

# GHANA

## GHANA LIBRARY BOARD

MRS SUSANNAH MINYILA — ACTING DIRECTOR OF LIBRARY SERVICES

## ANNUAL REPORT TO CDNL 2001 – 2002

The George Padmore Research Library on African Affairs was established in 1961. It forms the Africana wing of the Public Library system in Ghana. Its collection is made of anthropology, history, literature, economics, geography, law and public administration.

In the absence of a national library in Ghana, this library performs some of the functions of a national library namely:

- 1 Serving as the repository of the country's literary output and making available for use by the present and future generations a National collection of library and information resources
- 2 Compilation of the Ghana National Bibliography (GNB). The GNB lists books and pamphlets deposited at the George Padmore Research Library on African Affairs in consonance with the Book and Newspaper Registration Act. 73, 1961. Other materials listed are:-
  - Acquisition of the George Padmore Research Library on African Affairs covering publications in whatever form or language, originating from Ghana by Ghanaians or non-Ghanaians.
  - Publications by Ghanaians published abroad about Ghana.
  - Titles of New Serials.
  - Articles with Ghana subject content from books, pamphlets, periodicals and newspapers.
  - The bibliography is a bi-monthly and cumulated annually.
- 3 Acts as the national Agency for the International Standard Numbering System.

In addition, the George Padmore Library is the depository for the NOMA collection.

This now forms part of the library's stock and is housed in the *Africa Room*. This is an invaluable and unique collection of books published in Africa. The collection has been built up over the past sixteen years from works submitted by various publishers and others in the book trade for consideration for the Noma Award. This is an award of \$10,000 instituted by Shoichi Noma, a Japanese, for outstanding work published in Africa and its off-shore islands.

## **THE PROPOSED NATIONAL LIBRARY BILL**

In 1988, the Ghana Library Association and the Ghana Library Board organised a colloquium to discuss and draw up proposals for the establishment of a National Library.

As a result the Decentralization Policy of Government (Act 462 of 1993), it was realised that the functions for the Board, that is, establishing, equipping, managing and maintaining public libraries, have been transferred to the District Assemblies. This made the position of the board unclear, resulting in the proposal for the establishment of a National Library Board. The proposed Bill was submitted to the Minister of Education in June 1998. We are still waiting for the reaction of the Ministry to the proposal.

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