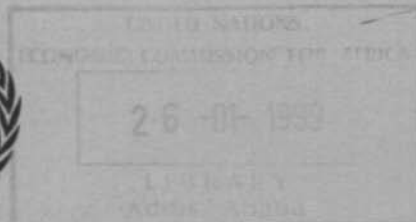




UNITED NATIONS



ECONOMIC
COMMISSION
FOR AFRICA

THE ECA LIBRARY

● A BRIEF GUIDE FOR USERS

November 1978

Historical background

Soon after the first session of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, plans were initiated for the establishment of a Library which would serve the research and information needs of the Commission's secretariat. In mid-1977, the ECA Library moved to its new premises, a separate building of the new Africa Hall complex. The new Library consists of three floors and two basements.

Ground floor - Main Library

First floor - Government

Publications Unit

Second floor - United Nations

Documents Unit

Basement 1 & 2 - Stacks

Objectives and clientele

The ECA Library was established to serve the research and information needs of the secretariat of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa

and participants in ECA conferences, seminars and workshops. It also serves United Nations agencies and diplomatic missions in Addis Ababa, OAU research personnel, visiting scholars and students as well as African Government departments and people in Africa and overseas who write seeking information on Africa in the field of economic and social development.

Collection

The ECA Library collection is the biggest single collection in Africa on the economies of the African region; it has grown tremendously in recent years. It is estimated to contain over 150,000 volumes, excluding mimeographed United Nations documents. This collection is divided into three categories:-

- i) Commercially published material of interest to ECA, which includes the periodical and newspaper collection (Main Library)

- ii) Government publications of member and non-member states of the Commission relating to the economies of Africa (Government Publications Unit)
- iii) United Nations and UN Specialized and Operating Agencies' publications and documents relating to Africa or of topical interest (UN Documents Unit)

The ECA Library presently subscribes to over 500 periodicals and newspapers and receives a similar number of journals in exchange and gratis.

The ECA Library is a depository library for all printed and mimeographed United Nations documents, the numbers of which are too great to estimate.

Organization of collection

All library material, with the exception of mimeographed United Nations

documents, is catalogued and classified according to Universal Decimal Classification (UDC). Government publications are classified by broad subject headings under each country - Government Publications Classification Scheme developed by the Dag Hammarskjold Library. The key to the collection is the Card Catalogue which is arranged in three indexes:-

- i) Author-title index
- ii) Subject index
- iii) Geographical (area) index

Acquisitions policy

Taking into consideration the work programme of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), and in order to build the sound collection required in a research library in the field of economic and social development with particular reference to Africa, book-reviewing journals and book publishers' catalogues are regularly examined in order to identify

material of interest. Such material is usually acquired through the following channels:-

- i) Commercially published material is acquired through commercial arrangements with African and overseas book dealers (as library budget permits)
- ii) Government publications of member and non-member countries of the Commission are acquired gratis through arrangements with the publishing government ministries and departments
- iii) Publications of interest published by universities, organizations, institutions, learned societies, etc. are usually acquired through publications exchange programmes.

ECA Library Publications

So far as bibliographic activities are concerned, the Library publishes regularly the following bibliographies:-

- i) New Acquisitions in the UNECA Library (bi-monthly)
- ii) Africa Index: Selected Articles on Socioeconomic Development (quarterly computerized publication)
- iii) ECA INDEX: Bibliography of Selected ECA Documents (an annual computerized publication)

The ECA Library also publishes selected subject bibliographies under which series the following titles have appeared:-

- i) Bibliography of African Statistical Publications
- ii) Bibliography of Economic and Social Development Plans of African Countries



Main Library - Reference Books Area



Government Publications Unit -
Reading Area



Main Library - Information Desk



Main Library - Newspapers and
Periodicals Area



- Government Publications Unit -
Reading Area



- iii) Bibliography of the Hydrology and Hydraulic Development of the Nile Basin
- iv) Directory of Government Printers and Prominent Bookshops in the African Region
- v) Selected Bibliography - Manpower and Training Problems in Economic and Social Development
- vi) Selected Subject Bibliography - Model Schemes of Small-Scale Industries

For internal circulation, the Library publishes: List of Tables of Contents of Selected Professional Journals (fortnightly); List of Selected UN Documents Received in the ECA Library (fortnightly); IBRD Country Reports Received in the ECA Library (twice yearly); Current African Development Plans Received in the ECA Library (annually).

General Rules

- 1) All library materials are available for consultation in the Reading Rooms.
- 2) ECA Professional staff may check out any number of books.
- 3) Other authorized library clients may check out two books at a time for a period not exceeding one month.
- 4) The following categories of library material cannot be checked out:-
 - a) Reference books
 - b) Current issues of periodicals (except for overnight and/or on weekends)
 - c) Newspapers (except for overnight and/or on weekends)
 - d) File copies of United Nations documents.

5. Smoking, eating, drinking and loud conversation are prohibited in the Library.
6. Library users are requested to cooperate by refraining from writing in library books or defacing them in any way.

Library Working Hours

The ECA Library is open to users during regular ECA working hours. All library clients must enter and leave the Library through the main entrance on the first floor.