

LIBRARY



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Chief Librarian

MISSION

The goal of the Library is to provide an effective and efficient library service to university staff and students by making accessible to them all material required to enable them to meet their information needs through a current and effective reference and information service

COLLECTION DEVELOPMENT

During the year under review, the Library continued to do its best to satisfy the information needs of an ever increasing number of clients in various subject areas. Users of the library included the academic staff and the students enrolled on the courses offered by the University as well as bona fide researchers from both public and private sectors. In spite of financial constraints, the Library was able

to further develop its book collection and a total of 2,815 books were purchased from Library funds. Once again the UoM was fortunate enough to benefit from generous book and CD presentations from traditional donor agencies and an additional number of 260 titles and 25 CD-ROMs was received as donation from Ministries and government departments, parastatal bodies, foreign diplomatic missions, international organisations and private individuals. The number of periodicals received during the year was approximately 500, and this included some 325 learned journals acquired by paid subscription, while the remaining titles were obtained through donation or exchange.

The Library also continued to receive publications from the United Nations Organisation and its agencies as well as from the World Bank in its capacity as partial deposit library for these two institutions.

Hence the stock of the library as at July 2003 was made up of about 124,000 books and 30,000 bound periodicals.

NEW LIBRARY MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

The integrated computerised library management system (CAIRS-LMS) that has been operational since 1995 started showing its limitations in handling the ever-increasing daily library transactions (issue, return and renewal of books, and catalogue searches). With information from the CAIRS supplier that it does not plan any further development of the system beyond 2003, the library started exploring other possibilities for a new improved and web-enabled system, and tenders were invited from potential suppliers of library management software.

The product that would best suit the requirements of the Library was identified and the acquisition of a new Library Management System is planned for the forthcoming financial year.

ANCILLARY SERVICES

In addition to the usual supply of books and periodicals, either for loan or for reference consultation, the library also offered the following services to its members:

- (i) Photocopies of materials both locally and from abroad. A total of 235,300 photocopies were made for students by the audio-visual section and 179 photocopies of articles from journals not available in the Library were ordered from the British Library Document Supply Centre.
- (ii) Manual as well as computer literature searches.
- (iii) Access to databases, online and on CD-ROM.
- (iv) Inter-library loans from local libraries or from abroad through the British Library Document Supply Centre

An additional online search and document supply service for staff and students was available from the Centre d'Accès à l'Information (CAI) of the Agence Universitaire de la Francophonie (AUF) located within the Library premises and 1717 articles were ordered for the different Faculties through this Centre.

LIBRARY BUILDING

With the substantial increase in the student population and the demand for new user services the need to expand the physical infrastructure of the library was acutely felt. Two decisions were taken to address this space issue, namely:-

- (i) the allocation of two floors of the Engineering Tower, presently under construction, to the Library which will benefit from a total floor area of 1120m² and
- (ii) consideration of a proposal to provide an extension of 700m² to the Library building on the site located between the UoM press and the bridge connecting the old campus to the new academic complex.

With these two developments the Library would have at its disposal an additional floor area of 1820m² that would allow the relocation of some of the existing sections and services, and partially relieve the severe space problem.