

# GHANA

## NATIONAL LIBRARY NAME

SUSANNAH MINYILA — DIRECTOR

## ANNUAL REPORT TO CDNL 2002 – 2003

The George Padmore Research Library on African Affairs is a department of the Ghana Library Board. It was established in 1961 as a memorial to George Padmore the African Affairs advisor to the first president of Ghana, Mr Kwame Nkrumah and a monument of the ideals of Pan-Africanism.

The aim of the library is to collect materials on Africa. However greater emphasis is placed on collecting materials about Ghana and by Ghanaians. The objective is to build a comprehensive national collection on the nation.

As Ghana has no national library, the library took up the responsibility of performing some of the functions of a national library. Such functions include:

1. Compilation of the Ghana national Bibliography:
2. Allocation of ISBN, ISSN and ISMN to publishers and
3. Acting as a legal depository library in consonance with the Book and Newspaper Registrarion Act 73 of 1961.

As Ghana has no national library as indicated earlier, efforts have been made over the past years to have a national library established for the country. In that regard, in 1998, the Ghana Library Association in conjunction with the Ghana Library Board organised a colloquium for stakeholders in the information sector to brainstorm on the issue and come out with proposals for the consideration of Government. The meeting came out with a draft bill for a National Library Service for the country. The Draft bill was sent to the Ministry of Education for the necessary process to be carried out and then sent to parliament. However in March 2003 a request was again made for a proposal for and another draft bill on the Natio9nal Library from the Ministry of Education.

A team of serving and retired librarians from the public, academic and research libraries was assembled to perform this assignment. The team has successfully completed the work and has submitted the two documents to the Ministry of Education for consideration.

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