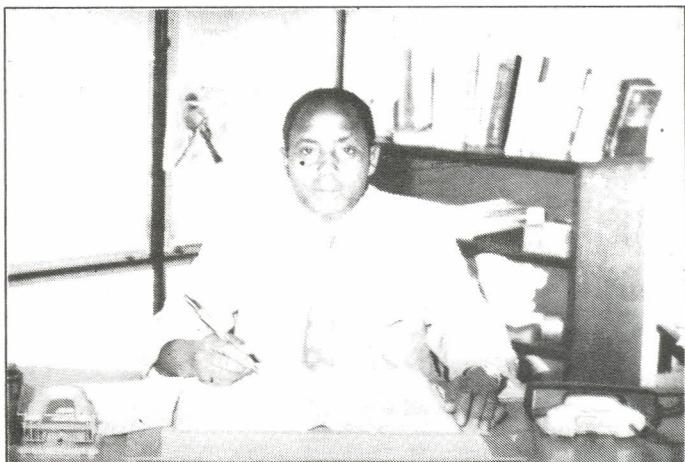
I would like to take this opportunity to encourage all students and staff to make use of the library collection so as to strengthen their research and teaching activities. Library users should seek assistance from library staff whenever necessary. Suggestions for improving library services are welcome from the university community. Both students and staff should feel free to contact the university librarian, if all other means fail. Each library is headed by a professional librarian. Contact them in the first instance.

Best wishes in your academic endeavour.

# ***From the Desk of the Editor***

Welcome to our first issue of *University of Nairobi Library Newsletter*. The main objective of the newsletter is to inform the university community about our library services, which are broad and adequate for scholars. We also offer literature and other forms of learning media for relaxation .

We acknowledge the contribution of the University Librarian and library staff. The advisory role played by Nairobi University Press and School of Journalism is also acknowledged. We are also very grateful to university administration for their support and encouragement in the production of this newsletter.



*Rev. S.W.N. Mungai, the Newsletter Editor*

We are also grateful to the editorial committee for their commitment to the newsletter.

The members of the committee include Mrs L. Kimani - University Librarian & Chairman, D.U.L. Tech. Mr. J.M. Mulwa, Mrs J. Were, Mr H.O. Otundo, Mr. J.M. Ongany and the editor, Rev S.W.N. Mungai.

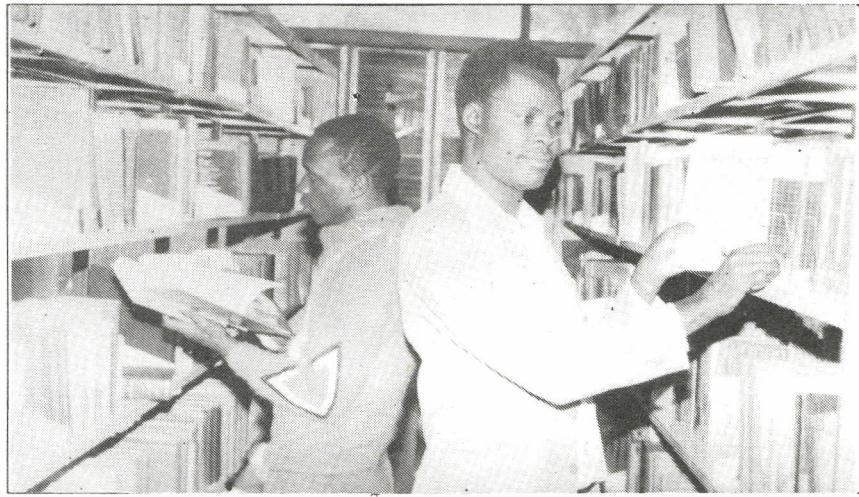
*Editor*

# Circulation Services at JKML and Campus Libraries

Circulation services are rendered in the Jomo Kenyatta Memorial Library and in each campus library.

## Did You Know?

- That you can obtain information from other libraries through inter library loan? Approach librarians in respective libraries for this service. There is no single library that can have all the information resources. Our library co-operates with other libraries. We share various information sources. See the list of co-operating library at the end of the newsletter.
- That books are easily loaned to students for two weeks and that the loan is renewable in our library.
- That books are reserved for you on request at the issue desk.
- For learning purposes, parts of articles from magazines, reference books can be photo-copied for your use at a subsidized cost without infringing copyright rules.
- That suggestions may be channelled through library staff or dropped in the suggestions box. Our staff are willing to talk to you and solve your problems where possible. Approach them.
- That books on high demand, like recommended materials on reading lists, are placed in the reserve collection. They are placed at the request of academic staff. They are loaned to students for a limited period to facilitate sharing of the materials among other students. Materials in this collection may leave the library for overnight use only. They are, therefore, readily available at request.



*Locating information in the library: The library shares various information sources*

## Staff News

From the Kenya Polytechnic we welcome Mr. E. Makinna, Mr. Anthony Njoroge,, Miss Sikuku, Mr. Akanga,, Miss M.W. Njiri, Miss Ogoro, Miss J. Apamo, Miss J. Mini, Mr. J. Nzuki, Miss M. Ogomo, Mr. E.J. Ogeto, Miss Heya Mwake and Mr. Gathui Manyara who have all successfully completed Library Certificate Courses.

### On Study Leave

Mrs. G. Irura and Mr. F.E. Khayundi are pursuing M.A. in Education Administration and Anthropology respectively. Mrs L. Lichuma, Mr. T. Atieno who are pursuing diploma in library science at Kenya Polytechnic.

### On Leave of Absence

Mrs. A. Oulu, Miss D. Dindi, Miss T. Barongo and Mrs. C.N. Nganga.

### From Study Leave

Miss Emma Kariuki, Mr. Mioru F.M. and Dorothy Dindi have successfully completed a diploma in librarianship. Mr. W. Gachira and Mr. W. Mutula completed postgraduate Diploma in Computer Science while Mrs. M.W. Gikonye completed a postgraduate Diploma in Anthropology.

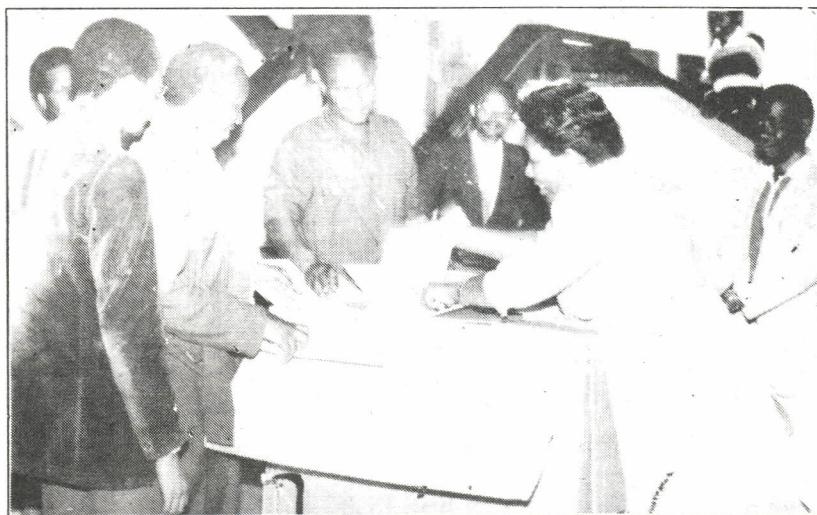
# The Reference Section: Vast Information Services

The Reference Service for all the users:

Do you need help? You will find it. Come to the reference section. You will get help for any information needed!

We offer the following services:

- Compile bibliographies on request on specialised topics.
- Carry out literature search on specified topics on request.
- Offer user-services or education on how to use the catalogue.



*The Librarian receiving books: The Reference Librarian will discuss information needs in confidence.*

- Offer user-services on how to locate information (books, journals, audio-visual material, computer data etc)
- Offer user-services on how to use general reference and subject reference books.

The centre is part of the co-operation project between Ghent and Nairobi Universities and from this year the University of Dar-es-salaam is included. The aim of the Centre is to promote research in the area of law of the sea, ocean management and marine policy. There is a stock of about 300 documents which are entered both in the public catalogue and in a database. At present there are three Ph.D. students on the project from the Faculty of Law. Other postgraduate students also use the literature too. There is one computer with a CD-ROM drive with the following data bases installed: Science and Social Science Citation Index, Agris and Springer Publication Catalogue 1842-1994. A fax machine is also available and fax can be sent and received for a fee.

Our reference collection consists of various information sources, including World of Learning, Guinness Book of Record, dictionaries, encyclopaedia, scholarship and grant manuals, newspaper indices, Who's Who in Kenya, Who's Who in Africa and Who's Who ? in Literature and university calendars from many countries.

Should you have difficulties in locating and using some of the resources, consult the Reference Librarian, at JKML or respective librarians in each sub-library.

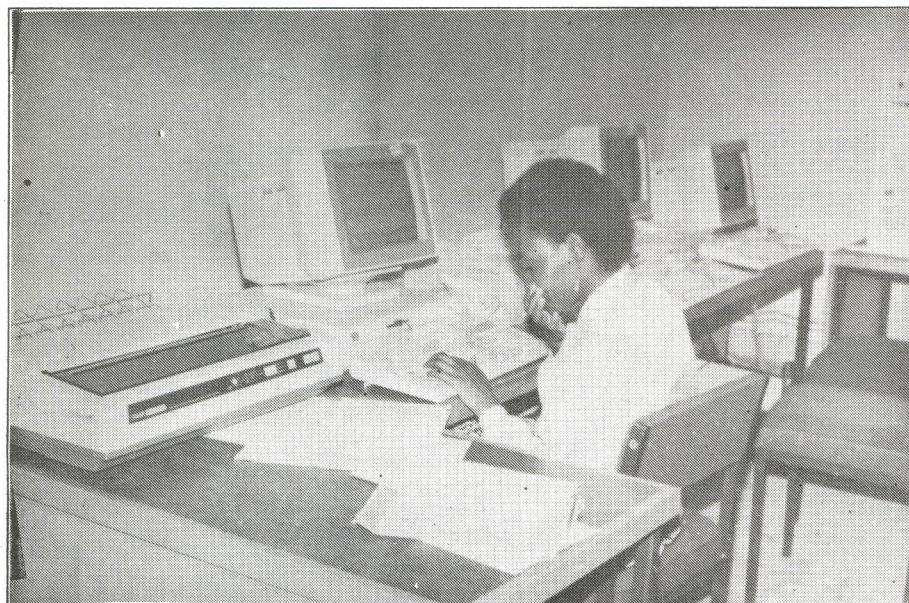
The Reference Librarian will have time to discuss your information needs in confidence. He maintains good public relations. Approach him for help whenever necessary.

# The University of Nairobi Library Computer Unit

## *Using Information Technology to Improve Library Services to Users*

The Computer Section of the University Library was established in 1988 in response to the challenge brought about by the emerging use of computer technology in libraries to improve library services to users. Since its establishment, the Computer Unit has strived to improve library services to users through computerisation of popular data-bases. Among the databases computerised are:

- The Union List of periodicals consisting of a



*It's down to business at the library's Computer Unit: The unit has proved to be very popular among users.*  
list of periodicals available in Kenyan libraries.

- Theses database, a listing of all theses within the University of Nairobi Library System.
- Law Dissertations, a list of law dissertations in the Faculty of Law.
- IDS Database, a list of research papers such as occasional and

***'The Unit carries out research and compiles bibliographies on request'***

Jomo Kenyatta Memorial Library.

working papers produced by the Institute for Development Studies researchers

- Books on Order, a list of books ordered through the World Bank Project.
- Short Loan Database a list of all the holdings of the reserve collection.

Apart from these in-house databases, the Computer Unit also offers literature search services based on CD-ROM technology. The Unit has the following CD-ROM databases:

- Social Science Citation Index
- Science Citation Index
- The Engineering Citation Database

The Unit can carry out a search on a particular topic and compile a bibliography for any authorised library user on request. Computer services offered by the Unit have proved to be very popular among our users. Plans are underway to strengthen the computer facilities of the Unit to facilitate efficient dissemination of information.

For more details on the above databases and other services available in the computer Unit, please get in touch with the Unit which is located in the

# The Medical Library

The College of Health Sciences Medical Library is situated in the premises of Kenyatta National Hospital. The library is equipped with medical books, journals and computer diskettes. It disseminates information to doctors undergraduate and post - graduate students.

During the past year the library has concentrated efforts on improving its information dissemination capabilities. To this end, with the cooperation of HealthNet, the library has been able to offer the following services:

- E-MAIL: In addition to housing HealthNet node, the Medical Library has two points on the HealthNet system. One point is used for E-mail communication and serves as a guest "Post Box" to members of the college who wish to avail themselves of the service.
- MEDINFO: It serves as a dissemination point for literature enquiries for all point users on the HealthNet system, of which there are currently 150. It has CD-ROM capabilities while the library provides literature searches using the MEDLINE and COMPACT AIDS data-bases on CD-ROM.

Access to POPLINE will be provided in the near future. In addition to these data-bases, the library has a number of full text journals on CD-ROM, for example, *Lancet* and *Paediatrics*.

- Bitnis: Provides E-mail access to the data bases of the National Library of Medicine, USA (NLM). This service is mostly used to search NLM data-bases other than MEDICINE, for example, CANCERLIT, AIDSLINE, TOXLINE etc. Searches are sent as E-mail messages and the search results are received in the same manner. The turn-around time is less than 24 hours.
- Kenya Medical Abstracts: The data base contains reference to medical and health-related literature on Kenya since 1980. About 50% of the entries contain abstracts.



A librarian assisting readers: The library has been improving its information dissemination capabilities.

## New Publications

The library continues to strengthen its collection through the Acquisition Section. Recently, the Ministry of Education through the Universities Investment Project has helped the library up-date its collection greatly. In phase I of World Bank Assistance Project the library acquired 6,752 titles which gave us 16,299 volumes. In Phase II we purchased 12,000 titles which gave us about 36,000 volumes. In addition we are now able to acquire information in form of CD-ROM data-bases.

We are very grateful to university administration for being supportive in our endeavour to up-date our library collection. We also thank the Ministry of Education and the World Bank for their financial assistance.

**When books can no longer hold together its a blow to academicians**

**The Bindery Section of University of Nairobi is actively involved with the repair of books and binding services:  
The services include:**

- Binding theses for lecturers and students.
- Binding term papers.
- Binding projects for students of law and architecture, development and design.

**Get in touch with our bindery. Present your book or thesis for quarter binding or full binding. It provides a superb service.**



# Inter- Library Loan Partners 1995

Library	Box No.	Tel.		
1. Kenyatta University Library	43844 NRB.		24. ILRAD	30709 NRB
2. KARI-Kenya Agricultural Research Institute Library	30148 NRB.		25. AMREF	30125 NRB
3. Keny. National Library Services	30573 NRB.		26. Defence Staff College, Karen	Karen
4. MacMillan Library	40791 NRB.		27. C.T.S. Library K.P.T.C	
5. UNEP Library	30552 NRB.		28. Central Bank of Kenya Library	264331 NRB
6. British Lending Library	Boston Spa. Wetherby West Yorks, DS23 75C U.K.	334855	29. Kenya Institute of Administration (KIA)	
7. British Council Library	40751 NRB.		30. Egerton University	
8. Kenya National Archives	30520 NRB.		31. Moi University	
9. I.C.I.P.E. International Centre for Insect Physiology and Ecology	30772 NRB.		32. Kenya Reinsurance Corp. Library	
10. GOETH Institute	49468 NRB.		33. Court of Appeal Library	
11. Institute for Meteorological Training and Research Library	30259 NRB.		34. KIRD/ (Kenya Industrial Research and Development Institute)	
12. KSTC Kenya Science Teachers College Library	30596 NRB		35. Kenya Polytechnic	
13. Dar-es-Salaam University Library	35091 Dar-es-Sal.		36. University of Zambia Library	
14. Kenya Technical Teachers College Library (K.T.T.C.)	44600 NRB.		37. Central Bureau of Statistics	
15. Habitat Library	30552 NRB.		38. Coffee Research Foundation	4 Ruiru
16. American Cultural Centre Library	30143 NRB.		39. Laikipia College Campus Library	1137 Naivasha
17. Nairobi International School of Theology	21417 NRB.		40. Mazingira Institute	
18. Law Courts Library	30041 NRB.		41. FAO	
19. I.C.D.C. Library	45519 NRB.		42. Catholic University of East Africa	30470 NRB
20. US International University Library	74273 NRB.		43. Kenya posts and Telecommunications Corporation	30305 NRB.
21. Kenya National Assembly Library	41842 NRB.	212191	44. School of Journalism	891201
22. Kenya Medical Research Institute		722649	45. National Museums of Kenya with IAS only	742131/4
23. Jomo Kenyatta College of Agriculture & Technology (JKUAT)	62000 NRB.		46. Institute of Banking & Finance (Kenya Commercial Bank Ltd)	

For specialised  
subject information consult  
the relevant librarian in  
Humanities and Social Sciences,  
Engineering, Africana,  
Institute of African Studies  
and other branch  
libraries.

### Interesting Facts

The youngest age at which a professor has been elected to chair in a university is 19 years in case of Colin Maclaurin (1698-1746) of Marischal College, Aberdeen as Professor of Mathematics on 30 September, 1717.

Are you planning to beat him?

The longest period for which any professorship has been held is 63 years in case of Thomas Martyug (1735-1825).

Did you know that we have a library social welfare committee?

All members of the 12 branch libraries are encouraged to join hands and work as a team in the University of Nairobi Library. For more details contact the secretary on ext. 28095 or chairman of the committee on ext. 28085.