

Libraries and Librarianship in Zambia: 1964 - 1984

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of the requirements for the degree  
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in the Graduate School of Librarianship  
Monash University, April 1986.



This thesis contains no material which has been accepted for the award of any other degree or diploma in any other university; and, to the best of my knowledge and belief, it contains no material previously published or written by another person, except when due reference is made in the text of the thesis.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'A. Rooke', with a long horizontal stroke extending from the end of the signature.

(ANDREW ROOKE)



DEDICATION

This work is dedicated to the memory of my late  
father, A. Norman Rooke.

"Gaudeat in astris"



## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Firstly, I wish to acknowledge the great kindness and help offered by professional colleagues in Zambia, without whose aid this work would never have come to fruition. In particular, I wish to thank Drs Mwachalimba and Lundu for their valuable advice on Zambian library history; Mr Charles Lungu for information provided on school libraries and UNZA federal libraries; Mr Augustine Msiska for kindly acting as the Zambian focus of replies to the circular letters; and Joe and Julia Brown for kindly providing a base for my fieldwork in Zambia.

In Australia, I acknowledge the great patience and assistance provided by my wife, Sue, who not only encouraged me through the numerous "manic depressive" episodes endemic to all part-time students but also typed innumerable drafts and the final copy. Finally, this work owes a great debt to the academic direction and human understanding provided by my supervisors, Mrs Radha Rasmussen and Dr B. McMullin. Their incisive critical comments, and the kind assistance offered by other members of Monash Graduate School of Librarianship staff, provided the framework of the work that follows.

To each and everyone who helped me in various ways with this work I say "Zikomo kwambili" (a thousand thanks!).

## ABBREVIATIONS

UNESCO:	United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNZA:	University of Zambia
UNZANDO:	University of Zambia at Ndola
ZLA:	Zambia Library Association
ZLAJ:	Zambia Library Association Journal
ZLAN:	Zambia Library Association Newsletter
ZLS:	Zambia Library Service

## ABSTRACT

The history of libraries and librarianship in Zambia is examined from the late 19th century to 1984, with emphasis on the two decades following independence (1964 - 1984). Development in the following areas is discussed in detail: public libraries, school libraries, academic libraries, special libraries, library education and library associations. In addition to providing an historical perspective on library development, various social, economic and political factors impinging on libraries and librarianship in Zambia are examined. The influence of the colonial period forms a background to the primary argument that government indifference to the plight of libraries and the library profession has been a major factor retarding library development in Zambia throughout the post-independence era.

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## INTRODUCTION

### Aims and hypothesis

This thesis is an attempt to provide an area study of the development of libraries and librarianship in Zambia for the first two decades after independence (1964 - 1984). In addition to providing an historical perspective on library development, various social, economic and political factors impinging on library development in Zambia are examined. It is hoped that this study will contribute to the knowledge of the dynamics of library development in independent Africa and, indeed, that findings from Zambia will add to the knowledge of the challenges facing library development in other developing nations.

A recurring theme in studies of any aspect of African development is the negative influence of colonialism in Africa. The colonial legacy forms a pervasive background to the primary thesis that government indifference to library development was a major retarding factor on library development throughout the post-independence era.

The present study examines this hypothesis in detail across the entire spectrum of library development and concludes with a detailed examination of major national planning documents as they affect libraries.

### Previous research

Intensive research has been done on Zambian librarianship in recent years, through the efforts of the Department of Library Studies at the University of Zambia and through an active staff development scheme within this department and the University library. A comprehensive list of theses on Zambian librarianship is included in the bibliography.

The two major contributions to the study of Zambian librarian-

ship, by Drs Mwacalimba and Lundu, concentrated on general principles and then related them to the Zambian situation. Mwacalimba's thesis developed a model for human resource development that could be applied by libraries and information services in Zambia to improve the knowledge and skills of their personnel. His focus was on this model, though he investigated the history of public libraries and library education in Zambia as a background to this primary objective. The present work develops and extends Mwacalimba's pioneering historical research, which concentrated on public library development in the colonial period and was limited in its treatment of Zambian library education. Lundu's primary focus was on the relationships between development, communication, information and libraries and their application to the Zambian environment rather than a detailed critical examination of that environment as presented in this work. Both Mwacalimba and Lundu emphasize the negative influence of the colonial period on the development of librarianship in Zambia, with Mwacalimba attributing government indifference to library development as a colonial legacy. In the present work, the influence of the colonial period is elaborated in all sectors of post-colonial library development, thus providing a means of testing Mwacalimba's hypothesis.

### Methodology

The majority of the sources cited in this work were gathered by the researcher during four years spent as an assistant librarian working at the University of Zambia Library, Lusaka, between 1976 and 1980, including a period as Editor and Council member of the Zambia Library Association. This experience provided opportunities for extensive travel within Zambia, involving visits to the major libraries in the country, and gave a first-hand insight into the problems of library development. This knowledge was updated during a field trip to Zambia in September 1983, during which major libraries were again visited and leading librarians inter-

viewed to ascertain recent trends in library development.

A list of these institutions and interviewees is appended in the bibliography to this work.

Standard research registers, indexing services and relevant automated bibliographical data bases were consulted to compile the comprehensive bibliography appended to this work. In addition, a general letter soliciting information from all major Zambian libraries was circulated in April/May 1983 to gather further relevant information. Published and oral sources were combined to form the basis of the comprehensive history and critical evaluation of Zambian library development that follow.

#### Limitations

Most researchers who have made substantial contributions to the literature on Zambian librarianship comment on the difficulty of obtaining source materials. Primary documents relating to the colonial period are difficult to locate and in most instances are not freely available within Zambia. Printed source materials for the independence period are scarce except for those related to the larger institutions. Even then, annual reports have been issued irregularly or are often confidential to the library's governing authority and most frequently cannot be found at the National Archives of Zambia or UNZA Special Collections Department. There is no centralized or standardized mechanism for the collection of library statistics, so that it is impossible to draw valid statistical comparisons between the various sectors of library development.

The dearth of primary sources left the researcher heavily dependent on secondary publications of the ZLA. The ZLA's Journal and Newsletter are rich sources of commentary on library development and contain reprints of original documents relating to the history of the Association. However,

studies published by the ZLA are mainly anecdotal and the substance of original documents has frequently been paraphrased. Publication of both the ZLAJ and ZLAN lapsed between 1982 and 1984 (the June 1984 issue of the ZLAJ was issued in June 1985). In the absence of comprehensive printed source materials, oral sources and visits to Zambian libraries assumed great importance in establishing an accurate picture of library development. The librarians interviewed were, without exception, enthusiastic and forthcoming in providing information on their various institutions. The high staff turnover in some institutions meant that some interviewees could provide little information on the history of their libraries. More significantly, the person interviewed, for example the Chief Libraries Officer of ZLS, was often not the person directly in charge of daily operations of the library and might be subject to policy constraints of the governing ministry or institution which affected the accuracy of information provided. Finally, the myriad problems associated with conducting fieldwork under the economic conditions prevailing at the close of 1983 limited the number of institutions visited. These problems included the difficulties of travel to the rural areas of Zambia, the exigencies of bureaucratic procedures to arrange interviews, and the limited time in which to conduct fieldwork. An attempt was made to offset these difficulties by a mail survey of all libraries in Zambia, conducted with the assistance of UNZA Special Collections staff. However, a disappointingly low percentage of replies was received; mainly they came from the larger libraries in Lusaka and the Copperbelt.

#### Currency

The unit of Zambian currency is the "Kwacha". The value of the kwacha has fluctuated greatly with the declining fortunes of the Zambian economy. In November 1985, the Zambian government introduced a system of auctions for foreign exchange which means that the value of the kwacha now varies

5.

on a daily basis. The instability of the kwacha means that it is meaningless to equate Zambian and Australian currencies, and therefore only kwacha figures have been cited in this work.

## CHAPTER 1: ZAMBIA - BACKGROUND

Zambia, whose name derives from the Zambezi river, came into being as an independent state within the British Commonwealth on the 24th October, 1964. It encompasses an area of 752,614 sq.kms, or more than three times the area of the Australian state of Victoria. Zambia is bounded by Tanzania, Malawi, Mozambique, Botswana, Zimbabwe, Zaire and South West Africa/Namibia (see map 1). The topography consists for the main part of a high plateau, which varies from 1,067 to 1,372 metres above sea level.

Zambia has a small population: 6,330,000.<sup>(1)</sup> Features of the demographic pattern affecting library development include a high proportion of the population of school age and heavy concentrations of settlement in the administrative capital, Lusaka, and the commercial centres in the Copperbelt province mining district.<sup>(2)</sup>

### History

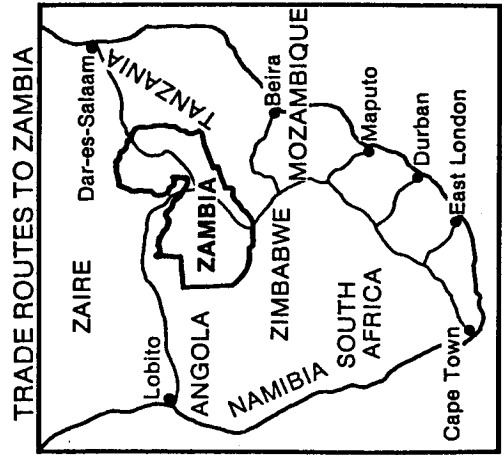
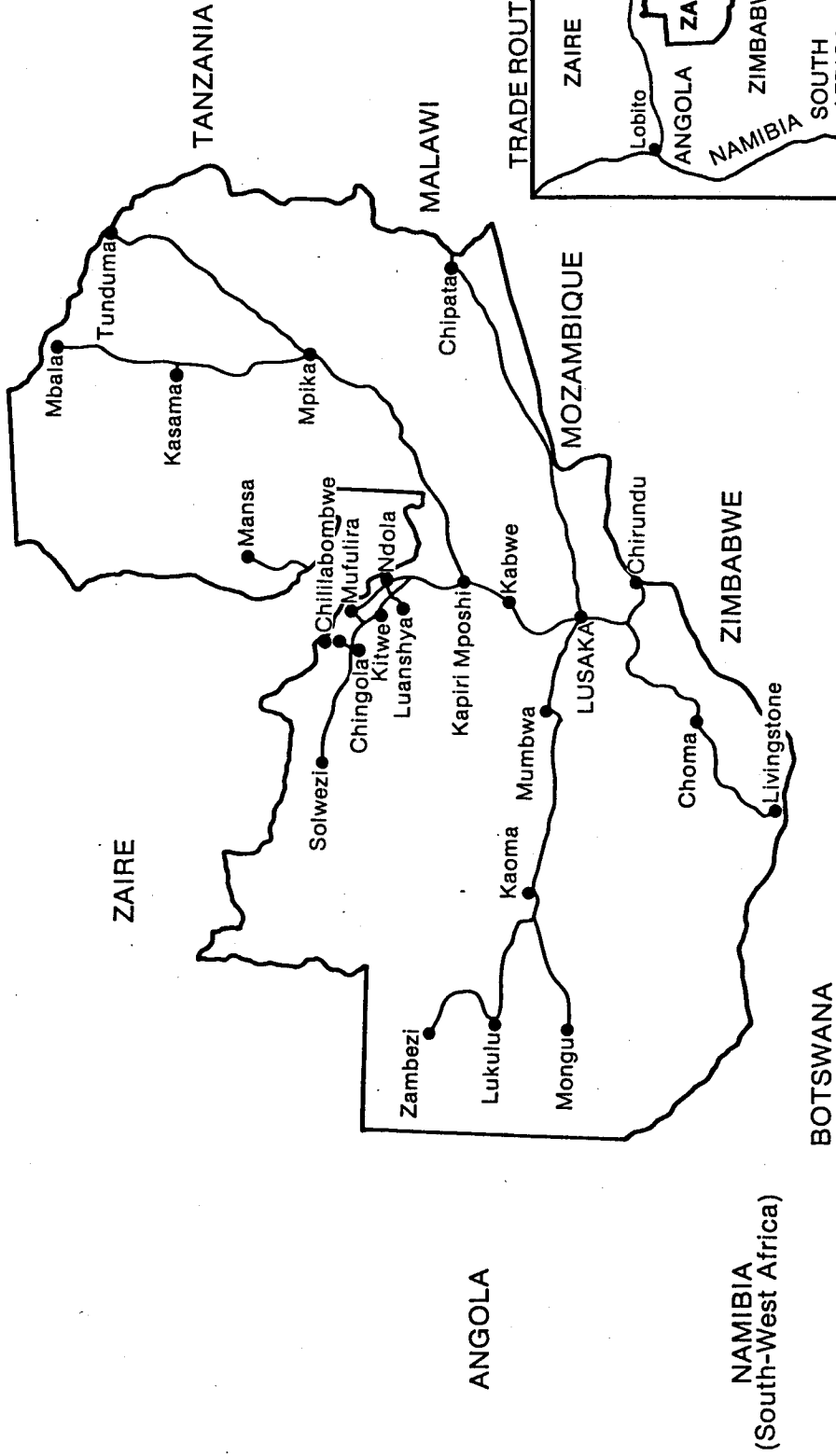
#### Zambia before independence

Although there is evidence of man's settlement dating back nearly half a million years, the majority of Zambia's present inhabitants are descended from peoples who invaded Zambia, chiefly from Zaire, Zimbabwe and Malawi, between the 17th and 19th centuries. These invasions account for the diversity of languages and cultures which has created difficulties for the establishment of modern education in Zambia. Traditional societies were oral cultures, with no indigenous writing or scholastic tradition based on printed materials.

Portuguese traders and Arab slavers contacted tribal societies of the region in the 18th century but had negligible cultural influence. European cultural impact awaited the arrival of British missionaries in the mid 19th century.

MAP 1

Republic of Zambia



NAMIBIA  
(South-West Africa)

The famous missionary, Dr David Livingstone, led the way for the establishment of missions in Northern Rhodesia and Nyasaland. These missions inaugurated Western education in Central Africa. Commerce followed the church, and by the close of the 19th century North Eastern and North Western Rhodesia, as the region was then known, were controlled by the British South Africa Company. In 1911 the two regions were amalgamated into Northern Rhodesia, which became a crown colony in 1924. It was thus that Northern Rhodesia was ruled for thirty years by a commercial enterprise which had little interest in the establishment of educational facilities for Africans.

During the 1920s copper mines were established around the modern cities of Kitwe, Mufulira and Luanshya, further encouraging British commercial interest in Northern Rhodesia. World War II emphasized the importance of these mineral resources to the colonial government. During the 1940s Northern Rhodesia accumulated considerable financial reserves, and a number of large-scale farms were established to serve the mines and the increasingly urbanized indigenous population they attracted.

The post-war period witnessed accelerated white settlement and consequent pressure for a new Central African state administered by the settlers. This was achieved in 1953 with the amalgamation of Northern and Southern Rhodesia and Nyasaland to form the Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland. The Federation encouraged further British immigration, and concentrated the economic resources of the three colonies in Southern Rhodesia. These factors exacerbated the nationalist sentiments of the articulate population in Northern Rhodesia, leading ultimately to the formation of independent Zambia in October 1964.<sup>(3)</sup>

#### Zambia since independence

The first decade of Zambian independence was characterized

by ambitious development projects funded by buoyant international prices for copper, the nation's chief export earner. In 1965, British settlers in Southern Rhodesia made a Unilateral Declaration of Independence (UDI) from the U.K. UDI had profound repercussions for social and economic development in Zambia, as her export routes ran south through Rhodesia, and the Zambian government took an increasingly active stand against minority rule in Rhodesia. In 1975 there was a precipitous decline in international prices for copper, upon which Zambia depended for its foreign exchange. Low copper prices, and constantly low government revenues, reduced Zambia's ability to develop her social and economic infrastructure. Political tension in Rhodesia led to guerilla warfare, which spilled over the border into Zambia in the late 1970s. In April 1980 Rhodesia attained majority rule as Zimbabwe, but years of guerilla warfare promoted by Zambia further depleted her efforts for internal development.<sup>(4)</sup> Dissatisfaction amongst influential elements of Zambian society with the government's limited achievements contributed to political destabilization in the early 1980s.<sup>(5)</sup> Despite at least two attempted coups, President Kenneth Kaunda and his United National Independence Party were re-elected in 1983 as Zambia's only government since independence. By 1984 the Zambian economy had been in recession for a decade, with a consequent decline in living standards, reduced levels of imports and an exchange rate instability, all of which retarded social and economic development.<sup>(6)</sup>

### Education system

The traditional societies of pre-colonial Zambia had all evolved their own complex systems of education in the skills required for adult life and the oral culture of each social group. Formal Western education, utilizing print media, was introduced in the late 19th century by British missionaries. Missionary schools were operating in most areas of Northern Rhodesia by the 1920s, when the administrative and commercial

infrastructure had developed sufficiently to create jobs for Western-educated Africans. Missionaries formalized vernacular languages in print, established the first printing presses, and provided basic education for Zambia's post-independence leaders.

The 1930s witnessed the establishment of several government middle and training schools. Secondary education for Africans was introduced with the opening of Munali Native Training Centre, near Lusaka, in 1939. Reflecting the increased tempo of European immigration during the post-war period, there was a steady expansion in the number of schools. Educational opportunities for Africans, however, remained limited because education in most institutions was racially segregated. Few Africans received a higher education, so that at Independence, Northern Rhodesia lacked the educated manpower needed to lead Zambia. More subtle legacies of the colonial educational system include an emphasis on rote learning, the pre-eminence of examinations at the expense of self-directed learning, and a premium placed on academic subjects for white collar employment.<sup>(7)</sup>

#### Post-independence education

The paucity of educated manpower stimulated a growth in education in the post-independence era, especially in secondary and tertiary education. The Zambian government attempted to provide seven years free primary-school education and to expand the availability of secondary education, especially in the rural areas.

The education system operating until 1977 resulted in stringent selection procedures for secondary education. This has meant that the majority of the Zambian population have missed the opportunity for a secondary education. To remedy this situation the government initiated reforms in 1977 to extend primary education to Grade 9 and to reduce secondary education to three years. Curricula were oriented to a work/study pattern, and agricultural production units

were to be established in all schools. Unfortunately, these reforms have not been uniformly implemented or greeted with any great enthusiasm by students.<sup>(8)</sup>

To provide skilled manpower to administer social and economic development an extensive programme of higher education was introduced after independence. This programme included the establishment of polytechnic-type colleges, teachers colleges, a national correspondence college, and a government department devoted to technical and further education. The University of Zambia was established by Act of Parliament in 1965 and included by the mid 1980s schools of Humanities and Social Sciences, Natural Sciences, Education, Law, Engineering, Mining, Agricultural Sciences, Medicine, Environmental Studies and Commerce. The University of Zambia was restructured as a Federal system in 1979 with campuses at Lusaka and at Kitwe having been established by 1984.

#### Publishing and publications distributed

Missionaries were in the vanguard of local publishing in the vernacular from the late 19th century onwards. The first steps towards a national publications programme were initiated in 1937 with the formation of The African Literature Committee of Northern Rhodesia. This voluntary organization was formalized by the colonial government in 1947 as The Northern Rhodesia Publications Bureau, which in January 1948 was expanded to include Nyasaland (later Malawi) to create the Joint Publications Bureau of Northern Rhodesia and Nyasaland. These organizations were established primarily to encourage literacy through the publication and distribution of books in the vernacular. However, their practice of contracting publication to British publishers did little to encourage a local publishing industry.<sup>(9)</sup>

In 1966, the Joint Publications Bureau was absorbed into the Kenneth Kaunda Foundation, which became a semi-state owned company (parastatal) in 1971. Two subsidiary organizations

were established chiefly to publish and distribute educational materials: The National Educational Company of Zambia (NECZAM), to publish educational and general books by and for Zambians and The National Educational Distribution Company of Zambia (NEDCOZ), to distribute books to Zambian schools. Both companies have failed to stimulate local publishing. NECZAM was forty per cent-owned by the U.K. publisher Macmillan, and the inequitable funding of the distribution company resulted in a chronic debt to Zambia's largest local publisher. NECZAM's debt to NEDCOZ resulted in a precipitous decline in productivity of local titles from 130 published in 1970 to 10 in 1980.<sup>(10)</sup>

Other major local publishers include successors to the missionary presses, e.g. Multimedia Limited; scholarly publishers such as the Zambian Geographical Society; and Zambia's two major newspapers, The Times of Zambia and the Zambia Daily Mail. Commercial marketing of publications has been confined to a private company, Kingstons, which sells mainly imported books to expatriates at high mark-ups. Both commercial and government distribution has been confined to the cities, and both have suffered from the vicissitudes of the Zambian economy since 1975.

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CHAPTER 2: PUBLIC LIBRARIESPublic library development in the colonial era

Zambia's first public library was established by private subscription in 1908. Further subscription libraries were established in the 1920s by private clubs, mainly to serve the increasing numbers of Europeans working in the copper mines. Because of the subscription fees and the racial segregation of educational facilities, such libraries were unavailable to Africans. (1)

The first report on library development in Southern Africa was prepared in 1929 on behalf of the Carnegie Corporation of New York. Its scant references to Northern Rhodesia indicate the low priority given to the northern colony compared to the major area of European settlement in Southern Rhodesia. The Carnegie Commissioners penetrated no further into Northern Rhodesia than the then capital at Livingstone and therefore did not provide an adequate picture of national library development. The Carnegie Commission's recommendations were that the subscription library in Livingstone receive a meagre annual donation for five years and that further dispensations to Northern Rhodesia be withheld pending library development in the southern colony. Thus the Carnegie survey effectively prevented the development of national library and information services in Northern Rhodesia for several decades. (2)

Reflecting the state of the world economy, public libraries languished in the 1930s. In 1939 the Carnegie Corporation made a small grant under which a limited book box distribution scheme was attempted. In 1940, and again in 1943, the Carnegie Corporation called for reports on the use of books distributed by means of the scheme to administrative centres, schools and missions in various parts of the country. These reports indicate that the book box scheme was a failure, because local people did not have ready access to books in

administrative centres, the grants for maintaining the book boxes were inadequate, and texts were unsuitable for the reading capacities of the indigenous population.

In the early 1940s Mr Leslie Pollock, a prominent English settler, made a bequest which was used for a variety of educational purposes for Africans, including the establishment of libraries.<sup>(3)</sup> Without government support, this bequest achieved little, and it was not until the height of World War II, when the British government was seeking to galvanize support for the war effort in the colonies, that it produced a comprehensive scheme for colonial welfare. In 1940 the British government published a plan to promote the social and economic development of its colonies, including Northern Rhodesia, in the post-war period. This policy led to the establishment of an official body to finance the development of formal education and literacy in the colonies and eventually to the first detailed social and economic development plan for Northern Rhodesia.<sup>(4)</sup> It was under the provisions of this plan that the Northern Rhodesia-Nyasaland Joint Publications Bureau was established in 1948. Its Director in the 1950s and early 1960s, Mr Gerald Wilson, was instrumental in securing finance in 1962 for the formation of the Northern Rhodesia Library Service, later the Zambia Library Service.

During the 1940s and 1950s the Federation of African Welfare Societies maintained Welfare Societies in African townships in the Rhodesias and Nyasaland funded by a levy on local beer halls. The Headquarters of the Federation was in Bulawayo, Southern Rhodesia, where it maintained a reference library on race relations available to teachers and welfare workers. In Northern Rhodesia the best libraries for Africans were maintained by such welfare centres in the mining shanty towns. Library services were supervised by African welfare officers at Luanshya, Kitwe, Broken Hill (later Kabwe) and Lusaka. The best of these libraries included facilities for study and books, magazines and newspapers in the vernacular available for

loan and sale. As subscription libraries were unavailable to Africans and the Publications Bureau was established principally to publish and market books, not to provide library services, the welfare libraries in the urban townships provided the only generally available library service for Africans until the establishment of new book-box distribution schemes in the late 1950s.

Immediately prior to the establishment of the Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland in 1953, there were two surveys of libraries in the region. Between 1948 and 1950 the Central African Branch of the South African Library Association conducted a survey of the three colonies. In 1950, Mr D.H. Varley then Librarian of the South African Library, was commissioned to report on library development. His report, published in 1951, gave an incisive and detailed picture of library development up until 1950 and emphasized the colonial government's lack of interest in library and information services. Unfortunately, its idealistic recommendations, which advocated government responsibility for library services and even the establishment of a Flying Library Service, were not accepted because it was overtaken by the creation of the Federation. Varley's observations were updated by a survey of public libraries sponsored by the Library Association of Rhodesia and Nyasaland in 1962. Its proposals were aborted by the advent of independence in Malawi and Zambia in 1964.<sup>(5)</sup>

In 1954 Barbara Mullane, a British librarian with experience in establishing book box schemes in West Africa, prepared a report which advocated the establishment of a national library service in Zambia. Unfortunately, the colonial government rejected this scheme, as it did the recommendations of the Joint Publications Bureau for a pilot scheme in Northern Rhodesia's Eastern Province in 1956.<sup>(6)</sup>

It was not until 1959 that such a scheme was introduced, under the auspices of the Joint Publications Bureau, with 79 book boxes distributed through minor administrative centres

('bomas') around Northern Rhodesia. Like the earlier book box scheme, this Northern Rhodesia Country Libraries Scheme had minimal impact on national library development. Books were not changed frequently, and access to 'bomas' was difficult for many people in the rural areas. The scheme persisted until 1962, when the boxes were inherited by the Northern Rhodesia Library Service, established the same year with a Ford Foundation Grant. At independence the scheme became the ZLS, a government department within the Ministry of Education charged with wide-ranging responsibilities for national library and information services development.

#### Patterns of public library development in the independence era

It was thus that two types of locally supported public library service were carried forward into the independence era: municipal libraries and the ZLS network. Foreign-aid-funded public library services have been established by foreign cultural agencies and missionary organizations, which have supplemented indigenous institutions. A complete list of public libraries to 1984 follows, showing the geographical distribution of public library services (see Table 2.1).

#### Municipal public libraries

The oldest libraries in the country are the public libraries administered in the independence era by municipal authorities and forming a pattern of public library service similar to that in Australia. In 1969 Sleath conducted the only comprehensive survey of municipal public libraries. The published results showed that within the first decade of independence the municipal public libraries were mainly subscription services and were poorly staffed and funded in comparison with other Zambian libraries.<sup>(7)</sup> Evidence adduced in the course of the present work indicates that these problems have become more acute, exacerbated by the decline in Zambia's economic fortunes since 1975.

TABLE 2.1 Public libraries in Zambia: 1984

Municipal Public Libraries	Zambia Library Service	Aid-Funded Libraries
<p><u>Chingola</u>: Chingola Public library. One branch library</p> <p><u>Kabwe</u>: Kabwe Municipal Public Library Services. One branch library</p> <p><u>Kalalushi</u>: Kalalushi Public Library</p> <p><u>Kamuchanga</u>: Kamuchanga Public Library</p> <p><u>Kitwe</u>: Kitwe Public Library. One branch library</p> <p><u>Livingstone</u>: Livingstone Municipal Council Library</p> <p><u>Luanshya</u>: Helen Kaunda Memorial Library</p> <p><u>Mpatamat</u>: Township Library</p> <p>Roan Recreation Club Library</p> <p>Roan Township Library</p> <p><u>Lusaka</u>: Lusaka City Libraries. Three branch libraries</p> <p><u>Mazabuka</u>: Mazabuka Township Council Library</p> <p><u>Ndola</u>: Ndola Public Library. Four branch libraries.</p> <p><u>Mufulira</u>: Mufulira Municipal Library</p>	<p><u>Regional libraries</u>:</p> <p>Chipata</p> <p>Choma</p> <p>Kasama</p> <p>Mansa</p> <p>Mongu</p> <p>Solwezi</p> <p><u>District libraries</u>:</p> <p>Mbala</p> <p>Zambezi</p> <p><u>Headquarters</u>: Lusaka</p> <p>In addition, ZLS supplies a network of approximately 1,500 library centres. These are located mostly in schools and operated by volunteers</p>	<p><u>Kitwe</u>: Dag Hammarskjold Memorial Library. Operated as a service to the people of Kitwe in addition to serving the staff of the Mindolo Ecumenical Foundation</p> <p><u>Lusaka</u>: Alliance Française Library: Branches in Kitwe, Mufulira, Ndola, British Council Library</p> <p>United States International Communications Agency Library</p> <p><u>Ndola</u>: British Council Library</p>

SOURCE: LUMANDE, E. comp. Directory of libraries in Zambia 2nd ed. Lusaka: Zambia Library Association, 1979; Issues of the ZLAJ and ZLAN 1979 to 1984; Interview with Mr M. Walubita, Chief Libraries Officer, ZLS, September 1983, Lusaka.

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Because there are numerous municipal public libraries their outstanding features are discussed thematically.

#### Persistence of subscription service

The major municipal library services retain modified versions of the colonial pattern of subscription service. Lusaka City Libraries is the largest such service, with a main library in the City Centre and three branch libraries in the surrounding shanty townships. Founded as a subscription library in 1933, the library was taken over by the municipality in 1943. The subscription system was continued until 1968 in the guise of a mandatory deposit allowing borrowing rights.

Subscription library services were established at Kitwe in 1930 and adopted by the municipality in 1956. A central library served Europeans during the colonial period, whilst a branch library at Buchi township served the African population. The central library remained a subscription service until 1970, when a modified deposit system was introduced which remained in force until late 1983.<sup>(8)</sup> Similarly, municipal libraries at Livingstone and Ndola were originally founded as subscription libraries for Europeans, in 1908 and 1936 respectively. By 1950 both libraries were jointly supported by subscriptions and municipal grants. Both libraries have retained the deposit system although, as with other major municipal public libraries, all racial and socio-economic groups of the population now have access to library services. The endurance of subscription services into the 1980s reflects an incomplete acceptance of municipal responsibility for library services. Equally the subscription system indicates an effort by librarians to reduce book thefts by restricting the number of borrowers who have access to public libraries.

#### Educational emphasis of municipal public library collections

The educational bias in Zambian reading habits may have its origins in features of the colonial education system which

placed a premium on rote learning and examinations. This bias is reflected in the use of municipal public libraries chiefly for educational purposes by secondary school pupils.

The collections of Kitwe and Lusaka public libraries feature non-fiction books related to the curricula of secondary and tertiary courses. Most books are published in Western countries, and many have been donated by foreign embassies without consultation with library staff. Books in the vernacular are scarce and unpopular, but textbooks related to the curricula require security storage to prevent theft.<sup>(9)</sup> Public libraries are heavily used as study halls by school children deprived of a home environment conducive to study. Unfortunately, security problems in Zambia's cities militate against the provision of extended hours to cater for this need.

#### Provision of library service to shanty townships

Shanty townships have burgeoned around industrial and administrative centres since independence. These communities most frequently began as illegal settlements, but have become a permanent feature of Zambian city life, providing a home for the majority of urban dwellers. Educational services are often remote from the shanty townships. Transport is scarce and expensive, especially for school children forced to travel to centrally located municipal libraries originally established for Europeans in the colonial era.

In an attempt to compensate for these factors limiting the availability of public library services, from the early 1960s, the municipal councils of Lusaka, Kitwe, Ndola, Kabwe and Livingstone have provided reading rooms and mobile library services to these outlying settlements. In the mid 1960s Lusaka operated a mobile service which visited 22 centres within Greater Lusaka, providing reading material mainly for school children. In the same period, Ndola had a service which visited five primary schools in the area on a weekly

basis. By the late 1970s these services had ceased because foreign exchange constraints had increased the price of fuel and limited the availability of spare parts for vehicles.

Branch libraries in the shanty townships have been more enduring. Lusaka had established two such "libraries" in community centre offices at Chilenje and Matero townships in the late 1960s, supervised by Lusaka City Libraries staff and supplied by daily visits from the then active mobile library. Considering the limited facilities available, these services were heavily used in the early 1970s, with 15,846 people visiting the Matero reading room and 12,248 the Chilenje library in 1973.<sup>(10)</sup>

In June 1975 these services were extended with the opening of branch libraries at Matero, Mutendere and Chilenje South townships, funded by a British Council grant of K65,000. Similarly, Kitwe City Library has operated a branch library in Buchi township for many years, Ndola Public Library has established reading rooms in Chifubu, Kalushi, Masala and Lobutu townships, and Kabwe Municipal Council operates a branch library in the Bwacha Township, which was renovated in 1979 to provide adequate reading facilities. The effort to extend library services to shanty town-dwellers is relevant to the real needs of modern urban Zambians. Unfortunately, such attempts have been hampered by insufficient local finance, and there are far too few of these branch libraries to meet the demands of rapidly expanding populations in the shanty townships.

#### Shortages of foreign exchange and poor conditions of service

The precipitous decline in Zambia's economic fortunes since 1975 has had manifold repercussions for municipal public libraries. Limited foreign exchange has led to a decline in capital projects, reduced book imports, and an increasing reliance on the limited stocks available in Zambian book stores.

These trends are reflected in the operations of Kitwe and Lusaka

City Libraries. In 1983 Kitwe Public Library completely suspended journal subscriptions because of outstanding debts to its U.K. subscription agents. In the same year the foreign debts of the Lusaka City Libraries had remained unpaid since 1980, and 75 per cent of new book purchases were being acquired locally. The limited availability of books in Zambian book stores may have encouraged widespread theft from the Lusaka City Libraries.<sup>(11)</sup>

Since Zambia's economic recession in 1975, shortages of foreign exchange have led to an exaggerated dependence by Zambian municipal library services on foreign aid. Chingola municipal library illustrates this dependence. Although this small mining town had several welfare libraries at Kasompe, Chililabombwe and Chivempula townships established in the colonial era, the Council waited until 1970 to establish a central library in the Civic Centre, which they had recently vacated. However, library services were not operating until 1974, when the British Council provided a grant for bookstock and a German volunteer was appointed.<sup>(12)</sup> After the volunteer departed in 1976 a succession of unqualified library assistants were appointed, and the council failed to supply adequate financial support. Reports of dependence on foreign volunteer librarians and British Council grants abound in ZLAN, indicating the inability of local councils to properly support municipal libraries.

The salaries of municipal public librarians are markedly lower than those for other librarians, and thus the best qualified librarians have avoided public librarianship. In 1974, 1980 and 1982, the ZLA attempted to obtain more equitable salaries and conditions for municipal librarians. On all occasions, the ZLA's submissions were summarily rejected by the government without consultation with the ZLA.<sup>(13)</sup> The plight of municipal public libraries has led most observers to dismiss them as a negligible influence on library development. Yet they have the longest history of service to the Zambian people, and, properly managed, they have the potential to make great contributions to the welfare of the

40 per cent of urban Zambians in the 1980s.

### A history of ZLS

#### ZLS library network

The early history of government-sponsored public libraries prior to the establishment of ZLS in 1964, has been given in the introduction to this chapter. It is important to note features of ZLS's predecessor, the Northern Rhodesia Library Service, which had a profound influence on ZLS. The Northern Rhodesia Library Service was organized as a subsidiary of the Ministry of Education, and therefore was subject to the limited commitment of the colonial ministry to the development of libraries in comparison with other aspects of the educational system.

In 1960 the colonial government downgraded the position of Head of the Publications Bureau from Director to Senior Editorial Officer. This downgrading meant that the Head of the Northern Rhodesia Library Service had limited status within the Ministry and limited access to its senior officials. Finally, the colonial library service was established with broad terms of reference which were vaguely expressed and impossible to achieve, considering its limited infrastructure and financial support.

These features of the colonial library service were inherited by ZLS in 1964. ZLS's terms of reference were:

- (i) To establish public libraries in Zambia with the main emphasis on rural areas;
- (ii) to run a school library service in the country;
- (iii) to assist in the establishment of other government, ministerial and departmental libraries;
- (iv) to give professional advice to individuals and bodies on library matters;
- (v) to assist City, Municipal, Township and Rural Councils in library operations. (14)

The original plan envisaged the establishment of major libraries in each of Zambia's nine provinces; the construction of branch libraries in districts with populations in excess of 50,000 inhabitants, and the creation of library centres in the rural areas.<sup>(15)</sup> The library centres are staffed by volunteers and are mostly established in schools, teacher training colleges, and rural reconstruction centres, (see Table 2.2). The size of collections varies from 100 to 2,000 volumes, depending upon locality. ZLS inherited 111 such centres in 1964, and by 1984 approximately 1,500 centres were operating across Zambia. In addition to the endemic problems of volunteer staff in a professional work situation, ZLS has experienced increasing difficulties in regularly supplying bookstock. Many centres were closed in the late 1970s owing to theft and a public accountability system for bookstock.

Table 2.3 gives an outline history of the establishment of ZLS Regional and District libraries throughout Zambia from 1965 to 1983. Out of the original plan to provide a major regional library in every province, only six existed in 1983 (see map 2). Plans to build a network of district libraries in administrative district centres with populations over 50,000 inhabitants were not realised by 1984, even though the original intention had been to build two per annum. The disappointing achievements of the ZLS building programme can be attributed to the decline in Zambia's economy and the destabilizing effect of liberation wars in Zimbabwe, which have contributed to a dramatic inflation in the price of building materials since 1975. More subtle factors include the limited influence of ZLS's Chief Libraries Officer in the Ministry of Education and insufficient financing of the ZLS network since its inception.

In 1964 ZLS held a total collection of approximately 41,000 books; this total had expanded to approximately 445,000 by 1984. There has been a similar expansion in registered borrowers, from 5,600 in 1971 to 8,600 in 1978, with a total of 160,800 books loaned in 1978 (no later figure was available

TABLE 2.2 Volunteer library centres in the ZLS network, 1963 - 1980

Year	Library Centres
1963	111
1964	147
1965	170
1966	203
1967	260
1968	348
1969	461
1970	550
1971	643
1972	628
1973	710
1974	744
1975	801
1976	879
1977	734
1978	-
1979	958
1980	1,500

SOURCE: ZAMBIA. Ministry of Education Annual reports 1964-1980 Lusaka: Government Printer, 1965-1982.

NOTES:

1. Figures not available for 1978, 1981 to 1984.
2. The figure for the number of library centres given in the 1980 annual report of 105,000 is incorrect. The correct figures of 1,500 library centres was supplied by M. Walubita, Chief Libraries Officer of ZLS in 1983.

TABLE 2.3 Provincial (Regional) and District Libraries in ZLS network, 1963 - 1980

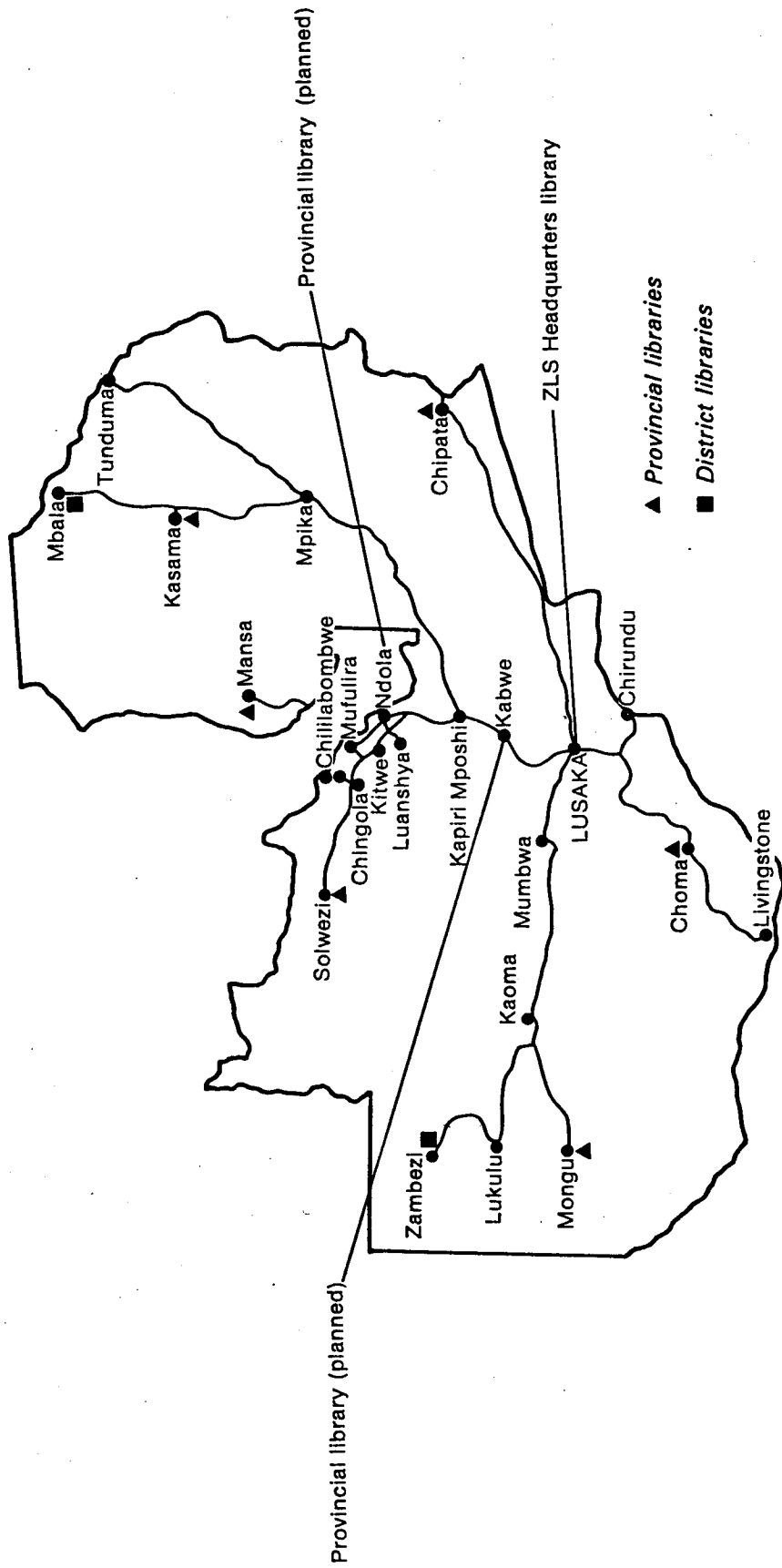
Year	Provincial (Regional) and District Libraries development
1965	First Provincial Library opened at Kasama (Northern Province) in rented premises. Sites secured for provincial libraries at Chipata (Eastern Province) and Mongu (Western Province).
1966	Second Provincial Library opened at Choma (Southern Province) in rented premises.
1967	Chipata Provincial Library completed (Eastern Province). Tender documents for Kasama (Northern Province) prepared.
1968	Decline in the economy causes re-phasing of projects scheduled in the <u>First National Development Plan</u> . No progress on new library buildings.
1971	Choma (Southern Province), Kasama (Northern Province) and Mongu (Western Province) Provincial Libraries at an advanced stage of construction. Solwezi (North-Western Province) and Mansa (Luapula Province) Libraries commenced construction. End of 1971, four provincial libraries and one branch (district) library completed.
1972	Completion of Kasama (Northern Province) and Mongu (Western Province) Libraries. Construction of Solwezi (North-Western Province) and Mansa (Luapula Province) Libraries commenced. Surveys for Kabwe (Central Province) and Ndola (Copperbelt Province) Libraries completed. Five provincial libraries in full operation.
1973	Six provincial libraries completed in purpose-built premises at Choma (Southern Province), Mansa (Luapula Province), Mongu (Western Province), Solwezi (North-Western Province), Kasama (Northern Province) and Chipata (Eastern Province). One branch library at Zambezi (Western Province) operating as provincial library.
1974	Plans to build two district libraries at Mazabuka (Southern Province) and Kawanba (Northern Province) shelved. Kabwe (Central Province) and Ndola (Copperbelt Province) Provincial Libraries could not be built.
1975	Two provincial libraries planned since 1972 not built. 15 district libraries for districts with inhabitants over 50,000 not built due to economic difficulties.
1977	Solwezi Library opened (North-Western Province). Zambezi (Western Province) Library reverted to a district library from its temporary status of provincial library.
1978	New Headquarters building at the Curriculum Development Centre in Lusaka opened.
1979	Six provincial libraries now fully operational.
1980	<u>Third National Development Plan</u> intends building ten district libraries and two provincial library headquarters at Kabwe and Ndola. Only K10,000 is allocated to build a branch library. Money returned as being insufficient.
1984	Six provincial (regional) libraries operating at Mongu (Western Province), Solwezi (North-Western Province), Choma (Southern Province), Chipata (Eastern Province), Mansa (Luapula Province) and Kasama (Northern Province). Two district libraries operating at Zambezi (Western Province) and Mbala (Northern Province). The two provincial libraries at Kabwe and Ndola and the network of district libraries have not been built because of national economic decline and insufficient funding provided by the government to ZLS.

SOURCE: ZAMBIA. Ministry of Education. Annual Reports 1964 - 1980 Lusaka: Government Printer, 1965 - 1982.

The information regarding the opening of the Mbala branch library was provided by the Chief Libraries Officer in 1983.

MAP 2

**Provincial and District Libraries of the ZLS Network, 1983**  
[Library Centres not indicated]



**SOURCE:** Interview: M. Walubita, Chief Libraries Officer, ZLS, Lusaka, September 9, 1983

when fieldwork was conducted). Although ZLS bookstock caters to an increasing membership it is being gradually eroded through theft and the perennial problem of insufficient foreign exchange.<sup>(16)</sup>

Besides providing basic library services, especially in rural centres, some provincial libraries in the ZLS network have attempted to provide extension services. These services have included literacy training, films, and panel discussions on subjects of local interest. Such extension services depend on the enthusiasm of different regional librarians and have not been properly supported or implemented comprehensively by ZLS.<sup>(17)</sup>

#### Government funding of ZLS

Table 2.4 gives details of government funds provided for the ZLS network.

Funding provided by the Ministry of Education has been inadequate to support a national system of public libraries catering in 1984 to in excess of six million people. Zambia's high inflation rate and frequent currency devaluations have eroded the value of the book vote which has remained at a fairly constant level since 1968. Foreign currency shortages and restrictive foreign exchange licensing have effectively nullified the value of local currency for book imports. The deprived state of ZLS finances has been emphasized in successive ZLS annual reports and was supported by a 1981 survey sponsored by the ZLA. This survey revealed that ZLS libraries were amongst the lowest funded in Zambia.<sup>(18)</sup>

Insufficient finance has not only affected bookstock but has also severely limited transport between ZLS headquarters in Lusaka and its scattered network of libraries. Restrictions on vehicles available to ZLS since the mid 1970s has meant that ZLS libraries have been poorly supplied, and the network of 1,500 library centres operated by volunteers has been infrequently inspected by professionally-qualified librarians.

TABLE 2.4 Government funding of ZLS: 1964 - 1980			
Year	Capital Expenditure	Recurrent Expenditure	Book Vote (Included in the total recurrent expenditure)
1964	£ 39,000	£ 2,000	-
1965	-	-	-
1966	-	-	£ 8,164
1967	-	-	-
1968	-	-	K 40,000
1969	-	-	K 30,000
1970	-	K135,980	K 36,800
1971	-	K103,436	-
1972	K110,000	K 81,718	-
1973	K 29,000	K 83,575	K 53,040
1974	K 89,000	K 96,650	K 56,000
1975	K 30,000	K 93,920	K 48,000
1976	-	-	K 30,000
1977	K 13,000	K105,280	K 30,000
1978	-	-	K 30,000
1979	-	-	K 30,000
1980	K 25,000	-	K 30,000

SOURCE: ZAMBIA. Ministry of Education. Annual reports 1964 to 1980 Lusaka: Government Printer, 1965 to 1982.

NOTES:

1. "-" indicates no information available in the annual reports.
2. No information available for 1981 to 1984.
3. Figures for the book vote from 1976 to 1980 provided by M. Walubita, Chief Libraries Officer of ZLS in 1983.

### Problems within ZLS

Like its colonial predecessor, ZLS suffers from unrealistically broad terms of reference in relation to its budget and manpower resources. For example, ZLS is charged with the responsibility of assisting with the administration of municipal libraries, with the eventual aim of incorporating them into the ZLS network. The Zambian government has repeatedly rejected efforts by ZLS to have promoted the necessary enabling legislation to achieve this objective. The following chapter on school libraries emphasizes ZLS's failure to adequately support these libraries, much less implement a national scheme of school library service.

ZLS professional staff are paid approximately K2,000 less than equivalent staff in the public service and significantly less than administrative staff in parastatal companies. Poor salaries, combined with limited government housing for ZLS staff in Lusaka, led to mass resignations of qualified staff in the late 1970s and early 1980s. Also, graduate staff have traditionally been reluctant to work in rural libraries, leading to a dependence on foreign volunteers in the provincial libraries into the late 1970s. Volunteers have suffered a high turnover, long periods of adjustment and culture shock, limiting their long-term contribution to ZLS. Attempts were made in 1970, 1979 and 1983 to improve the salaries and career structure of ZLS. Unfortunately, all these submissions were rejected either by the Ministry of Education or by the Government's Budget Office.<sup>(19)</sup>

Zambia can boast the considerable achievement of having created a national government-sponsored network of public libraries. However, ZLS, along with other educational development projects, has suffered from the vicissitudes of the Zambian economy and from regional conflict in Southern Africa since the mid 1970s to the point where it is struggling for existence.

Foreign-aid-funded public libraries

Several foreign embassies and international relief agencies have established libraries in Zambia which supplement local public and special library services. The most significant such libraries are operated by the British Council at Lusaka and Ndola, the United States International Communications Agency at Lusaka, and the French Alliance Française, with headquarters at Lusaka and small branch libraries at Kitwe, Ndola and Mufulira in the Copperbelt Province. The Dag Hammarskjold Memorial Library, attached to the church-funded Mindolo Ecumenical Centre, provides an important adjunct to Kitwe's inadequate municipal public library service. (It is dealt with in detail in the section on academic libraries).

As the present work emphasizes the development of indigenous libraries, it is necessary only to note outstanding features of these libraries. Although all libraries are operated to various degrees as subscription services, they are heavily used by Zambians deprived of recent foreign materials in locally-sponsored libraries and bookshops.<sup>(20)</sup> Foreign-aid-funded public libraries are heavily used by Zambians, but their collections are chiefly stocked with Western publications. The foreign bias of these collections has led some writers to question the propaganda functions of these services. This criticism is valid for the propaganda-orientated book donation programmes of the United States International Communications Agency in particular, but is less so for the British Council, which provides much-needed foreign exchange grants to Zambian libraries and has funded the construction of municipal libraries in the shanty towns around Lusaka.<sup>(21)</sup> The Alliance Française libraries serve mainly French-speaking expatriates and have contributed negligibly to Zambian library development. Like all Zambian public libraries, foreign-aid-funded public libraries have suffered from theft resulting from the scarce availability of educational materials and the high premium placed on formal qualifications.

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CHAPTER 3: SCHOOL LIBRARIES

Although the expansion of Zambia's education system is often cited as one of the major achievements of the post-independence era, there has been no commensurate improvement in school library services.<sup>(1)</sup> ZLS is the government department responsible for school libraries, yet its publications offer little information on this aspect of ZLS operations except for brief mention of volunteer school library centres. Consequently there are no accurate statistics of school library development freely available, a situation exacerbated by the exclusion of school libraries from both editions of the ZLA's Directory of Libraries in Zambia.

Recent observers have condemned the indifference of colonial authorities to school library development. However, Varley in 1951 observed that in fact school libraries were better developed in Northern Rhodesia than in either Southern Rhodesia or Nyasaland.<sup>(2)</sup> He further noted an emphasis on the provision of library services to teacher training institutions and secondary and upper schools which has remained a feature of school library service since independence. Only two outstanding school libraries existed in the late colonial period: at the Barotse National School, Mongu (Western Province), and at the Munali Secondary School, near Lusaka. Book-box schemes were operated by the Joint Publications Bureau in the early 1960s, but these were not readily available to school children. UNESCO reported in 1970 that there were 97 school libraries, but a comprehensive national survey of secondary school libraries in 1977 revealed that only 78 school libraries were operational, even though it was government policy that every secondary school have a library.<sup>(3)</sup>

Positive steps towards the national planning of school library services were taken in 1965, when ZLS presented a submission on the creation of such services as part of its contribution to the First National Development Plan. This submission presented a comprehensive scheme for the improvement of school

libraries, including the following features:

- i. the creation of a school library service as an integral component of the public library service;
- ii. the comprehensive supply of library materials to all school libraries, starting with secondary schools;
- iii. the instigation of formal training courses for teacher librarians and the centralization of provincial administration at provincial libraries in the ZLS network in a similar manner to the established service for adults;
- iv. the centralization of purchasing and technical processing at ZLS headquarters, Lusaka;
- v. regular funding and a detailed plan of capital and recurrent expenditure (so that secondary schools could be provided with adequate library services by 1971 and the scheme extended to primary schools after 1973).

Although a post for the coordinator of this scheme was created within the Ministry of Education in the First National Development Plan estimates, it was never filled, and the scheme has never been implemented.<sup>(4)</sup> School libraries were not mentioned again in subsequent development plans or in the educational reform documents of 1976 and 1977. ZLS activities have been limited to the establishment and supply of volunteer-operated library centres in school libraries, especially in rural areas, the operation of a postal loans service, the supply of library stationery and, until 1980, the operation of a mobile book service.

The number of primary and secondary school library centres established by ZLS is grossly inadequate. In 1971 only 406 out of 2,570 primary schools had such centres. In 1979 there were only 70 ZLS library centres in 120 secondary schools.<sup>(5)</sup> By 1982 in excess of one million pupils were enrolled in Zambian primary schools and about 105,000 in secondary schools, yet library provision had not been substantially increased.<sup>(6)</sup> From the scant information available, ZLS has been unable to adequately or regularly supply this limited

network of school libraries.

The Ministry of Education operates an audio-visual teaching-aids library and maintenance service to all Zambian schools which supplements ZLS book supply services. The service has been established since the 1950s with its headquarters located in Lusaka, and a branch in Kitwe; service teams visit schools throughout Zambia. This organization includes a film production unit which has produced several documentary films on the Zambian economy and culture for use in schools. The audio-visual aids library is not administered by ZLS yet performs an integral resource function for Zambian schools, indicating the uncoordinated state of library service due to the failure of the national school libraries plan.<sup>(7)</sup>

#### Surveys of school libraries

The ZLA has played a major role since independence in investigating problems afflicting school libraries, but it has been unsuccessful in representing the plight of school libraries to government. Three of the four major surveys of school libraries, spanning the period 1966 to 1982, were sponsored by the ZLA.<sup>(8)</sup> A survey of libraries in 26 secondary schools of the Copperbelt Province in 1983 sponsored by the Copperbelt Secondary Teachers College, Kitwe, confirmed the findings of the ZLA's 1982 survey.<sup>(9)</sup>

The 1966 survey provided details of the number of books in selected school libraries, with some comment on patterns of library use. Only the Munali Secondary School, Lusaka, could boast a collection of approximately 10,000 books. Other school libraries reported collections varying from 200 to 550 volumes. Understandably, 90 per cent of teachers interviewed expressed the opinion that such a bookstock was inadequate to support teaching programmes. Surveys in 1973, 1977, 1982 and 1983 revealed that these problems have continued unabated.

The following outstanding themes of school library service

were identified in the ZLA surveys.

### Inadequate funding

School libraries have been poorly funded by the Ministry of Education throughout the post-independence era. Figures published at irregular intervals in ZLA publications reveal that annual grants have remained at between K100 and K300 for many years in the face of high local inflation and international increases in the price of library materials. The lack of appreciation by the Ministry and teachers of the need for properly funded school libraries is clearly evident in the ZLA surveys. In 1973, it was observed that some teachers regarded the meagre government grant of K100 per annum as sufficient for a school library, and, remarkably, that some grants had been returned unspent. In 1977 it was reported that only 50 per cent of secondary schools received government grants for libraries and in 1982 that only 21 per cent of secondary schools in the Copperbelt received an annual book grant. The 1982 survey further reported that local public libraries made no comprehensive attempt to assist with special services for school children.

### Patterns of supply

ZLS is charged with administering school libraries, yet the ZLA surveys clearly indicate that schools are heavily dependent on foreign donations for their bookstock. In 1977, only 41 per cent of schools reported ZLS as a source of supply, whilst 32 per cent indicated that they were receiving books from Christian missions; all reported receiving donations from charitable individuals and foreign organizations, especially the British Council. In 1982 only 10 per cent of Copperbelt schools received ZLS book supplies, whilst 63 per cent reported donations from foreign charitable organizations. Donors included a wide range of aid organizations, embassies and individuals, for example the English Speaking Union (USA), the Overseas Book Centre (Canada), and the Ranfurly Library Service (UK).

The evidence suggests that Zambian school libraries are dependent on foreign donations of relevant material rather than planned collection development. The resulting dependence on Western books unrelated to the life experience of Zambian school children may be a contributing factor in acculturating Zambians to Western values. Certainly limited school library collections do nothing to encourage the reading habit beyond the requirements of the school curricula.<sup>(10)</sup>

#### High book losses

Theft, especially of titles related to the curriculum, is a feature of the ZLA surveys. For example in 1982, 47 per cent of respondents in Copperbelt schools cited theft of popular titles as a major reason for pupils' inadequate use of the school library.

Compounding this distressing feature of Zambian school librarianship is the ZLS policy which dictates closure of school library centres until payment has been made for all stolen books. This requirement has led to the closure of many ZLS school library centres, as government grants are inadequate to cover book losses. Thus ZLS policy further encourages dependence on foreign book donations.<sup>(11)</sup>

#### Supervision of libraries

Until 1980, when a limited programme of school library education was introduced at UNZA, there were few courses available to train teachers in basic library routines. It is not surprising therefore that school libraries were frequently administered by junior teachers without any library training. For example, in 1982 only one school of 19 surveyed had a trained school librarian in charge of the library.

In 1977, the ZLA attempted to compensate for the lack of trained staff by commissioning UNZA lecturer, the late

Mr J.A. Rigg, to produce a handbook of school library practice suitable for teachers assigned library duties. Unfortunately, this publication was never issued owing to the lack of cooperation from ZLS and to copyright disputes over an abridged version of the Dewey classification scheme which was to have been included. The non-professional administration of school libraries is complicated by the high turnover of teachers and the heavy teaching loads of those teachers assigned to library duties, who have no compensating reduction in classroom hours.<sup>(12)</sup>

School libraries have plainly been a non-issue for the Ministry of Education. For example, in March 1984 the ZLA convened a seminar on the plight of secondary school libraries based on the 1982 ZLA survey.<sup>(13)</sup> Although government representatives were invited to the seminar, none attended from the Ministry of General Education and Culture or ZLS, the government department responsible for school libraries. The 1984 seminar noted the confusion between the Ministries of General Education and Culture and the Ministry of Higher Education over the responsibility for the provision of school libraries (ZLS) and the training of school librarians (UNZA and some teachers colleges). No official mechanism for the inspection of school libraries existed or was planned, and thus there seemed little prospect of their rapid improvement.

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CHAPTER 4: ACADEMIC LIBRARIES

Tertiary education in Northern Rhodesia was neglected during the colonial era. Aspiring tertiary students had to travel overseas or to South Africa for a higher education. In 1949, the South African government ended the limited opportunities for tertiary education in the region by announcing that it would not accept Africans from beyond its territories for degree courses.

The urgent need for tertiary educational institutions in Central Africa was recognized by the post-war colonial government. However, it was not until 1957 that the University College of Rhodesia and Nyasaland commenced its academic programmes. Although the University College accepted students on a multi-racial basis its location in Salisbury, Southern Rhodesia, meant that it did little to contribute to the higher education of Northern Rhodesian Africans.<sup>(1)</sup>

The dissolution of the Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland in 1963 added urgency to the need for higher educational institutions in Northern Rhodesia and Nyasaland. In 1963, Sir John Lockwood published a report on the development of a university in Northern Rhodesia which became the master plan for the creation of UNZA by Act of Parliament in 1965. Enshrined in the Lockwood Report was the concept of the university library being central to the academic life of the new university.<sup>(2)</sup> In the early 1960s several technical, teachers, and trade colleges, with associated libraries, were established (see Table 4.1). With the exception of some teachers colleges which were located in rural centres, these higher educational institutions were concentrated in Lusaka, Copperbelt Province, and along the colonial railway link south to Rhodesia.

TABLE 4.1 Academic libraries in Zambia, 1984

UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES

University of Zambia, Great East Rd Campus Library, Lusaka  
 University of Zambia at Ndola, Library, Kitwe  
 University of Zambia at Solwezi, Library, Solwezi (still being planned in 1984)

COLLEGE LIBRARIES BY LOCATION

**CHIPATA:** Chipata Teachers Training College Library

**KABWE:** Kabwe Trades Training Institute Library  
 Nkrumah Teachers College Library  
 Pan Africa Institute for Development Library  
 President's Citizenship College Library  
 Zambia Railways Training School Library

**KASAMA:** Kasama Teachers Training College Library

**KITWE:** Copperbelt Secondary Teachers Training College Library  
 (listed in the Directory as Kitwe Teachers College, Library)  
 Zambia Institute of Technology Library

**LIVINGSTONE:** David Livingstone Teacher Training College Library  
 Livingstone Trades Training Institute Library

**LUANSHYA:** Luanshya Trades Training Institute Library  
 Technical and Vocational Teachers College Library

**LUSAKA:** Chainama Hills College of Health Sciences Library  
 Cooperative College Library  
 Evelyn Hone College Library  
 National Institute for Public Administration Library.  
 Main library and two small branch libraries at the Chalimbana and Burma Road campuses  
 Natural Resources Development College Library  
 Rural Development Studies Bureau Library  
 Zambia Insurance Business College Library. One branch at Ndola

**MKUSHI:** Nkumbi International College Library

**MONZE:** Zambia College of Agriculture Library

**MUFULIRA:** Mufulira Adult Education Centre Library

**NDOLA:** Northern Technical College Library  
 Posts and Telecommunications Staff Training College Library  
 ZESCO Training Centre Library (State electricity parastatal company)

**SERENJE:** Malcolm Moffat Training College Library

**SOLWEZI:** Solwezi Teachers College Library

**SOURCE:** Based on LUMANDE, E. Directory of libraries in Zambia 2nd ed. Lusaka: Zambia Library Association, 1979. Additional libraries noted in the ZLAJ and ZLAN 1979 to 1982 issues. Additional information added from fieldwork in 1983 and correspondence to 1986.

A history of UNZA librariesEstablishment 1965 - 1973

A.J. Loveday was appointed founding librarian at UNZA in 1966. His concept of centralized library services was based on his experience as Deputy Librarian at Makerere University in Uganda during the early 1960s. As at Makerere, the main library building, opened in 1969, was centrally located and designed to allow open access to the collections. With the exception of a medical branch library, opened in 1973, all departments were served from the central library to promote economy of collection development and administrative efficiency.

Loveday transplanted features of Makerere's administrative and personnel organization to UNZA, including a commitment to the development of Zambian library education, with the aim of eventually nationalizing the library's staff. He established function-based staff organization whilst strongly advocating the use of subject specialist librarians in the future.<sup>(3)</sup> Unfortunately, subject specialists were never appointed on a comprehensive basis because of the difficulty of recruiting staff with a sufficiently wide spectrum of subject expertise. Loveday was more successful in establishing the principle of academic equivalence for professionally-qualified library staff. UNZA administrative authorities accepted this principle in the early period of UNZA's history because professional library staff were mostly expatriates working under equivalent terms of service with the teaching staff. Gradual nationalization of the library staff and a declining university budget in the 1970s brought academic equivalence into question with UNZA administration.

Control of the library was vested in a Library Board, which was a University Senate Committee with representatives from each faculty, and with the Vice Chancellor as Chairman and the Librarian as Secretary. This arrangement proved satis-

factory during Loveday's incumbency because of his strong leadership and his close rapport with other senior officers at the University. It proved less so under later librarians and acting librarians who had few personal contacts on the Board.

The Lockwood Report of 1963 and the UNZA Act of 1965 incorporated national responsibilities for UNZA library outside its immediate role as a university library. As the nation's largest library, UNZA was officially designated as Zambia's National Reference Library. Its national library responsibilities have comprised mainly the provision of information to government departments and private researchers using the library's Southern African Studies (Special Collections) Division.<sup>(4)</sup> National bibliographic responsibilities have included the publication of an irregularly issued Gazette of Zambiana publications, the establishment of a national oral history archive and a union list of periodicals in major libraries. UNZA library has made major contributions to the preparatory compilation of catalogue records for the National Union Catalogue (NUC). Unfortunately, efforts to establish an NUC collapsed in the late 1970s after arguments between UNZA and ZLS over which institution should administer the project. These responsibilities clash with the legislated functions of the National Archives of Zambia and ZLS, indicating the poorly coordinated state of national library and information service planning from the very beginning. Even in the early years of relative affluence, UNZA library provided national library services to a very limited number of users, mainly in Lusaka, and service declined with the plummeting Zambian economy.

From its establishment to the early 1970s, UNZA library was well endowed with foreign exchange consequent upon a buoyant Zambian economy. This healthy situation masked long-term problems including a high rate of theft from collections permitted by the open access design concept and encouraged by the pressures of studying in an environment deprived of

satisfactory bookshops. The library's initial expansion created high expectations of sophisticated library service amongst academic staff which could not be supported in less favourable economic circumstances. It can be said with some justification that the seeds of UNZA library's problems in the 1970s and 1980s were sown in the overly ambitious plans of the post-independence boom years. Loveday could not have foreseen the dramatic economic decline of what, in the mid 1960s, was one of Africa's wealthiest nations.

#### Difficult times 1974 - 1979

Loveday left Zambia in 1973 and was succeeded by a Nigerian librarian, O.O. Ogundipe, in 1974. Ogundipe's appointment coincided with the disastrous decline in Zambia's economic fortunes, largely caused by declining copper exports. Reduced government revenues from copper severely restricted foreign exchange available for library materials. Between 1975 and 1980, UNZA library was dependent on donations as virtually the sole source of acquisitions. The library was unable to pay more than a fraction of its journal subscriptions, and in the late 1970s, UNZA was completely unable to maintain journal subscriptions from its own funds.

Along with these economic difficulties, Ogundipe's incumbency was notable for mass resignations of library staff. Staff accused Ogundipe of gross inefficiency and petitioned the university authorities for his removal from office. Ogundipe left Zambia in 1976, before the termination of his contract, and was succeeded by M.C. Lundu, the first Zambian Chief Librarian at UNZA. Lundu was appointed in an acting capacity and never confirmed as Librarian throughout his three years in office. His uncertain position eroded the library's status in the academic community during a period of crisis for Zambia and UNZA. Lundu's lack of influence with the university authorities is illustrated by the withdrawal of academic status for all professional library staff except the Chief Librarian in 1978. The loss of academic status exacerbated the difficulties associated with the recruitment

of expatriate professional staff arising from the developing conflict in Rhodesia. UNZA continued to attract the cream of Zambian graduates in library science because the university offered the most attractive terms of appointment available in Zambian libraries. The concentration of talented Zambian librarians in the nation's largest library has deprived other sectors of Zambian librarianship of qualified and highly-motivated professional staff.

Amongst the limited developments of Lundu's period was the appointment of a full-time reference librarian in 1978. Although most UNZA students were unfamiliar with library use, no reader education programmes more extensive than orientation tours were introduced until 1983. Tentative attempts were made to automate library services in 1973 with the drafting of specifications for a computer listing of journals. This project, together with later recommendations for on-line bibliographical searching and automated cataloguing, came to nothing. In 1977 the library reverted from an "Addressograph" type of loans system to the Browne manual system, a change indicating the depth of the difficulties associated with library automation in Zambia's economic malaise from the mid-1970s onwards.<sup>(6)</sup>

In 1979 Lundu was succeeded by the former chief librarian of Makerere University Library, E.T.K. Lwanga.

The Zambian Parliament, with Act No.17 of 1979, amended UNZA's legal charter to create a federal structure of three campuses and thus ushered in a new era of UNZA's history.

#### The federal system inaugurated 1980 - 1984

Under the terms of the 1979 University Act, UNZA was reformed into a federal structure as follows: Lusaka main campus, established in 1965; Ndola campus (UNZANDO), incorporating schools of business and industrial studies, architecture and planning established at the Zambia Institute of Technology, Kitwe, in 1978; and the School of Veterinary

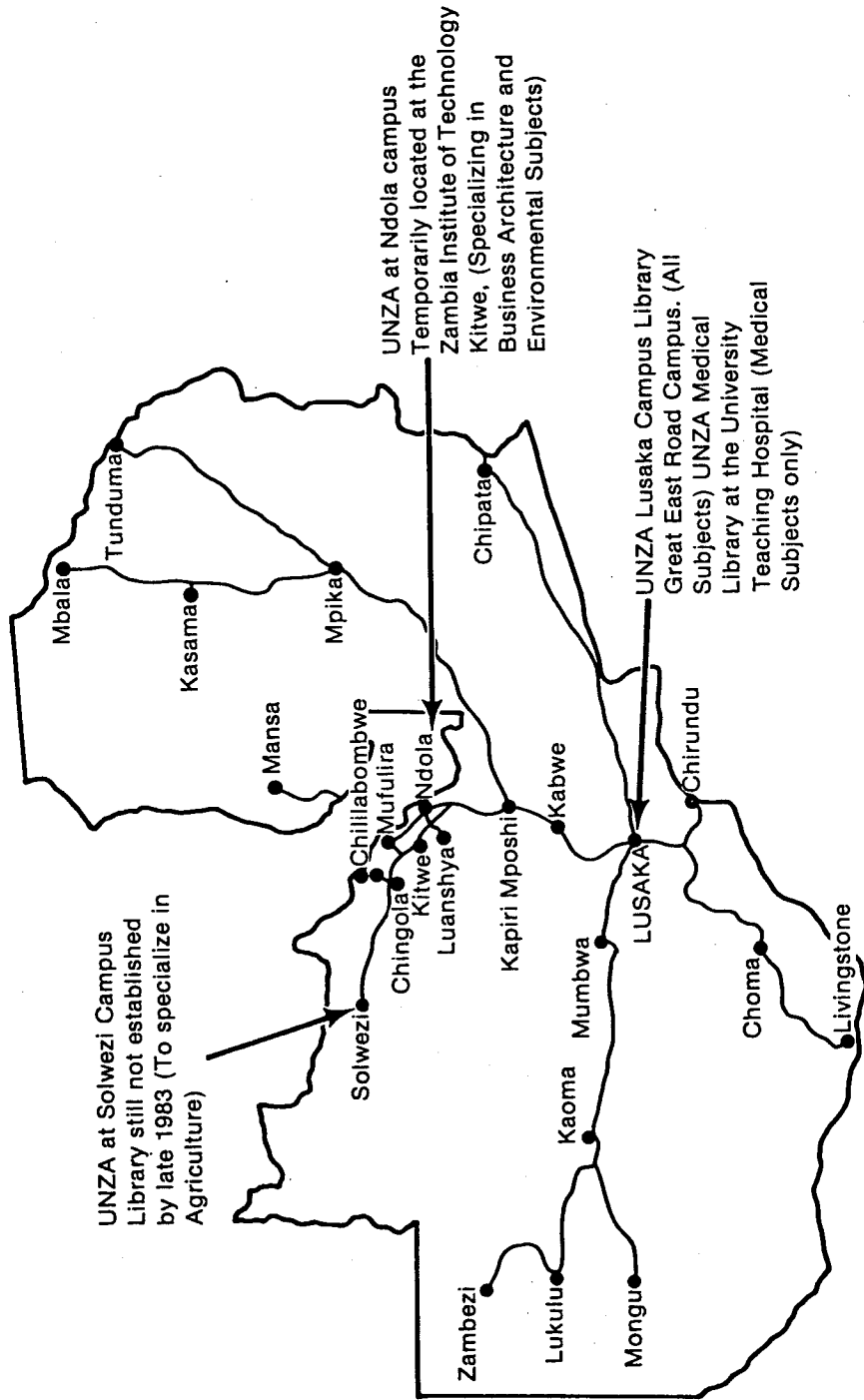
Sciences and Agriculture at Solwezi, which had not been established by 1984 (see map 3).

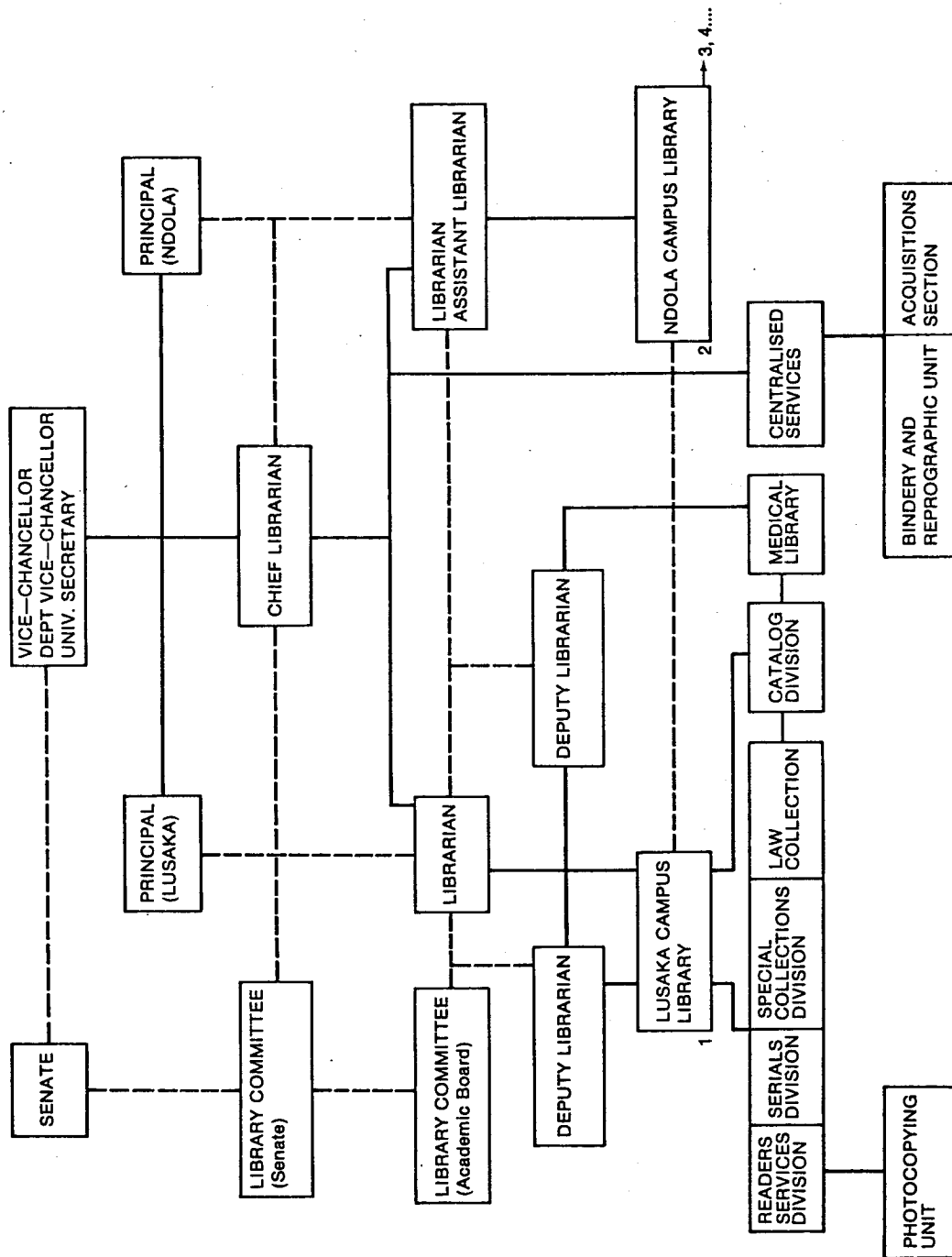
In 1980 Lwanga was appointed founding Chief Librarian of the federal libraries system in addition to his existing responsibilities for the Lusaka campus. This appointment allowed Lwanga direct administrative access to the Vice-Chancellor and University Secretary, thus re-establishing in some measure, the close rapport between UNZA library and administration which had characterized Loveday's incumbency. (See following organization chart). Lwanga was able to exploit his new role to improve the status of the library within the academic community. The library was given first priority in the allocation of foreign exchange, enabling the first large-scale acquisition of books and journals for many years.<sup>(7)</sup> Lwanga made determined efforts to improve staff morale and encouraged co-operation with academic departments by introducing subject specialist librarians. Unfortunately these innovations failed to persuade UNZA authorities to reintroduce academic equivalence for library professional staff.

The establishment of UNZANDO library in 1978 and its administration to the mid-1980s exhibit a remarkable lack of planning and coordination with UNZA authorities in Lusaka. The library was located in the same premises as the Zambia Institute of Technology Library, Kitwe, some 50 miles from the University's intended location at Ndola. Even in 1984, UNZA authorities could not confirm when UNZANDO would be established at Ndola, thus providing a major obstacle to the forward planning of the library.<sup>(8)</sup> The collection was established in a haphazard fashion from an unbalanced selection of duplicates from the depleted stock of the main campus library bolstered by a few donations from the British Council. There was a similar lack of forethought with the initial staffing of UNZANDO library. From 1978 to 1983 the library was staffed with junior library officers and an assistant librarian who had limited authority for local initiatives. The inaugural appointment of juniors to senior

MAP 3

Libraries in the University of Zambia Federal Network, Late 1983





University of Zambia Library Organization Chart 1980 - 1985

\*Source: Copy provided at an interview with D.O. Bompo Chief Librarian of UNZA libraries, 7.9.83.

positions in a new campus library led to rapidly deteriorating relations with teaching staff and a low status for the library and its staff within the University.<sup>(9)</sup>

Complaints from UNZANDO teaching staff have centered chiefly on the scarcity of relevant library materials. Because acquisitions and technical services were centralized in Lusaka, book requests from UNZANDO staff could not be filled quickly. Lack of bibliographical tools, bureaucratic delays and shortages of foreign exchange had, in effect, halted the library's acquisition programme by 1984, leaving UNZANDO reliant on donations from foreign aid agencies.<sup>(10)</sup> UNZANDO's struggle for survival does not bode well for the establishment of yet another campus, planned for Solwezi, which will further stretch UNZA's limited resources.

Lwanga was succeeded as Chief Librarian by Ghanaian expatriate D.O. Bampoe in January 1983. Bampoe's major contributions in his brief incumbency included the establishment of an undergraduate collection and unconventional bargaining for foreign exchange with a range of foreign agencies, using the library's local currency budget.<sup>(11)</sup> These initiatives were largely reversed by Dr H. Mwalimba, who was appointed as the first Zambian Chief Librarian of the federal system in 1984. Dr Mwalimba advocated the nationalization of professional library positions at UNZA, largely fulfilling Loveday's dream of a nationally self-sufficient library staff.

#### Academic libraries in colleges of higher education

A wide range of colleges was established in the decade after independence to provide educated manpower for the new nation. These can be grouped into the following categories: Polytechnics, Teachers Colleges, Trades Training Institutes and In-Service Training Colleges. Only the major libraries in each category are discussed as they exemplify the operations of each type of institution. The Dag Hammarskjöld Memorial Library, which serves the Mindolo Ecumenical Centre, Kitwe, is discussed separately, as it is the nation's second

largest academic library.

With the exception of the Dag Hammarskjold library, which is supported by foreign aid, college libraries are administered by a variety of ministries according to their specialities. College libraries are therefore subject to an enormous variation in financial support according to the priorities of their governing ministry. Unlike UNZA, college libraries have no legislated autonomy and therefore lack the prestige and bargaining power of the university library network.

### Polytechnic libraries

Libraries serving technical colleges are concentrated in Lusaka and the cities of the Copperbelt Province. The earliest and largest of these colleges, the Evelyn Hone College of Arts and Commerce, Lusaka, exemplifies the problems facing other college libraries.

Established in 1963, the Evelyn Hone College was staffed until the early 1970s by foreign volunteer librarians. These volunteers played a significant role in pioneering sub-professional library training programmes and in building Evelyn Hone into one of the premier collections of the post-independence era. However, because they were appointed on two-year contracts, their long-term contribution was minimal. Dependence on volunteers did not encourage college authorities to appoint full-time staff or to place a high priority on the library.<sup>(12)</sup>

The low status of the library in the estimation of college authorities is evidenced by the restrictions on collection building and the staff problems afflicting the library in the 1980s. Because of shortages of foreign exchange since 1974, the College has relied almost entirely on donations from foreign agencies for its acquisitions. Foreign donations have included mostly inappropriate material, ranging from

secondary school textbooks to blatant political propaganda.<sup>(13)</sup> Unlike UNZA library, which never lacked an allocation of local currency, Evelyn Hone Library had no separate budget throughout the early 1980s.<sup>(14)</sup> This drastic financial situation led to poor relations between the library and the academic community and completely halted library development projects. The accumulated professional frustrations at Evelyn Hone have led to low staff morale and a high turnover amongst senior librarians.<sup>(15)</sup> Despite these problems, the collection of the Evelyn Hone College Library included 16,000 books and 80 journal titles by 1984.

Similar patterns typify the services at other major college libraries in Lusaka. The National Institute of Public Administration is established on three sites, with a total bookstock of 21,000 volumes and 100 journal titles (1983). The library's budget amounted to only K3,000 in 1983, and the library's staff establishment was frozen by the College administration at an inadequate level.<sup>(16)</sup> The Natural Resources Development College was opened in 1974, and the library completed in 1975. An expatriate librarian was appointed on a British Ministry of Overseas Development grant, and close professional links were developed with nearby UNZA main campus. When the expatriate's contract expired in 1979, no qualified librarian was appointed, and library services rapidly declined in the 1980s. Between 1979 and 1982 no new titles were purchased, and the library became entirely dependent on donations from the British Council and the Belgian Aid Programme.<sup>(17)</sup>

The low priority accorded to college libraries within the many government ministries which administer them is reflected in the development of the major colleges in the Copperbelt Province: Zambia Institute of Technology, Kitwe, established in 1960; and the Northern Technical College, Ndola, opened in 1964. In 1975, under an expatriate librarian, the Zambia Institute of Technology Library became the first and

only Zambian library to successfully introduce automated library services. The library included a media resource centre incorporating audio-visual materials and reprographic, photographic and printing facilities serving all departments. In 1975 the library held a collection of 15,000 volumes and 150 journal titles on three campuses and was richly endowed with a budget of K116,000. This promising beginning with automated library services collapsed in 1976, when the College failed to meet rental commitments on the library's computer hardware and IBM reclaimed its equipment. In 1983, the library had reverted to manual systems completely and there was insufficient finance to support the reprographic, photographic and printing departments. (18)

The Northern Technical College Library, Ndola, is administered by the Department of Technical Education and Vocational Training. The library has suffered a high turnover of senior staff, and has had extended periods without qualified personnel. In 1977 the collection held approximately 12,500 volumes. However, between 1978 and 1981 no funds were made available by the governing department, and the library was entirely dependent in the early 1980s on donations from the British Council and the Netherlands Embassy. (19)

#### Teachers college libraries

Unlike the polytechnics, which are concentrated in urban centres, teachers colleges have been established in every province of Zambia. The libraries of these institutions are administered by ZLS within the Ministry of Education. ZLS is inadequately funded to support its own network of public libraries, so that there is little available to support teachers college libraries.

Inadequate funding has led to dependence on foreign donations. For example, Solwezi Teachers Training College Library, established in 1976, has depended almost entirely



on donations from the British Council, the United States International Communications Agency and private individuals. Chipata Teachers College and the David Livingstone Primary Teachers College in Livingstone are similarly supplied by donations. Emphasizing the Zambian government's inability to support libraries in teachers colleges, in 1982 the Swedish International Development Agency provided grants of K20,000 to libraries of primary teachers colleges.<sup>(20)</sup> However, secondary teachers colleges in the larger cities have been better endowed. For example, the Copperbelt Teachers College, Kitwe, and Nkrumah Teachers College, Kitwe, have consistently attracted higher budgets and the professional staff lacking at rural colleges, even though all colleges are administered by the Ministry of Education. However, they are the exceptions to the generally declining quality of library services offered in the expanded system of teacher education in post-independence Zambia.

#### Trade training institutes and other college libraries

There are several small college libraries administered by a variety of government departments and semi-government companies devoted to trades training and specialized in-service education. Because of low salaries and inadequate funding, libraries serving the trades training institutes are typically manned by unqualified staff and stocked by donations from foreign agencies. For example, Kabwe and Livingstone Trades Training Institute Libraries had small collections of 2,000 and 1,000 volumes respectively in 1981 and were administered by unqualified staff designated as library assistants.<sup>(21)</sup>

The premium placed on white collar education and employment in post-independence Zambia is reflected in the neglect of trades training institute libraries in comparison with those serving administrative in-service colleges in parastatal companies. For example, Zambia Railways has a library of only 800 volumes and 10 periodical titles (1982), administered by an unqualified clerical assistant, at its training

school in Kabwe. In contrast, the Zambia Insurance Business College Library is well supported. This library serves training programmes for executives of two of Zambia's large parastatal companies, Zambia State Insurance Corporation and Zambia National Insurance Brokers. The Zambia Insurance Business College Library was established in 1982 on two campuses, with a total collection in excess of 3,000 volumes, a qualified librarian, and an adequate budget. (22)

### The Dag Hammarskjold Memorial Library

The Dag Hammarskjold Memorial Library was opened in 1963 to serve the staff and students of the Mindolo Ecumenical Foundation, Kitwe. The work of the Mindolo Foundation is supported by an inter-denominational missionary effort with a limited subsidy from the Zambian government. The Mindolo Ecumenical Foundation sponsors a wide range of courses, from theological education, educational programmes for women, agricultural training, artistic education, and between 1969 and 1978, a certificate course in library studies. (23)

The Hammarskjold Library is generally acknowledged to be the largest academic library after UNZA, Lusaka campus. The nucleus of the book collection and the library building were established with a grant of £30,000 from the Swedish Church. The library has continued to be supported by foreign donations throughout the post-independence era.

Public library services are provided to the people of Kitwe; however, Mindolo provides no service to commercial interests, even though it is in the heart of Zambia's industrial Copperbelt Province. Its services to other libraries were restricted in 1983 to approximately 200 outward inter-library loans, and the library did not participate in any other co-operative schemes. Unlike its extensive programmes of community library education in the early 1970s, a decade later the Hammarskjold Memorial Library offered no reader education and had suspended its pioneering efforts in

certificate library training. (24)

This depressing picture of declining service, lack of co-operation between major libraries, and dependence on foreign donations typifies academic library development in Zambia since the economic crisis of 1975.

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## CHAPTER 5: SPECIAL LIBRARIES

Special libraries were amongst the first libraries established in Northern Rhodesia, to support the commercial activities of the British South African company. The expansion of copper mining in the 1920s and the post-World War II settlement boom encouraged the development of special libraries to serve mining, agriculture and the colonial administration. However, emphasizing the priorities of the colonial government, there were few libraries to serve the legal and medical professions and the arts.<sup>(1)</sup>

In order to facilitate an examination of the large number of special libraries which have emerged since independence, libraries are examined under the social and economic sectors they serve.

### Mining and Geology

Mining has had a dominating influence on the economic fortunes of Zambia since the colonial era. It is not surprising, therefore, that special libraries serving the mining industry were amongst the first established (Department of Mines, Kitwe, 1912) and are amongst the most sophisticated library services in modern Zambia.

Zambia Consolidated Copper Mines Ltd, Technical Library and Information Services is the largest information network serving the mining industry. Established in 1954, in Kitwe, the Technical Library and Information Services once served as the central resource centre for the Anglo American Corporation's entire international operations. Since independence, the Technical Library and Information Services has restricted its operations to the Zambian mining industry.<sup>(2)</sup> The mining information network is organized into four departments, coordinated from a central library in Kalalushi, near Kitwe in the heart of the Copperbelt Province: Technical Information; Technical Library; Central Publications Purchasing; Reprography and Binding. The Technical Library comprises

(1983) a collection of 9,000 books, 10,000 pamphlets, 450 journal titles and a large collection of reprints and translations of technical articles. The Technical Information Section prepares a current awareness service based on the library's collection and the Zambia Patents Bulletin, containing abstracts relevant to the mining industry. The Central Publications Purchasing Section coordinates the purchase of all technical publications for Zambia Consolidated Copper Mines Ltd, and the Reprography and Binding Unit is responsible for photography and printing and the dissemination of technical information.

Because this sophisticated special library serves a vital industry, it has avoided most problems commonly afflicting other libraries in Zambia. The mining library network has always had qualified and, until recently, expatriate staff. The Service's budget has been increased by 15 per cent per annum over the past decade to reach K80,000 for books and journal purchases in 1982. Because the company maintains a subsidiary company in London and has a high priority with the Bank of Zambia, it has been able to avoid the foreign exchange limitations which have crippled other Zambian libraries.<sup>(3)</sup>

Other libraries serving the mining industry are not in such a favourable position. The Geological Survey Library in Lusaka was established within the Ministry of Mines in 1950, and in 1982 it had a collection of 2,000 books and 13,000 volumes of periodicals with the bulk of the collection being technical offprints in addition to the book and journal stock. This library is typical of government departmental libraries in suffering an inadequate budget and lack of qualified staff.<sup>(4)</sup> There are several small libraries operated by semi-government mining companies which are also poorly endowed. Examples are the Roan Consolidated Mines Limited Library in Ndola, established in 1972 to serve its computer staff, and the Metal Marketing Corporation's Library in Lusaka. In contrast with the major mining library service in Kalalushi, these libraries have negligible

access to foreign exchange and have been staffed by unqualified clerks.

### Agriculture

Compared with neighbouring countries such as Malawi, Tanzania and Zimbabwe, Zambia has placed a heavy emphasis on mining and urban development at the expense of agriculture.<sup>(5)</sup> Libraries serving agricultural research have existed since the 1920s, but, like the challenge of rural development itself, the government has subjected them to benign neglect at the expense of information services to more immediately profitable sectors of the economy.

The largest agricultural library service is located at the Mount Makulu Research station near Chilanga; it is administered by the Research Branch of the Ministry of Agriculture. In 1983, the central library collection comprised 5,000 books, 250 periodical titles, 15,000 reports covering all aspects of agricultural institutions throughout the world, and 13,000 research papers. In addition to the central library in Chilanga, Mount Makulu administers a small branch library at each provincial agricultural research station.<sup>(6)</sup>

The central library has significant national library responsibilities, acting as the national input centre for the United Nations AGRIS data base (International Information System for the Agricultural Sciences) and as the national liaison office for CARIS (Current Agricultural Research Information System). In 1983 the Mount Makulu Library became the national agricultural depository library for Zambia. Levels of service are low in comparison with those in the mining industry's library and information network. For example, the Mount Makulu Library can provide only limited current awareness services to agricultural researchers, based on the AGRIS data base. The library's budget in 1979 was only K7,500 for a network of 10 libraries, all of which were subject to the limitations of foreign exchange

control. Between 1969 and 1979 the Ministry provided insufficient funds to employ a qualified librarian, and the library was administered by British volunteers. (7)

Other special libraries serving agricultural research share similar problems. The major agricultural libraries include the Forest and Timber Research Library in Kitwe, the Livestock and Pest Research Centre at Chilanga, the Wildlife, Fisheries and National Parks Department Library at Chilanga, the Tree Improvement Research Central Library at Kitwe, the National Food and Nutrition Library in Lusaka, the International Red Locust Control Service Library at Mbala, and the Central Veterinary Research Institute Library at Balmoral, near Lusaka. The Central Veterinary Research Library is one of Zambia's oldest agricultural libraries and epitomizes the neglect faced by other such libraries. Established in 1928, the library had no qualified staff until a British volunteer was appointed in 1971. From 1974 to 1980 the library was without staff until a certificate graduate in library studies was appointed. In the 1980s, this library, which caters to a vital area of agricultural development, is dependent on foreign donations which are frequently unrelated to the subject speciality of the library. (8) The problems of small special libraries in agriculture were emphasized by a submission in 1979 to the ZLA from D. Huckaby, an UNZA geography lecturer. This study highlighted systematic theft of significant items from such libraries, unorganized collections, lack of purpose-designed buildings, and unqualified staff. Most special libraries in agriculture are under the aegis of ZLS, which cannot properly service its own network of public libraries, much less special libraries scattered across the nation. (9)

### Scientific Research

The major network of special libraries serving scientific research is operated by the National Council for Scientific Research. The Council was established by Act of Parliament

in 1967, with headquarters in Lusaka and branches in Chilanga and Kitwe. In 1975, the headquarters library was restructured as the central resource of a scientific documentation centre with responsibilities extending to the publication of scientific reference materials, liaison with local and international information systems, and administration of the Council's reprographic services. The documentation centre has published several outstanding reference works since 1978, including Zambia Science Abstracts, Directory of Scientific Organizations in Zambia, Union List of Scientific and Technical Periodicals in Zambia, Bibliography of the National Council of Scientific Research's Publications and a directory of Technologists in Zambia.<sup>(10)</sup> The Council has taken a leading role in efforts to promote national bibliographic cooperation under the auspices of the ZLA. In addition, it has represented Zambia in United Nations efforts to establish continental and regional information networks, for example, the Pan African Documentation and Information System and the Southern African Documentation and Information System.

Although the National Council for Scientific Research has a high profile with the government compared with that of other special libraries, its library network suffers from inadequate funding. Shortages of foreign exchange in the 1980s have led the documentation centre to rely heavily on gifts and on exchanges with international scientific institutions in its acquisitions programme.

#### Hospitals and health services

The development of hospitals and health services for Africans was neglected by the colonial government. The few medical libraries in the region were located in Southern Rhodesia to serve the European population, but even these were staffed by volunteers and supported by the State Lotteries Trustees.

Hospital libraries have fared no better after independence.

In 1983 there were only two hospital libraries of any note: at the Ndola Central Hospital and at the Livingstone Central Hospital. These libraries were founded from donations by expatriate doctors and are staffed by unqualified library clerks, with no access to adequate budgets.<sup>(11)</sup> Staff at the University Teaching Hospital, Lusaka, have access to the UNZA medical library of approximately 30,000 volumes and 300 journal titles. UNZA medical library is the premier medical collection in Zambia, but access is restricted to UNZA staff, researchers and professional health care workers engaged at the University Teaching Hospital. Inter-library loans are supplied to medical personnel throughout Zambia, but this service is highly inefficient, with a waiting period of approximately three months for inter-library loan requests to be filled.

The other major collection is located in the Ndola Central Hospital, at the World Health Organization's Tropical Diseases Research Centre. The WHO library was opened in 1977, and in 1983 it held a collection of 2,000 volumes, 170 journal titles and a modest number of audio-visual materials. Because the library receives direct foreign exchange grants from both WHO and the Belgian government, the stock is as current as any good medical library in Australia. SDI services are offered to WHO-sponsored researchers, and MEDLINE on-line searching facilities are batch processed in Geneva and supplied to Zambian researchers within one month of request. The Research Centre and the library were incorporated as a semi-government company in 1983, and the Zambian government is assuming an increasingly important role in supplying and administering the WHO research programme. The nationalization of WHO's leading medical research centre in Africa will mean that the library will eventually be subject to the same crippling constraints of a declining Zambian economy which afflict other locally supported libraries.<sup>(12)</sup>

### Financial institutions

There are four libraries serving the major financial institutions in Zambia: Bank of Zambia, Zambia State Insurance Corporation, Zambia National Provident Fund Research and the Development Bank of Zambia. All these libraries are concentrated in Lusaka, although smaller collections exist in the Copperbelt Province.

The Bank of Zambia Library is the premier special library serving financial institutions in Zambia. It epitomizes the privileged status of these libraries compared with other government departmental libraries. Established within the Bank's Research Department in the 1960s, it was not, however, until 1975 that a professional librarian was appointed. By 1983 the collection comprised 2,500 volumes, 50 journal titles and a large number of reprints and annual reports from the International Monetary Fund and international banks obtained on exchange. Unlike most Zambian libraries, the Bank of Zambia Library has no difficulty in obtaining foreign exchange. It has no budget, but merely passes orders directly through the Bank's Foreign Operations Department without having to apply for import licences, a restricting process which afflicts other libraries.<sup>(13)</sup> As with the mining special libraries, this privileged access to foreign exchange illustrates the observation that where a library's operations are perceived to serve a vital sector of the economy the government will provide adequate finances.

### Law and Politics

A network of 44 basic law libraries has been established at courts throughout Zambia since independence. These libraries are administered by the High Court Reference Library, located within the High Court chambers in Lusaka and available to members of the legal profession on a subscription basis. The Zambian Parliament has its own library at the National Assembly building in Lusaka. In 1981 the National Assembly Library was staffed by three qualified

librarians, thus demonstrating the privileged status of the Parliamentary Library in comparison with other government special libraries.<sup>(14)</sup>

The same cannot be said of the library serving Zambia's only political party since 1972, the United National Independence Party (UNIP). The UNIP library was established at Party Headquarters in Freedom House, Lusaka, in 1975, and a librarian from ZLS was seconded to organize the collection of library materials and Party archives. By the mid 1980s the collection comprised 5,000 books and 100 journal titles, providing service to UNIP officials and authorized researchers. Although the UNIP library serves the very heart of government it receives no special allocation of foreign exchange, as do other libraries attached to priority institutions.<sup>(15)</sup>

#### Other special libraries

The United Nations has established several libraries in Zambia from the mid 1970s onwards to serve its various agencies. Most of these are located in Lusaka, including the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa Library, the Zambia National Commission for UNESCO Documentation Library, the United Nations Information Centre, the International Labour Organization Library, the United Nations Institute for Namibia Information and Documentation Division, and the Pan African Institute for Development Library in Kabwe. With the exception of the United Nations Institute for Namibia, which has organized programmes of basic library education, these libraries have had little impact on Zambian librarianship.<sup>(16)</sup>

There are several libraries attached to the semi-government companies which control broadcasting and newspaper publishing in Zambia. The Zambia Broadcasting Services in Lusaka has (1982) an extensive reference library and a record library of 75,000 discs and 2,000 archival tapes, including many rare early recordings of Zambian music.

The two major daily newspapers, the Zambia Daily Mail and Times of Zambia, both maintain small reference libraries in Lusaka and Ndola. (17)

Since the pioneering journeys of Dr David Livingstone, Zambia has been subjected to intensive missionary activity from a wide variety of Christian organizations. The major theological special library in Zambia, comprising (1983) a collection of 23,000 volumes, is that sponsored by the Roman Catholic Church's Society of Jesus (Jesuit Fathers) in Lusaka. The White Fathers mission to Zambia operates libraries at Kasama and Mbala and circulates book boxes in Northern, Luapula and Eastern Provinces. (18)

Although special libraries were amongst the earliest libraries established in Zambia, most have languished through lack of funds and qualified staff. Only those special libraries which are attached to sectors of the economy that are perceived by the government as of a high economic priority have flourished into the 1980s.

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CHAPTER 6: LIBRARY EDUCATIONEstablishment 1964 - 1970

The need for library education in Central Africa had been emphasized by the South African Library Association in the 1950s, but no positive action was taken until the establishment of the Northern Rhodesia Library Service in 1962. The Northern Rhodesia Library Service prepared a submission in 1964 on library education for the First National Development Plan. This submission envisaged sponsored staff - development programmes in the U.K. and at the East African School of Librarianship at Makerere University, Uganda. An in-service training officer was to have been appointed to supervise library training within ZLS. (1)

Although two clerks graduated in 1968 from Makerere with Diplomas in Librarianship, this scheme was not comprehensively implemented. No library training officer was ever appointed, and ZLS failed to attract staff with sufficient educational entry requirements for the British Associateship examination. Zambia's first two professional librarians soon left the library profession for more lucrative administrative posts, one in government service, the other in a semi-government company. In 1965 UNZA Chief Librarian, A.J. Loveday, launched a number of initiatives at UNZA which led to the establishment of the Department of Library Studies in 1966. Late in 1965 UNZA Library completed prediction surveys of the needs for Zambian libraries through to 1975. The conclusion of the report was that some means of local training would be required if the need for professional librarians was to be met. On the basis of this survey, Loveday convinced the UNZA administration that library studies should be included in the curriculum of the School of Education. (2)

The Unilateral Declaration of Independence by Rhodesian white settlers in November 1965 precipitated the establishment of library studies at UNZA. UNESCO projects were trans-

ferred from the University College of Rhodesia to the newly-established UNZA. It was thus that a UNESCO lecturer in library studies, E.B. Jones, was eventually appointed to teach a three-course minor in library studies at UNZA in 1966. Unfortunately, because library studies subjects were minor options within the Education curriculum, even UNZA Library did not recognize the degree of Bachelor of Arts with Library Studies as sufficient qualification for appointment as assistant librarian. UNZA staff development fellows continued to be sent overseas for postgraduate training, and so this early attempt at graduate library education had limited permanent value.

A major turning point in sub-professional library training came in January 1967 with the successful organization of a conference on library education sponsored by ZLS. This conference resolved that a National Council on Library Training be established, and that local library training be conducted at three levels: undergraduate, professional and sub-professional. It concluded by establishing a Working Party to start detailed planning of courses so that sub-professional programmes could begin in 1968.<sup>(3)</sup>

"Professional" library education in the Zambian context has been an evolving concept. In this early period, "professional" indicated diploma level education, which was the highest level of library education most Zambian librarians could hope to attain. Later, "professional" came to indicate diploma level and above, whilst "sub-professional" included library training below UNZA Diploma standard. The Ministry of Education refused to endorse these early efforts because the Conference and the National Council on Library Training had not been established under its auspices. The Ministry's attitude led to the cancellation of both "professional" and "sub-professional" courses. Not to be deterred, a group of leading librarians established a Professional Board of Library Studies responsible to the Ministry of Education through the Advisory Council of ZLS. This Board organized and administered two courses drafted by the original Working

Party which were taught between 1967 and 1971 at Lusaka, Ndola and Kitwe. During the same period, Lusaka Municipal Library offered library internships for library clerks working in government departmental or small special libraries.<sup>(4)</sup>

#### Expansion 1970 - 1975

Unfortunately, early efforts by ZLS and individual librarians did not carry the prestige of a recognized educational institution and thus did not attract adequate government funding or permanent staff. These factors led the Professional Board to raise the entrance requirements to enable its course to be transferred to UNZA. In 1971, UNZA authorities accepted the full range of courses, ranging from sub-professional training through to degree-level library education, offered as a minor subject in the School of Education since 1966. The ZLS Professional Board on Library Studies was immediately reconstituted as an UNZA advisory body responsible to the Board of Studies of the School of Education, with authority to coordinate library education throughout the country.<sup>(5)</sup>

At its first meeting in March 1971, the Professional Board advised the expansion of both ZLS courses to provide an Intermediate Certificate of six months full-time and a Diploma in Library Studies of two years full-time study. Because of staff shortages in the newly-established Department of Library Studies, it was decided that the University concentrate its resources on the degree and the diploma programmes. The Certificate course was run at the Mindolo Ecumenical Foundation, Kitwe, and accredited by UNZA from 1969 to 1973. In addition, Mindolo offered a range of elementary library training programmes in 1974 certified by itself. Certificate graduands with a merit pass or the Cambridge School Certificate were allowed direct entry into the Diploma course. This arrangement proved satisfactory during the early period of library education, when it provided the impetus for poorly qualified library clerks to

obtain diploma level education. However, in 1975 UNZA changed its regulations to prevent Certificate graduands from proceeding directly to the Diploma, thereby precipitating bitter recriminations from Certificate holders for the next decade.

The Department of Library Studies conducted full-time Diploma courses from June 1972 to March 1974, graduating 20 students. The decline in the Zambian economy after 1974 and the deteriorating political situation in Rhodesia created a multitude of economic and staffing problems at UNZA. As a result, the Department of Library Studies periodically had to suspend the Diploma course and admit students biennially between 1974 and 1982. (Refer to Table 6.1 for details of library personnel educated in Zambia, 1968 - 1983).

#### Consolidation 1975 - 1984

The period 1975 to 1984 is characterized by a consolidation of the initial efforts to establish library education in Zambia. Since professional and sub-professional library education became more clearly differentiated trends in the two areas will be examined separately.<sup>(6)</sup>

#### Professional library education 1975 - 1984

At the January 1975 meeting of the Professional Board several important decisions were taken affecting UNZA's role in professional library education. The degree programme was expanded to a five-course major in library studies evaluated by 50 per cent examination and 50 per cent by an assessment which placed a heavy emphasis on library practicals.<sup>(7)</sup> Practical was a valuable means of orienting student librarians, who had generally a limited background in library use, to working routines in a wide range of libraries. However, students often complained that they were given limited opportunities for professional experience.<sup>(8)</sup>

TABLE 6.1 Library Personnel educated in Zambia, 1968 to 1983.

PROGRAMME	1968	1969	1970	1971	1972	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982	1983	TOTALS
Degree	-	-	3	1	-	-	6	7	6	13	8	10	16	8	12	9	99
Diploma	-	-	-	1	2	-	17	1	-	-	10	-	8	-	3	11	53
Sub-professional: Including Mindolo, PTC and UNZA Certificates	11	15	29	23	11	11	-	-	21	18	18	-	-	12	20	20	209
TOTALS	11	15	32	25	13	11	23	8	27	31	36	10	24	20	35	40	361

SOURCES: ZLAJ 1969 to 1984; private correspondence between A. Rooke and N. Mwiya, Acting Head, UNZA Department of Library Studies, March 5, 1984; private correspondence between A. Rooke and N. Namushi, Librarian, Dag Hammarskjold Memorial Library, Mindolo Ecumenical Foundation, Kitwe, February 17, 1984; interview with C.D. Kaunda, Lecturer, Library Science, Posts and Telecommunications College, Ndola, September 17, 1983; MWACALIMBA, H. Design for library human resource development in Zambia. DLIS Thesis, University of California, Berkeley, 1981. page 128.

- NOTES: 1. There are discrepancies in the figures given by these various authorities so that the above statistics are an approximate statement based on the limited information available. Where discrepancies exist, figures have been derived from Mwiya, Namushi and Kaunda over the ZLA publications and Mwacalimba.
2. Not included are 12 library clerks who successfully completed the ZLA Library Assistants Workshop, September 1979: figures are unknown for other short courses operated by a variety of agencies and municipal library internships. In addition to the figures shown, 56 Namibian refugees graduated from the original four-month version of the Posts and Telecommunications Certificate course prior to 1980.

In 1975, UNZA ceased its accreditation of the Certificate course, which was transferred completely to the Mindolo Ecumenical Centre, Kitwe, where it was offered from 1976 to 1978. Although UNZA created career frustrations for Certificate graduands by severing the link between Certificate and Diploma entry, the Professional Board enabled Diploma graduands with merit passes to proceed to degree courses without satisfying other university entry requirements. This liberal entry policy to the degree programme provided a positive incentive for Diplomates to gain further library education which might otherwise have been denied them. However, the Diploma provided little opportunity for a broad education and the liberal entry policy has led to Diplomates with a poor general education progressing to a degree course heavily weighted to traditional librarianship subjects. Many Zambian professional librarians therefore have little subject background beyond librarianship.

The pace of school librarianship education increased during this period. Although UNZA Department of Library Studies had offered school librarianship as an option in the School of Education in the 1960s, most students of Education at this time were expatriate graduates, so that this effort had limited permanent effect. Between 1973 and 1976 the only institution offering teachers elementary library education was the Nkrumah Teachers College, Kabwe, and this course had inherent limitations. It was an elective course with no guarantee of continuation, no practical work experience was offered, and the university-based curriculum required more time than was available for it. The Nkrumah course collapsed in 1976 with the departure of its expatriate lecturer, and between 1978 and 1980, the Copperbelt Teachers College at Kitwe was the only institution offering courses in school librarianship.<sup>(9)</sup>

Following a report from an external examiner to the Department of Library Studies in 1979, the Professional Board made extensive changes to the syllabi of UNZA library courses in

1981. The external examiner's report severely criticized the existing diploma and degree structure, recommending the introduction of subjects on library management and information science and a complete recasting of the second year programme.<sup>(10)</sup> These changes were largely effected by the Department in 1981 by expanding the range of options available in the final year of the degree programme. School library education was reintroduced at UNZA after more than a decade as an elective course for students in the School of Education in fourth-year library study programmes.<sup>(11)</sup> Unfortunately, the elective in school librarianship suffered from many of the limitations of the Nkrumah elective, most notably that it failed to offer practical experience in a school library. In November 1983 the Research and Higher Degrees Committee of the School of Education accepted the Department of Library Studies' proposal for the establishment of a Masters programme in library studies which was yet to be introduced in 1984. The commencement of postgraduate library education at UNZA holds great promise in accelerating the pace of local library research and in encouraging the development of the profession in the closing years of the century.

#### Sub-professional library training 1975 - 1984

When the University ceased accreditation of the Certificate course in 1975, the Mindolo Ecumenical Centre became the only institution sponsoring sub-professional library training in Zambia. Mindolo, a privately-funded missionary organization, operated the course for two years, graduating 79 library clerks. The Mindolo Certificate course ceased in 1978 through lack of funds and because the Centre's administration felt it outside their terms of reference as a Christian mission to subsidize the education of the majority of candidates who were government employees.<sup>(12)</sup>

After the demise of the Mindolo course, the ZLA established an Education Accreditation Sub-Committee whose principal

aim was to organize a new Certificate course. In 1979 this Sub-Committee sanctioned the accreditation of a Certificate course in library studies at the Posts and Telecommunications College, Ndola. Originally the Ndola course had been funded by the United Nations Development Project to educate Namibian refugees resident in Zambia. The ZLA negotiated an extension of the Certificate course from three to six months full-time study based on the Mindolo curriculum, and the first Zambian students were enrolled in 1980.<sup>(13)</sup>

When the ZLA realised that librarianship lecturers at the Posts and Telecommunications College were not qualified to teach the new course, ZLA accreditation was withdrawn. The College continued to graduate students with the Certificate for two years, even though the course was not officially sanctioned by the ZLA or UNZA. In January 1982 the Ndola course was once again accredited by the ZLA after the UNZA Department of Library Studies persuaded the College to require higher qualifications for teaching staff and more advanced entry requirements for students. By the beginning of 1980, 56 Namibian library clerks had graduated from the Certificate course, and by 1984, 52 Zambians had successfully completed the ZLA-accredited Certificate.<sup>(14)</sup> The Certificate course has met the need for a basic library education of unqualified clerks who have administered the majority of Zambian libraries since independence. However, in the mid 1980s the Certificate course presents major challenges to the developing professional identity of librarianship in Zambia. Many employers, particularly in special and public libraries, have misunderstood the academic status of the sub-professional Certificate and have appointed Certificate graduands to senior librarians' posts more appropriately filled by graduate professionals.

For those Certificate holders with higher educational aspirations, UNZA's entrance requirements for Department of Library Studies present a major obstacle to future educational

advancement. Because the University severed the link between Certificate graduation and Diploma entry in 1975, further career development is beyond most Certificate holders, who have limited opportunities to attain the necessary General Certificate of Education 'O' levels to gain entrance to the University.<sup>(15)</sup> The possibility therefore exists of under-qualified staff, who have little chance of educational development, becoming entrenched in senior posts and of employers continuing to undervalue professional qualifications.

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CHAPTER 7: LIBRARY ASSOCIATIONSColonial library associations

The Carnegie Corporation survey of 1928 led to the inauguration of the South African Library Association in 1930. The South African Library Association chartered a Central African Branch in 1948 which incorporated Northern Rhodesia. The policies of the Central African Branch were determined in South Africa and its membership was composed entirely of European settlers resident in Southern Rhodesia.<sup>(1)</sup>

The formation of the Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland in 1953 led to the collapse of the South African Library Association's authority in the region. The Library Association of Rhodesia and Nyasaland was formed in 1959, with a membership still dominated by librarians from Southern Rhodesia. Amongst the major achievements of the Federation library association were the publication of a bimonthly Newsletter, founded in 1961, and in 1962, a survey of public libraries in the Rhodesias and Nyasaland which it sponsored in order to update the findings of the 1951 Varley Report.<sup>(2)</sup>

Library associations 1964 - 1969

The dissolution of the Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland in 1963 precipitated the reconstitution of the Library Association of Rhodesia and Nyasaland into the Library Association of Central Africa in March 1964. A Zambian branch of this new organization was formed in 1965, chaired by M.W. Parr, then Director of ZLS, with the majority of members being expatriate librarians working on contract in Zambia.

The Library Association of Central Africa was a regional organization. However, this organizational structure became increasingly unworkable following the independence of Zambia and Malawi in 1964 and the Unilateral Declaration

of Independence by Rhodesian settlers in 1965. Pressures for the formation of an independent library association based on the Zambian Branch culminated in the formation of the Zambia Library Association in February 1967. The general membership and office bearers of the ZLA during the years immediately following its foundation were predominantly expatriates. For example, the 1967 ZLA Council comprised six expatriates and only three Zambians. The ZLA's expatriate membership in the turbulent political atmosphere of the post-independence era may have led government to deny registration of the fledgling association until April 1969, because it was viewed as a potentially subversive organization. It was thus that the ZLA existed as an illegal organization for the first two years of its life.

These tentative beginnings were not encouraged by the financial and constitutional legacies of the Library Association of Central Africa. The ZLA inherited a £50 grant from the contributions of the former Zambian Branch of the parent organization. This was a totally inadequate financial base for a national library association. The ZLA's constitution was modelled on that of the Library Association of Central Africa. Membership provisions of the constitution did not discriminate between professionally qualified members and those outside the profession but in sympathy with the aims of the Association, There were no Associate-ships or Fellowships of the ZLA, and no distinction between professional qualification in grades of membership. This disregard for professional qualifications was understandable in 1967, when there were no qualified local librarians. However, such constitutional provisions retarded the establishment of high professional standards within the Association. Article 12 of the original constitution provided for the establishment of branches, including the financial obligations of the branches of the parent organization. This provision in later years encouraged rivalry and bitterness between the ZLA Council in Lusaka and the Copperbelt Province Branch to the

detriment of the national organization.<sup>(3)</sup>

#### Expansion 1969 - 1976

This period of the ZLA's history is characterized by an enthusiastic expansion of the Association's activities and an unfortunate decline in the administrative competence of the office bearers.

Even though UNZA Department of Library Studies has been operative since 1966, the ZLA has taken the leading role in sponsoring continuing education and research into librarianship. In March 1969 the first issue of the ZLA Journal was published. Although early issues contained articles of doubtful academic merit, the journal improved the quality of its contents with the expansion of library education in the 1970s. Although UNZA Department of Librarianship attempted to publish their own research journal in 1984, the ZLAJ is firmly established as the premier medium for the publication of library research in Zambia. The ZLA was particularly active in organizing continuing education in the early 1970s. Up to 1974 it organized two weekend conferences and a stream of guest speakers at regular meetings in Lusaka and the Copperbelt.

Reflecting the success of the ZLA's agitation for professional education, the early 1970s are notable for a gradual nationalization of the Association. In 1969 the first Zambian Chairman of the ZLA was appointed, and by 1974 the Council was composed entirely of Zambians, with the exception of the Editor. Membership increased from 26 in 1969 to 125 personal and institutional members in 1974.<sup>(4)</sup> Increased Zambian participation in the ZLA led to the formation of the Standing Conference of Head Librarians of Zambia in 1971 and the Copperbelt Province Branch in 1972. The aims of the Standing Conference were to establish contacts between professional leaders and to coordinate library resources across the nation. In both aims the Standing Conference has been unsuccessful and has

often been in dispute with its parent organization.<sup>(5)</sup> Similarly, the Copperbelt Branch has displayed autonomous tendencies since its inception. Throughout the 1970s a rivalry developed between the Copperbelt Branch and the ZLA Council in Lusaka. The Copperbelt Branch frequently outshone the parent organization in initiating continuing professional education and public activities such as Copperbelt Library Week, illustrating that decentralization of the ZLA's activities to provincial level could stimulate a high level of local commitment. Unfortunately, provincial loyalties led to rifts with the central Council in the late 1970s which were detrimental to the development of the ZLA as a national library association.

Although membership reached an all-time high in 1974, ZLA Council minutes, annual reports and Chairmens' messages of the time indicate a widespread apathy amongst office-bearers and the general membership.<sup>(6)</sup> An apathetic attitude by some members of the ZLA Council towards their responsibilities substantially delayed the business of the ZLA, precipitating the earliest amendment to the Association's constitution. Article 5 (6) was amended to provide for the removal from Council of members who did not attend two consecutive Council meetings. The necessity for this constitutional amendment emphasizes the logistical obstacles associated with the administration of the ZLA during this period. Council members were newly qualified librarians with little administrative experience and a generally limited background of service to voluntary organizations.

Because the communications infrastructure of Zambia was poorly developed, Council members were almost exclusively from the larger academic libraries in Lusaka or the Copperbelt, so that members in other provinces working in smaller libraries were inadequately represented.

The early 1970s are replete with examples of apathy and administrative ineptitude of ZLA Council members. For

example, the ZLA's hard-won registration with the government was almost forfeited in 1974 because for several years annual reports had not been submitted to the Ministry of Home Affairs as required by the Societies Ordinance (1957). Inefficiency in the administration of the ZLA's financial affairs threatened its continuing existence. The reluctance of members to pay membership dues meant that the meagre financial legacy of the colonial library association did not increase substantially in the ZLA's first decade. In 1967 funds available to the ZLA amounted to approximately K100, and by 1975 total funds were only K130.<sup>(7)</sup> This perilous financial situation was largely the result of financial mismanagement in 1973 by the ZLA Treasurer, who failed to present properly audited accounts to the membership at the Annual General Meeting in 1974.<sup>(8)</sup> The Treasurer was never officially reprimanded by the Council nor the alleged missing funds accounted for by the succeeding Treasurer, who himself failed to present audited accounts at the 1975 Annual General Meeting.

The flagging confidence of the membership in their office-bearers received a boost in 1976, when the ZLA successfully sponsored the second Standing Conference of Eastern, Central and Southern African Librarians (SCECSAL II). This international conference attracted wide participation from the membership and extensive media coverage, and the Prime Minister of Zambia read one of the 17 papers delivered. The Association's ailing finances received a much-needed injection of funds from the international sponsors of the conference, the Commonwealth Library Association and IFLA. The ZLA's funds rose from K130 in 1975 to K4,586 in 1976.<sup>(9)</sup>

#### Decline 1977 - 1984

Zambia's struggle for economic survival in the second decade of her independence is reflected in the difficulties experienced by the ZLA. Membership declined from 125 in 1974 to 75 in 1982, many of them being foreign institutional members. The scale of ZLA activities was reduced to a few

meetings at UNZA library, Lusaka, and at Kitwe in the Copperbelt Province. A notable exception was the seminar on the plight of secondary school libraries organized by the Copperbelt Branch in March 1984.

The ZLA failed in its role as advocate of professional interests to the government. Outstanding examples are the rejection by the government in 1977 of the ZLA-sponsored Library Act, which had been redrafted following an abortive submission in 1974. The failure to enact this legislation has severely retarded the Association's efforts to coordinate national library and information services.<sup>(10)</sup> Similarly, the government was indifferent to submissions designed to improve the service of government departmental libraries and school libraries in 1979. The ZLA was equally unsuccessful in improving the working conditions of its members. In 1978 the university administration deprived UNZA librarians of equivalence in their terms of appointment with academic teaching staff without moves in their defence by the ZLA Council. In 1980 and 1982 the government rejected the ZLA's applications to upgrade the salaries of municipal and government departmental librarians, which had remained at the same level since the 1960s despite enormous increases in the cost of living.<sup>(11)</sup>

The disillusionment of ZLA members was expressed in their reluctance to pay membership fees. The ZLA's account rapidly declined from K4,072 in 1977 to K1,800 in 1981. The ZLA Council proved remarkably inept in the administration of the Association's financial affairs. For example, in excess of K2,500 of its total funds of K3,600 was spent on a social function in 1978. In the same year the Treasurer failed to present an annual financial statement and was later found to owe the Association a considerable sum, which remained unpaid for several years. Financial maladministration and the declining level of ZLA activities exacerbated the rift between the ZLA Council in Lusaka and the Copperbelt Province Branch, which refused to render membership dues until 1982.<sup>(12)</sup> The Association remained

solvent largely through the sale of its publications internationally and the appointment in 1979 of an expatriate Treasurer who remained in office through to 1985.

The ZLA found it difficult to spread its financial base to librarians working in the provinces because its limited activities were concentrated in Lusaka and the Copperbelt. The ZLA Council attempted to overcome this problem by convening its sessions in rural centres and in April 1979 by commencing the bimonthly ZLA Newsletter, which published regular reports from librarians throughout the country. In 1979 the second edition of the ZLA's Directory of Libraries in Zambia was released, giving an overview of national library development. The Council has also attempted unsuccessfully since 1975 to organize a national conference of librarians from all provinces to discuss national library issues. In 1980 and again in 1982 the ZLA Council sponsored discussions by leading librarians on the coordination of national library and information resources to formulate a legal basis for the implementation of the UNESCO National Information Systems (NATIS) concept. Unfortunately, by 1984 these discussions had ceased, largely because of the apathy of the participants.<sup>(13)</sup> By the mid 1980s membership and activities were still centered in Lusaka and the Copperbelt, and the Council was still dominated by librarians from larger academic libraries.

In 1980 two new library associations were formed outside the ZLA aegis, thus demonstrating a lack of confidence by some sections of the profession in the ability of the ZLA to advocate their interests. The University of Zambia Library and Information Science Association was formed to represent the interests of UNZA librarianship students to the ZLA and to contribute the students' efforts to the ZLA's activities programme. Residents of Kafue, a small rural town 60 kms south of Lusaka, formed the Kafue Voluntary Library Association to expedite the establishment of a library in their municipality. Both these associations have contributed little to library development and were not

affiliated with the ZLA by 1984. Throughout the short history of librarianship in Zambia, the ZLA has been the champion of the profession in the face of a government indifferent to the needs of librarians and a faltering performance by ZLS. Declining national economic fortunes in the 1980s have so far provided a major challenge for the Association to live up to its historical role as the principal focus of professional endeavour.

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## CHAPTER 8: CONCLUSIONS

This study has provided evidence that libraries have failed to fulfil their potential in contributing to development in Zambia. This failure is largely the result of an indifference to the role and function of libraries across the entire spectrum of Zambian society, from national government to local authorities and the ordinary populace. During the survey period library use has been confined to an educational support function, chiefly in urban areas. This restricted vision of the role of library services leads one to question the relevance of the Western library to the majority of people in modern Zambia.

### Indifference to library development at national government level

The major primary source documents for social, economic and educational planning in Zambia indicate that national planners since colonial times have accorded a low priority to libraries in social, economic and educational planning. In 1947 the Northern Rhodesian government's first Ten-year Development Plan mentioned libraries only in passing as one of many methods to distribute books to the African population. The 1947 Plan made no provision for the employment of professional librarians in the colonial service, and there was no evidence of official recognition that libraries could play anything but a minor supporting role in the educational system.<sup>(1)</sup> Thirty years later national educational planners displayed a similarly indifferent attitude to the role of libraries in the re-structured educational system of modern Zambia. The Draft Statement on educational reform (1976) made no mention of libraries whatsoever, even though there was an emphasis throughout on the need to extend literacy to all members of the population. The Educational Reform document (1977) itself made only passing references to libraries as a support service to teachers rather than as a vital component in the new national education system

of the 1980s.<sup>(2)</sup>

The national, social and economic development plans of the independence era provide no evidence that government planners have envisaged a national information plan or that libraries have been considered an appropriate component to be incorporated into the national information infrastructure. The Transitional Development Plan (1965), for example, omitted entirely mention of libraries in the Section on "Education and Training" and "Transport, Communications, Works, Postal Services and Information".<sup>(3)</sup> The First National Development Plan 1966-1970 made no reference to libraries in the sections on the establishment of Zambia's information networks, and libraries were only briefly mentioned as supporting services to adult education schemes.<sup>(4)</sup> Both the Second (1972-1976) and Third (1979-1983) Development Plans mentioned library services only in terms of buildings and bookstock required to support the ZLS network. The Second and Third Plans gave no indication that planners had any comprehension of the complete demands of a national library service beyond these economically measurable aspects in one section of public library provision.<sup>(5)</sup>

Further research is needed into the source of government attitudes to library development. In particular, the correlation between the declining Zambian economy and the stagnation of library development since 1975 needs to be further explored. Other sectors of educational and social development should be compared with declining standards of library provision to determine whether libraries have suffered unduly in the harsh economic climate of the 1970s and 1980s. This is a vital question as Zambia sinks further into economic recession in the mid 1980s and the attention of the nation's leaders is diverted from social developments such as libraries, which they may well perceive as belonging to the minutiae of educational policy, towards more pressing questions of economic survival.<sup>(6)</sup>

### Attitudes of local government to library development

Observers in the Zambian library literature have noted an indifferent attitude to libraries amongst local government and community leaders. Well-educated people frequently avoid using public libraries or active involvement in their administration. The deprived state of municipal libraries outlined in the present work bears testimony to this neglect. Few municipalities have active library committees, which should be an important key to the promotion of public libraries. The largest municipal library service in the country (Lusaka) had no library committee in 1984, and local councillors seldom visited the library. Where such committees exist, for example in Kitwe, local councillors display a limited understanding of, or commitment to, the role of public libraries beyond supporting secondary education.<sup>(7)</sup>

The attitudes of community leaders towards libraries may be a reflection of the premium placed on vocational qualifications in the Zambian community. Educational institutions, including libraries, are associated with the process of obtaining qualifications rather than with informal continuing education or recreational functions. It has been suggested, by both Zambian and expatriate observers, that community leaders avoid libraries because library use implies a level of ignorance incompatible with their status as educated people.<sup>(8)</sup> Such attitudes may have evolved from the examination and rote-learning orientation of the colonial and Zambian educational systems. Further research is needed to test objectively these observations.

### Relevance of libraries to the people of Zambia

Libraries are remote from the experience of most Zambians. For the majority of urban dwellers in the shanty towns of Zambia's cities, low standards of literacy, shortages of transport, and security problems preclude regular

library use. Library collections are composed chiefly of Western-published works, but most Zambians have a poor understanding of English. Such retarding influences on library use are more acute amongst rural Zambians, who often possess lower levels of literacy than their urban counterparts. Libraries are located in the major rural centres, which may be visited only rarely by rural people. The typical collection of rural libraries is dated and often irrelevant to local needs because ZLS collection activities are centralized in Lusaka.

Recent research into sociological factors affecting library use in Zambia supports the conclusion that libraries are largely irrelevant to the experience of most Zambians.<sup>(9)</sup> Differences between traditional oral cultures and print-orientated Western culture have been identified which demonstrate that libraries are of limited value to most Zambians except to support formal education programmes. Such differences include the predominantly oral communication pattern of the many peoples who form modern Zambia. There is no indigenous form of writing and no tradition of scholarship or the inculcation of the reading habit as understood in the West. Zambia's traditional value structures exalted community values at the expense of individual achievement. Introverted activities like reading are not perceived to be constructive in traditional societies, and extended family responsibilities detract from the development of the study habit in modern urban Zambia. As research has suggested in other parts of Africa, the library as a transplanted Western educational institution is poorly adapted to the cultural experience and communications pattern experienced by most Zambians.<sup>(10)</sup>

A new type of library is needed in Zambia if libraries are to play a more vital role in national development. Such an institution must be more closely attuned to the oral-based communications and the communal ethic of traditional Zambian culture. On the basis of the limited

research available, it is possible to suggest that such an institution would be based on phono-recordings on subjects of local interest. Resource personnel organized to provide information relevant to local conditions in an atmosphere of group discussion would reflect the oral communications basis of Zambian society. Close cooperation between such a library and local social and economic organizations would ensure relevance to local needs and reinforce contacts between the library and the community.

What is required for libraries to play a more active role in development is that professional leaders advocate the adaptation of libraries to local patterns of communication. Unfortunately, the Western-orientated vision of library service engrained in the upper echelons of Zambian librarianship and engendered by the library education system ensures the continuing ascendance of foreign patterns of library service. Finally, Zambian librarians must take every opportunity to articulate the profession's potential contributions to national development to the nation's political leaders. If this is not done libraries will continue to play a subservient role in the competition for scarce resources in the increasingly gloomy economic atmosphere of the mid 1980s and beyond.

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### Oral sources

Interviews were conducted with the following persons during fieldwork in September and October 1983 except where indicated.

Interviewee and professional position	Place and date interviewed
AKAMANDISA, I.L. Acting Librarian, Kitwe Public Library, Kitwe	Kitwe, September 15, 1983
BAMPOE, D.O. Chief Librarian, University of Zambia, Federal libraries	University of Zambia Library, Lusaka, September 7, 1983
BANDA, A.M. Librarian, United National Independence Party Library and Archives	Freedom House, Lusaka, September 28, 1983
BANDA, B. Librarian, British Council Library	Ndola, September 19, 1983
CHISANGA, C. Librarian, World Health Organization, Tropical Diseases Research Centre, Library	Ndola Central Hospital, Ndola, September 19, 1983
CHITWAMALI, E.M. Acting Chief Librarian, Zambia Institute of Technology Library	Kitwe, September 14, 1983
DORAS, S. Headmistress of Malundu Private School	Kafue, September 11, 1983

- KANTUMOYA, E. Librarian, Lusaka City Libraries, Lusaka Lusaka, September 21 and 23, 1983
- KAUNDA, C.A. Tutor/Librarian, Posts and Telecommunications Staff Training College Ndola, September 19, 1983
- LAI, P.M. Director, Zambia Consolidated Copper Mines Ltd, Mining Industry Technical Services, Technical Library and Information Services Kalalushi, September 16 1983
- LIKUBANGWE, B. Senior Technical Information Officer, Zambia Consolidated Copper Mines Ltd, Mining Industry Technical Services, Technical Library and Information Services Kalalushi, September 16 1983
- LUNDU, M.C. (Dr) Librarian, University of Zambia at Ndola, Library Kitwe, September 16, 1983
- LUNGU, C.B.M. Assistant Librarian, University of Zambia at Ndola Library and Chairman of the Copperbelt branch of the Zambia Library Association University of Zambia at Ndola Library, Kitwe, September 14, 1983
- MAKOLONI, G. Librarian, Times of Zambia libraries, Headquarter's Library Ndola, September 19, 1983
- MASEPELA, J. Librarian, Evelyn Hone College of Arts and Commerce Library Lusaka, September 28, 1983
- MULALAMI, W.C. Librarian, Bank of Zambia Library Lusaka, September 26 1983
- MUSHIPI, W. Director, National Council for Scientific Research, Scientific Documentation and Information Centre Waterfall Farm, Lusaka September 27, 1983
- MWACALIMBA, H. (Dr) Librarian, University of Zambia, Library Lusaka campus, September 21 and 22, 1983

- MWEENE, B. (Professor) Vice-Chancellor, University of Zambia  
Melbourne University, Melbourne, Australia, February 20, 1984
- MWENIFUMBO, N. Librarian, United States International Communications Agency Library  
Lusaka, September 28, 1983
- MWIYA, P.N. Acting Head of the University of Zambia. School of Education. Department of Library Studies  
University of Zambia, Lusaka, September 9, 1983
- NAMUSHI, N. Chief Librarian, Dag Hammarskjold Memorial Library, Mindolo Ecumenical Foundation, Kitwe  
Kitwe, September 15, 1983
- N'GANDU, B.K. School teacher, Chipongwe Primary School  
Chipongwe, October 1, 1983
- NGOMA, P. Library Assistant, Posts and Telecommunications Staff Training College, Ndola and participant in the 1980 Ndola Certificate Course  
Ndola, September 19, 1983
- SHAKAKATA, R. Editor, Zambia Library Association at the University of Zambia Library  
Lusaka, September 6, 1983
- SICHALI, F.B.A. Assistant Librarian, Kitwe Public Library  
Kitwe, September 15, 1983
- TEMBO, T. Clerical officer in charge of the library, Ndola Central Hospital  
Ndola, September 19, 1983
- WALUBITA, M. Chief Libraries' Officer, Zambia Library Services  
Zambia Library Service Headquarters, Lusaka  
September 9, 1983

Libraries and institutions visited during fieldwork,  
September 1983

In addition to the libraries listed here, the author visited most libraries listed in LUMANDE, E. Directory of libraries in Zambia. 2nd ed. Lusaka: Zambia Library Association, 1979, during work experience in Zambia between 1976 and 1980.

<u>Library/Institution</u>	<u>Date visited</u>
BANK of Zambia Library, Bank of Zambia Headquarters, Research Department	September 26, 1983
BRITISH Council Library, Lusaka	September 23, 1983
BRITISH Council Library, Ndola	September 19, 1983
DAG Hammarskjold Memorial Library, Mindolo Ecumenical Foundation, Kitwe	September 15, 1983
EVELYN Hone College of Arts and Commerce, Library, Lusaka	September 28, 1983
KITWE Public Library, Kitwe	September 15, 1983
LUSAKA City Libraries, Main Library Katondo Road, Lusaka	September 28, 1983
NATIONAL Archives of Zambia, Library and Archives, Lusaka	September 26, 1983
NATIONAL Council for Scientific Research, Scientific Documentation and Information Centre	September 27, 1983
NATIONAL Educational Company of Zambia, Distribution Centre, Lusaka	September 23, 1983
NATIONAL Educational Company of Zambia, Distribution Centre, Ndola	September 17, 1983
NDOLA Central Hospital Library, Ndola	September 19, 1983
POSTS and Telecommunications Staff Training College, Library Ndola	September 19, 1983

TIMES OF ZAMBIA Ltd, Headquarters Library, Lusaka	September 19, 1983
UNITED National Independence Party Library and Archives, Lusaka	September 28, 1983
UNITED States International Communications Agency, Martin Luther King Jnr Memorial Library, Lusaka	September 23 and 28, 1983
UNIVERSITY of Zambia, Great East Road Campus, Lusaka, Main Library	September 1983
UNIVERSITY OF Zambia at Ndola, Library, Temporarily located at the Zambia Institute of Technology, Kitwe	September 14, 1983
WORLD Health Organization, Tropical Diseases Research Centre, Library, Ndola Central Hospital, Ndola	September 19, 1983
ZAMBIA Consolidated Copper Mines Ltd, Mining Industry Technical Services, Technical Library and Information Services, Kalalushi	September 16, 1983
ZAMBIA Institute of Technology. Library and Audio-Visual Resource Centre, Kitwe	September 14, 1983
ZAMBIA Library Service, Head- quarters, Lusaka	September 9, 1983