

Library Research Supporting African Studies Academic Programs

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Preparing a graduate course in library research methods for African Studies, in summer 2011 I surveyed recent ethnographic studies of university student library research behavior to develop a new approach after more than ten years. These studies support my experience that information literacy training improves the research skills of 'Millennial' students, who many wrongly assume are natural experts in everything digital. While students generally come to the university with good general Internet search skills, scholarly work demands a strategic approach and new skills, which we develop together in class. A prepublication draft of the essay in press for *Africa Bibliography* is available in the UF Institutional Repository (IR@UF) at <http://ufdc.ufl.edu/IR00000558/>.

The IR@UF supports scholarly communication generally and the *African Studies Quarterly* (ASQ) in particular by providing digital preservation and format migration services over the long term. Last Fall Semester I collaborated with ASQ Editor-in-Chief R. Hunt Davis, Jr. and Dr. Laurie Taylor of the Digital Library Center in responding to a mandate by the U.S. Copyright Office requiring deposit to the Library of Congress of online publications claiming copyright. We established a sustainable workflow for the editorial staff to submit issues to the IR@UF, initiating legal deposit to the Library of Congress when each issue is submitted. The process is detailed in a poster presented to the Florida Association of College and Research Libraries, available at <http://ufdc.ufl.edu/UF00103075/>.

Library work supporting

research and teaching on Africa includes selecting and coordinating the digitization of scarce, rare and unique African related materials from Special and Area Studies Collections with support from Title VI. This summer we digitized the J. M. Derscheid Collection (<http://ufdc.ufl.edu/derscheid>), consisting of about 1,000 manuscripts, colonial documents and maps relating to Ruanda-Urundi (Rwanda and Burundi) and the Kivu and Oriental



provinces of former Belgian Congo (Democratic Republic of the Congo). The collection is complemented by a biography of the collector, which I translated from French: <http://ufdc.ufl.edu/IR00000442/>. An early conservation biologist and noted aviculturist, Derscheid co-founded the Institut International pour la Protection de la Nature and continued Carl Akeley's work after the latter's death in 1926 on the slopes of Mt. Mikeno. He compiled the first census of mountain gorillas there, surveyed the boundaries of what would become the Parc National Albert (Africa's first national park), and served as its Secretary-General. He was later Professor of Colonial Law at the Institut des Territoires d'Outre-Mer in Antwerp, Belgium. Derscheid

was executed by the Gestapo in 1944 after his arrest and nearly 3 year imprisonment for resistance activities, including the creation of secret radio codes based on Bantu languages.

Other research materials added this year in open access UF Digital Collections include Onitsha Market Literature (<http://ufdc.ufl.edu/onitsha>), highlighting UF holdings of rare Nigerian popular pamphlets. Often compared to dime novels, frequently the authors (including Money Hard and Speedy Eric) served as printers and retailers of their own work. The genre disappeared in 1968 with the destruction of the Onitsha market building and book stalls during the Biafran War. Also digitized were a variety of language primers, books and manuscripts from the George Fortune Collection (see: <http://ufdc.ufl.edu/fortune>). Fortune materials in the print collection are available in an author index available online at <http://ufdc.ufl.edu/IR00000493>. These include major holdings for Shona, Nguni (Ndebele, Zulu, and Xhosa) and Sotho, the principal Southern Bantu linguistic groups. Published materials listed span the years 1868-1983 and include some 1,800 items in the Library Catalog. The collection includes a significant complement of Central and Eastern Bantu materials as well as West African language materials.

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