# Libraries in Luanda, Angola Problems and Prospects[*]

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THE People's Republic of Angola is the largest Portuguese speaking State in Africa. It covers an area of 1,246, 700 sq. km and is composed of eighteen provinces. It is bordered to the North and to the East by Zaire, to the East again by Zambia and to the South by Namibia. It has a tropical climate. The interior plateau provinces of Bie, Huambo and Huila have the same climate. In the North-West and North-East, and in the Eastern and Southern provinces, high temperatures and heavy seasonal rainful are

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usually recorded. Angola is an underpopulated country, with a population estimated to be 8,989,800 according to the last census which was carried out in 1986. The Angolan population is young as 42 per cent is under 15 years, and only 4 per cent is over 60. The average life expectancy is about 41 years. Angola has considerable ethnic groups as: Ovimbundu, Mbundu, Kongo, Lunda-Tchokwe and Nganguela. All these ethnic groups are Bantu. The non-Bantu (Buchimane) form a minority of the population.

Portuguese is the official language, although eleven major dialects (Umbundu, Kimbundu, Kikongo, Lunda-Tchokwe. Nganguela, Nhaneca-Humbe, Ambo, Herero, Hotentote-Buchimane, Vatua and Xindonga) are spoken by 90 per cent of the population. Luanda, the

political and administrative capital, has a population estimated to be more than 2 million.

The Angola educational system is organised at three levels, *i.e.* primary, secondary and tertiary. The first two levels provide regular school-going courses for students of the normal age. In addition the adult education, and vocational training programmes are provided for older students. University education is provided at the tertiary level. Students who are too old to be accepted by the regular primary schools attend adult education classes. Classes corresponding to levels one, two and three of primary education are given at night, using the facilities of the regular schools.

Primary education is divided into three levels, the first level lasts four years and is compulsory. The second and third levels are of two years duration each. Children start school at six years; the first level being completed at age 10, the second level at 12, and the third level at age 14.

Secondary education starts at about age 14 for students who have completed primary school (3rd level) and offers two alternatives which are the pre-university programme, this is a three year course leading to entrance for a general degree into the University, and secondary technical education which provides different specializations and lasts for four years. The secondary technical education programme provides entrance into the University for courses in areas like economics, engineering, sciences and also entrance to the Higher Institute of Education for the training of teachers. The country's only University, the Agostinho Neto University was established in November 1976 and is the only institution of higher education in the country. It is located on three sites: Luanda, Huambo and Lubango and has the following Faculties: Law, Economics, Sciences, Engineering, Medicine, Agronomy and also the Higher Institute for Educational Sciences where teachers are trained. All courses are offered at two levels; the first level lasts for three years and the second level two years, except for Medicine which lasts for six years.

In the rural areas there are provisional schools offering a fourth year educational programmes to children older than 10 years and those who have been abandoned or orphaned as a result of the civil war. The first two years are spent learning basic vocational skills. Literacy programmes are carried out by the National Centre for Literacy.

*Aims of the Study*

The aims of this study are:

a) to look into the main problems faced by libraries in Luanda;

b) to analyse the factors which affect the development of libraries in Luanda;

c) to make suggestions and recommendations on how libraries in Luanda may be improved.

## Significance of the Study

Angola shares a common past with the various African countries which were subjected to colonial domination for many years and, after independence, were confronted with cultural, economic, and financial problems. The few documentation and information services existing in Angola at the time of independence (1976) were mainly for the benefit of the colonial power and not for the use of the indigenous majority population.

Since independence, Angola has not had the necessary staff to guarantee regular functioning of library and information institutions and there have not been any substancial investments in library development. The profession itself has been largely neglected.

The significance of this study is to identify the various problems which libraries in Luanda are actually facing in respect to:

a) their functions;
b) the acquisition of materials;
c) the importance of their stocks

qualitatively as well as quantitatively;

d) financial resources;

e) the working conditions including accommodation, equipment and infrastructure. The factors which affect the development of library in Luanda will also be analysed.

## Limitations of the Study

The work is limited to Luanda only because of the short time that was available for the collection of material. The material was collected during December holidays because that was the time within which it was possible to travel to Angola. Contacts with all libraries therefore, were not possible because the time available was not enough.

Lack of Angolan literature on this important subject must also be viewed as a limitation. In spite of all these factors, it is hoped that the study will stimulate interest for further research in the area of librarianship in Angola.

## Methodology

The study was based on a standard questionnaire that was prepared and distributed to one national library, three public libraries and eight special libraries were also interviewed in order to clarify certain

issues which were not clear from the completed questionnaire. Similar interviews were also conducted with the heads of the Faculty of Sciences, the Department of Documentation and Information of the University and the Department os Studies and Projects of the Ministry of Education. These interviews were essential because they provided important information on education in Angola.

The questionnaire comprised twenty six questions essentially of technical nature, covering the following areas:

1) general information;
2) subject coverage;
3) staffing;
4) budget;
5) stock and accommodation;
6) classification and cataloguing;
7) services;
8) users;
9) equipment and co-operation.

*Literature Review*

There is an acute scarcity of literature on librarianship in Angola. The first article was written by Domingos Van-Dunen (1980) entitled «Angola»[1]. This article gives a brief overview of the existing libraries in Angola. The same article was published 1986 with some modifications[2]. In 1983[3], F. K. Inganji published a study on the status of information and documentation in Eastern and Southern Africa. An analysis by country was given and Angola appears in this context. The third work was edited by the Centre for Industrial Information of the ministry of Industry of Angola (1989)[4] entitled *Directório dos Centros de Documentação e Informação da República Popular de Angola*. This publication lists nineteen libraries in Luanda. In spite of that fact, it needs updating and its importance lies in the fact that it gives locations of material which can guide researchers and students of various institutions at any level to have at hand, an inventory for the identification of libraries in Luanda. The last study was elaborated by a group of librarians and documentalists from de various libraries in Luanda in August 1991[5]. This study outlines the different problems with which libraries are faced. It was the first analysis on problems of documentation and circulation of scientific and technical documentation in Angola. The study also includes objectives that libraries went to reach in the short, medium and long term.

This study intends to contribute to the development of literature on the field of Angolan librarianship. The study also seeks to give some insights into the problems of libraries in the country, thereby initiating a debate over the issue.

## An Overview of the Existing Libraries in Luanda

This chapter intends to give an overview of the existing libraries in Luanda and outlines the common problems facing them. A library can be defined as an organization, a system designed to preserve and facilitate the use of information. It is a social instrument created to form a link in the communication system that is essential to any society of culture[6]. As an organization, a library has a certain mission which defines its sphere of information provision. Some of the most important goals and objectives of a library are to develop, extend and continue to provide services to a particular group of users or potential users.

There are more than twenty libraries in Luanda, varying in size and function. The types of libraries existing in Luanda can be grouped into four categories as follows:

- The National Libraries;
- Public Libraries;
- Academic Libraries;
- Special Libraries.

### National Library

National libraries are those libraries that serve the nation as whole. They are generally copyright or legal deposit libraries and usually their books and other materials are for reference only. Their main function is to collect by legal deposit, and preserve for posterity, the books, periodicals, newspapers and other materials published in the country. National libraries also usually perform the following additional functions: the collection of materials concerning the country wherever they may be published; the publication of a national bibliography; the provision of a national reference service; the co-ordination of library resources of the nation through the development of union catalogues; the co-ordination of exchanges, inter-library loans, and so on; the provision of leadership in the development of the nation's library and information systems in training staff for other libraries, and encouraging the best methods and techniques in library and information work[7].

### The Angolan National Library

In 1977 the National Department of Libraries of Angola was created with the responsability of forming a national network of libraries, archives and documentation centres. It was then that the present Angolan National Library was established in Luanda. It took over the collection and facilities of the former National Library which had been established in 1968, as well as its collection was

formed by material from the library of the National Museum of Angola, the Institute for Scientific Investigation of Angola, and the Library of the Provincial Secretariat of Education. It also acquired materials abandoned by various private and official libraries after independence. Its stock comprises books, pamphlets, newspapers and periodicals.

The Angolan National Library (ANL) is a dual-purpose library, that is, National Library as well as a National Public Library. It enjoys a Legal Deposit status (enacted in 1979) and received three copies of all materials published in the country. It also receives publications from FAO, UNESCO and IFLA. It does not publish a national bibliography because of lack of qualified staff.

The Angolan National Library provides a basic course on documentation and archive studies every three months. This course is intended to cater for the needs of the personnel of the differente kinds of libraries in Luanda. It also offers reference services. In spite of all efforts made by the Angolan National Library to develop and improve its services, many of the basic functions of a National Library (such as the co-ordination of the library resources of the nation and provision of leadership in the development of a nation's library and information system) are not being carried out as a result of inadequate finance, lack of qualified staff and lack of support from the government.

## Public Libraries

These are libraries which are designed to serve the general public. They are considered an essential part of a modern society, and play a very important role in the development of the society. Their purpose can be categorised into four specific areas:

i) educational — to cater for the educational needs of the users and potential users, be it for formal (or curriculum based) education, or non-formal personal learning;

ii) informational — to meet the requirements of the community in terms of information enquiries or requests, as well as to forecast the information needs to the community;

iii) cultural — to provide a centre for the appreciation of local and international culture and to promote the participation of all in the arts;

iv) leisure and recreational — to provide general reading material and to encourage its use for leisure and recreational purposes.

A public library serves the local community and is open to the public without any distinction. The clientele

it serves usually covers a wide spectrum and includes students, teachers, research scholars, professionals and should also offer services to the literates and semi-literate members of the community. Extension service in the form of reading to illiterates may also be organized. It may provide the following services[8]: issue of documents; inter-library loan; provision of general and specific information; assistance in the searching or location of documents on use of library catalogue or understanding of reference books; compilation of bibliographies; referal services; library orientation and bibliographic instruction; and extension service. A public library should maintain links with different kinds of institutions specially schools and adult education groups. It should demonstrate to them the value of library services, and also provide encouragement in the use of the services.

Usually, a public library is organized into lending, reference, periodical, children, acquisition, technical and maintenance sections.

Public Libraries in Luanda

The main public libraries in Luanda are:

a) the Luanda Municipal Library;
b) the Library of the National Anthropology Museum;

c) The National Centre for Historical Documentation.

THE LUANDA MUNICIPAL LIBRARY is the oldest library in Angola having been founded in 1856. Its collection comprises: books (especially those related to the colonial period), newspapers and periodicals. The book collection is estimated to be 17,000 and it has a capacity of forty-eight seats. It provides reference and reading services. After independence, its activities and essential services (registration, cataloguing and classification) were adversely affected because of the lack of trained staff. Actually the library has only two employees: one is the officer-in-charge and the other is a non-professional worker, neither of which has any training in librarianship or documentation.

THE LIBRARY OF THE NATIONAL ANTHROPOLOGY MUSEUM is a national reference library which was established in 1976. Its collection includes books and periodicals in the areas of history, ethnology and arts. The bookstock is estimated to be 1,363. The acquisition of materials is quite limited due to lack of adequate funding. The Library of the National Anthropology Museum provides only reference services and it is open to the public, especially students and researches in the area of social sciences.

THE NATIONAL CENTRE FOR HISTORICAL DOCUMENTATION is also a national

reference library. It was established in 1977 and a great part of its collection was inherited from the Angolan Museum. The National Centre for Historical Documentation is divided into two sections: historical archives, and library. The historical archives houses documents about the colonial admnistration from the 16th century to the present time, and the library houses books on Angolan history and all the colonial legislation from the 19th century. It also keeps newspapers and periodicals from as far back as 1878. The collection is estimated to be more than 10,000 books. The main purpose of this national centre is to collect, preserve and classify all information on Angolan history. The centre provides reference and research services. It is open to the public but it is mainly used by students in the social sciences and researchers. The average number of users is about thirty persons per month and it has a capacity of 20 seats. The centre is well located but with no adequate accommodation. The other major problem facing the National Centre for Historical Documentation is lack of adequate funding to maintain its stock, to improve its services, and to train its staff.

A common problem facing all public libraries is Luanda is lack of suitable and relevant reading materials. A great part of these books is imported and with the increasing prices of books and inadequate funding it is not possible to acquire adequate stocks. In addition to this problem, materials coming in as donations from foreign countries, and the majority of these books are in foreign languages, which constitutes a serious problem since the users do not understand these languages.

Public libraries in Luanda are far from fulfilling the main functions and services expected of public libraries as a result of lack of government support, inadequate funding, lack of trained staff and lack of cooperation among the libraries.

*Academic Libraries*

An academic library is established to serve a University, a University College or any other similar institution which forms part of, or is associated with, an institution of higher education. Its function is to contribute to the teaching and research programmes of the University and its principal objective is to serve the needs of its main categories of users *e.g.* students, academic and research staff. It usually extends its services to the administrative staff.

The Agostinho Neto
University Library

The Agostinho Neto University is the only institution of higher education in the country. It maintains a general library that was founded in

1963. The total stock of books is estimated to be about 75,000 books. It comes under the aegis of the Ministry of Education. The Department of Documentation and Information of the University which is responsible for its coordination, also coordinates the different faculty libraries existing in the University. This Department also supports the different faculties, since it provides central reprographic and binding services. It also publishes some manuals for students and other materials related to the academic studies.

When the University of Angola was restructured in 1976, part of the collection of the library was transferred to different faculties, such as: Economics, Sciences, Engineering and Medicine. The University Library provides reference and lending services, but it serves essentially as a reading room since the faculties have their own libraries. The only exception is the Faculty of Sciences which has several departmental libraries. These faculty libraries are supported by each faculty which provides for their funding. The acquisition of materials is, however, done centrally through the Department of Documentation and Information which orders the books, although the payment for the materials is the responsability of each faculty. The staff is also recruited and selected by the specific faculties.

Of the faculties in Luanda it is only the Faculty of Engineering which has a well organized library with trained staff and adequate equipment. Its collection is estimated to be more than 13,133 books. The other faculties are facing accommodation and staff problems. The staff is make up entirely of part-time students without any training in librarianship.

The University is also responsible for the library of the National Centre for Scientific Investigation. This library is open to the personnel of the centre, students and teachers. Its collection includes books in the area of history, sociology, science, geology and physics.

There is no communication or collaboration between the faculty libraries and the main library. Whatever communication or collaboration there is, exists only between faculty libraries and the Department of Documentation and Information of the University.

## Special Libraries

A special library can be defined as an information service in an organization specially designed to meet the information requirements of its specialised clientele in pursuance of the organizational objectives. Its main functions are the following: selection of documents and sources of data/information; acquisition of documents; processing of documents and data/information; storage and re-

trieval of data/information and publication or reproduction of documents and data/information. A special library is a constituent of the parent organization, and it exists specially to support the programmes conducted by the parent organization by offering information to meet the needs of its users who are normally the staff of the organization. Its collection must be comprehensive in the main interest areas of the organization. Also the collection should be both intensive and extensive to cater for the current and future needs of the organization.

Documentation and information centres are the first large and important subsystem of the information network in Luanda which are administratively linked to the ministries they serve, such as Industry, Energy, Agriculture, Labour, Justice, Petroleum, Plan and Finance or other government organizations. In traditional librarianship these could be classified under the category of «special libraries».

On the whole, special libraries have succeeded in building up a better image than national, public or academic libraries. They have shown initiative and done better than the other types of library.

Some of the special libraries have built up excellent collections in their special field of specialization. For example: Documentation Centre of the National Institute of Statistics has 10,000 books and subscription of 30

periodicals. Information Centre of the Ministry of Industry — 10,000 books and 50 subscription of periodicals. Documentation Centre of Angolan Laboratory of Engineering 9,000 books, 29,000 reports and subscription of 150 periodicals. It has also a rich collection of reference books and current periodicals on engineering and technology.

Besides providing traditional services, some of them publish on a regular basis important documents, on one aspect or the other of the countries economy. They are autonomous libraries and there is no co-operation among them.

**Data Analysis**

The data analysed and discussed in this chapter are derived from responses to questionnaires which were sent to libraries in Luanda, Angola, followed by interviews. Out of the sixteen questionnaires sent twelve were returned giving an overall response of 75 per cent. Out of the number of libraries, eleven (92 per cent) were interviewed adding substantially to the information which was obtained from the questionnaires.

*Types of Library*

Out of the twelve libraries that completed the questionnaires, one

(8%) is a national library, two (17%) are public libraries, and nine (75%) are special libraries.

From the questionnaires, it comes out that libraries were established between 1954 and 1987. The majority of them (seven) were established after independence in 1976, because the government saw the significance of libraries on social as well as economic development.

*Subject Coverage*

Patrons have specific needs in terms of subject when they are searching for information. As such the area on which a specific library concentrates its collection is an important issue as to the fulfilment of request from users. In defining the services, consideration must be given to the subject coverage so as to be in a better position to know in what respect the institutions may fulfil its aim.

The respondents were asked to indicate their subject coverage. Eleven libraries (92%) answered the question, the only exception being the Documentation and Information Centre of the Ministry of Labour, Public Administration and Social Insurance. Eight libraries (67%) cover the Social Sciences and Humanities. These are Angolan National Library, National Centre of Historical Documentation, Centre of the Angolan National Bank, Documentation

Centre of the Angolan National Radio, Documentation Centre of the Angolan National Oil Society, Documentation and Information Centre of the Ministry of Finance, Library of the National Anthropology Museum and SADC Energy Documentation Centre.

Four libraries (33%) cover Engineering and Industrial Tecnhology. These are the Angolan National Library, Documentation Centre of the Angolan National Oil Society, Information Centre of the Ministry of Industry and SADC Energy Documentation Centre.

Two libraries (17%) cover the Agriculture Sciences, namely, the Angolan National Library and the Documentation Centre of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development. The Angolan National Library also covers the Natural Sciences and Medical Sciences. The Documentation Centre of the Angolan Parliament, due to its nature, stocks government documents.

From the responses, it is apparent that more libraries concentrate on the social sciences than on the natural sciences, medicine, agriculture, and engineering and industrial technology.

*Staffing*

People are a key element in any library or information centre. They are important because the provision

of efficient library and information services depends to a very great extent on the type of staff that they have. A library can have a good book collection and an excellent building, but if it does not have a well trained and competent staff, the patrons using that library will not be served efficiently.

The staff in most libraries are composed of people with different levels of education and responsabilities. There are two broad classes of staff: the professional staff almost always constitute the smallest group of library employees. These normally have at least one graduate degree, a master's degree in library and information science and some of them also hold second master's degrees or doctorates in various fields. Professional staff play a leadership role, directing both the total organization, and the various departments and sub units. The non-professional staff consist of workers with a wide range of skills. They are usually the largest group of employees in a library. Their activities cover a wide range of essential duties, including the tasks of verifying bibliographic data, ordering, circulating materials, filing claiming serials and copy cataloguing.

According to the Angolan employment law, library staff is divided into the same categories i.e. professional and non-professional but the concept of professional staff is different from other countries, e.g. Anglo-

phones. The existing categories are: librarian grades 1 and 2, documentalist (grades 1 and 2). Librarian grade 2, should have a degree in library or information science. For librarian grade 1 besides having a degree should also know two foreign languages. The documentalist grade 2 should have one degree in social sciences and the documentalist grade 1 besides having a degree should also know two foreign languages. Non-professionals are those without any formal training in librarianship, The profession does not enjoy the same recognition as it does in anglophone countries. Due to problems caused by the civil war, co-operation and contact with other countries has been limited. For these reasons, there is little or no opportunity for training in Angola. The data relating to «professional» and «non--professional» staff in this section should therefore be viewed in this Angolan context.

Respondents were asked to indicate the number of professional and non-professional staff, and also to state if the officer in charge was professionally trained or not.

The total number os staff in the surveyed libraries is 128, among them twenty-five (20%) are professional and 103 (80%) one non-professionals.

Analysis by library is given below. The Angolan National Library has 22 workers among them only one (the officer in charge) is a profes-

sional. The other 21 (95%) are non-professional satff. At the National Centre of Historical Documentation, out of sixteen employees, six (37%) are professional and ten (63%) are non-professional including the officer-in-charge. The Documentation Centre of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development has forty employees, but only five 812%) are professional. The other thirty-five (88%) are not professional including the officer-in-charge. The Documentation Centre of the Angolan National Bank has four workers. The Documentation Centre of the Angolan National Radio and the Information Centre of the Ministry of Industry, both have seven employees each. None of staff in all three libraries is professionally trained.

The situation is slightly better at the Documentation Centre of the Angolan Parliament where out of nine employees, four (44%) are professionals (including the officer-in-charge) and five (56%) are non-professional. The Documentation Centre of the Angolan National Oil Society has three employees and only the officer in-charge is professional. All three workers at the Documentation and Information Centre of the Ministry of Finance are non-professional; while at the Documentation and Information Centre of the Ministry of Labour, Public Administration and Social Insurance out of nine employees five (55%) including the officer-

in-charge, are professional and four (45%) are non-professional. The Library of the National Anthropology Museum has a total of six employees. Three of them are professional including the officer-in-charge while the other three have no professional training. The SADC Energy Documentation Centre has two employees, the officer-in-charge is professional and the other is non-professional.

*Sources of Income*

Adequate funding plays an important role in the administration and development of libraries, because the quality and the extent of the services of a library depend on the availability of funds, since it is that which determines the provision of buildings, staff, and the acquisition of books, material and equipment which the libraries would need in the provision of their services.

Respondents were asked to indicate the source from which they normally obtain their income and also the amount received for the year 1990. With the exception of two documentation centres (Documentation Centre of the Ministry of Labour, Public Administration and Social Insurance, and SADC Energy Documentation Centre) the rest entirely depends on government subventions. These are: Angolan National Library, Documentation

Centre of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, Documentation Centre of the Angolan National Bank, Documentation Centre of the Angolan National Radio, National Centre of Historical Documentation, Documentation Centre of the Angolan Parliament, Documentation and Information Centre of the Ministry of Finance, Information Centre of the Ministry of Finance, Information Centre of the Ministry of Industry and Library of the National Anthropology Museum.

The Documentation Centre of the Ministry of Labour, Public Administration and Social Insurance receives some supplementary income from foreign aid, in addition to subvention from the government. The SADC Energy Documentation Centre belongs to an African regional organisation and is financed by its parent body, SADC. Only two out of ten responding libraries indicated their incomes: The Documentation Centre of the Angolan National Bank received USD 10,000 for the year 1991 and the Documentation and Information Centre of the Ministry of Finance received the equivalent of USD 27,132 for the year 1990.

The above analysis shows that the government is the main source from which libraries derive their incomes. The libraries remarked on the inadequacy of their financial support and indicated that is one of the major problems they were facing.

## Stock and Accommodation

Stock and accommodation are very essential in any library because their services depend on the quality and quantity of stock held and the accommodation in which the stock are stored. In fact, the stock is the backbone of the library service. Without adequate stock the library will not fulfil its obligation to its clientele. Accommodation is also equally important because it houses the users. For that reason, accommodation must be adequate for both books and users. Without adequate accommodation it is difficult to run an information service. That is the reason why so much importance is attached to accommodation.

Respondents were asked to indicate the total number of books they held, and the number of periodicals they subscribed to. They were also asked to indicate how many microforms (microcards and microfilms) they held. Having demonstrated the importance of accommodation, respondents were also asked whether or not their present accommodation was adequate. None of them holds microforms. Eight libraries currently subscribed to periodicals. The total number of periodicals subscribed by the different libraries is of 393.

Seven libraries indicated that their accommodation is adequate. These are: the Documentation Centre of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, Documentation Cen-

tre of the Angolan Parliament, Documentation Centre of the Angolan National Oil Society, Documentation and Information Centre of the Ministry of Finance, Documentation Centre of the Ministry of Labour, Public Administration and Social Insurance, Information Centre of the Ministry of Industry and Library of the National Antropology Museum.

Other five libraries indicated that their accommodation is inadequate. These are: Angolan National Library, Documentation Centre of the Angolan National Bank, Documentation Centre of the Angolan National Radio, National Centre for Historical Documentation and SADC Energy Documentation Centre.

Out of three only the Angolan National Library has future plans, which means that for the rest libraries accommodation will be a problem for the future.

*Classification and Cataloguing*

Classification gathers similiar things together and separates disimilar things. Classification in libraries is important because it arranges books in a helpful order on the shelves and assists in reshelving books more easily. A library catalogue is a list of books and other material housed in library, with entries arranged in a recognized order and containing information about each book or item. It is important because it gives the reader not only an overall view of the entries but it is also the key to the whole stock of a library and also an indispensable staff tool and a locating device.

Respondents were asked to indicate the classification schemes and the form of catalogues in use and what cataloguing rules they followed. All libraries with the exception of the Documentation Centre of the Angolan National Bank, indicated the classification in use. There is a diversity of classification schemes. Three libraries (Documentation Centre of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, National Centre for Historical Documentation and Documentation Centre of the Angolan Parliament) use the bibliographic classification scheme. Three others (Angolan National Library, Documentation and Information Centre of the Ministry of Finance and SADC Energy Documentation Centre) use the Dewey Decimal classification (DDC). The Documentation Centre of the Angolan National Oil Society has adopted the classification system of the French Institute of Petroleum while the Documentation and Information Centre of the Ministry of Labour, Public Administration and Social Insurance has adopted the thesaurus of the International Labour Organization (ILO). The Information Centre od the Ministry of Industry adopted the Unido thesaurus.

As it is with the classification schemes in use, there is no uniformity on the forms of catalogues used. Three libraries (Angolan National Library, Documentation Centre of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development and Documentation and Information Centre of the Ministry of Labour, Public Administration and Social Insurance) use author and subject catalogues. Another three libraries (Documentation Centre of the Angolan National Radio, Documentation and Information Centre of the Ministry of Finance and the National Centre of Historical Documentation) use author and title catalogues, while the Documentation Centre of the Ministry of Agricultura and Rural Development uses author, classified and subject catalogues.

The Documentation Centre of the Angolan National Oil Society uses author, subject and title catalogues and the Information Centre of the Ministry of Industry use only a subject catalogue while the Library of the National Anthropology Museum only uses the author catalogue, and the SADC Energy Documentation Centre uses only a classified catalogue.

Four libraries out of twelve indicated what cataloguing rules are followed. The Anglo-American Cataloguing Rules are followed by the Angolan National Library and the SADC Energy Documentation Centre; The Documentation Centre of the

Angolan National Oil Society has adopted the cataloguing rules used by the French Institute of Petroleum, and the Information Centre of the Ministry of Industry follows the Portuguese Cataloguing Rules.

*Services Provided*

Respondents were asked which kind of services they provided. According to the responses all libraries provide reference services. Seven of them provide routing of periodicals. These are: Documentation Centre of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, Documentation Centre of the National Angolan Bank, Documentation Centre of the Angolan National Radio, Documentation of the Angolan Parliament, Documentation and Information Centre of the Ministry of Finance, Documentation Centre of the Angolan National Oil Society and the SADC Energy Documentation Centre.

Circulation of books and other materials is provided by five libraries. These are: Documentation Centre of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Denelopment, Documentation Centre of the National Angolan Radio, Documentation and Information Centre of the Ministry of Finance, Documentation Centre of the Angolan National Oil Society and SADC Energy Documentation Centre.

Four libraries provided compilation of bibliographies. These are: Documentation of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, Documentation Centre of the Angolan Parliament, Documentation and Information Centre of the Ministry of Labour, Public Administration and Social Insurance and Information Centre of the Ministry of Industry.

Other four libraries provide Selective Dissemination of Information (SDI). These are: Documentation Centre of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, National Centre of Historical Documentation, Documentation Centre of the Ministry of Labour, Public Administration and Social Insurance and the Information Centre of the Ministry of Industry.

Current awareness is provided by two libraries (Documentation Centre of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development and SADC Energy Documentation Centre). Abstracting and indexing services are provided by three libraries (Documentation Centre of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, Information Centre of the Ministry of Labour, Public Administration and Social Insurance and Documentation Centre of the Ministry of Industry). Only two libraries provide photocopying services (Angolan National Library and Documentation Centre of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development). No library offers translation services.

*Reprographic Equipment*

In any library document copying facilities are essential.

The most common reprographic methods are photocopying and duplicating/stencils. Photocopying machines are frequently used for copies from books, journals and for other materials. Duplicating/stencils, are used when multiple copies of either hand written or typewritten documents are required.

Respondents were asked to indicate if they possessed any reprographic equipment, and to specify what kind of equipment they possessed. Ten out of twelve libraries answered the question. Seven libraries possess a photocopy machines each. These are: Angolan National Library, Documentation Centre of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, Documentation Centre of the Angolan National Bank, Documentation Centre of the Angolan National Parliament, Documentation and Information Centre, Information Centre of Historical Documentation.

While two possess duplicating/stencilling and photocopy machines (Documentation Centre of the Angolan Parliament and Documentation and Information Centre).

*Computers and Automation*

The computer has been a major asset in this century. Today library

services are more being linked to information networks. Information systems allow the handling of very large amounts of data. This data demands the use of computers so as to be possessed quickly and efficiently. In libraries, it is very common to link automated systems. This policy helps the handling and manipulation of tasks at a faster speed. We should not consider this as a synonym of efficiency, for one must not forget that the computer does not work on its own. It must be programmed and run by efficient staff. The computers can be used for acquisitions, cataloguing, indexing, file handling, information retrieval, etc.

Respondents were asked to indicate the number of computers they possess of to which they have acess. They were also asked to indicate what services they had already automated and which ones they plan to automate. Only three libraries (Documentation Centre of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, Documentation Centre of the Angolan National Oil Society and SADC Energy Documentation Centre) possess their own computers. Two libraries (Documentation Centre of the Angolan National Oil Society and SADC Energy Documentation Centre) have already automated the acquisition, cataloguing and periodical processing services while one library (Information Centre of the Ministry of Industry) has planned to automate its acquisition, cataloguing and periodicals processing services. The other one (National Centre for Historical Documentation) has planned to automating its cataloguing and periodicals processing.

The analysis shows that few library in Luanda have access to computers and automation has not been used much in the services provided.

*Co-operation*

No library can be completely self-sufficient in terms of its resources to meet the needs of its users, using only the documents from its own collection. Libraries through cooperation can meet the needs of the users more effectively. The objectives of library co-operation are to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of the participating libraries to serve the needs of the users. The different forms of co-operation are:

1. co-operative acquisition based on agreement for collection building;
2. co-operative processing, *i.e.* books and other documents are processed centrally;
3. co-operative storage; *i.e.* books and other documents which are in less use are stored in a «dormitory»;
4. inter-library lending.

In order to know which kind of co-operation the libraries are engaged in, respondents were asked to indicate if they had any co-operation with other libraries. Only five libraries out of twelve indicated that they were engaged in a co-operative scheme. These are: Angolan National Library, Documentation Centre of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, Documentation Centre of the Angolan National Bank, Documentation Centre of Angolan Parliament and Library of the National Angolan Anthropology Museum.

The Angolan National Library is engaged in acquisition, inter-library loan and publication exchange co-operations while the Documentation Centre of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development is engaged in acquisition and union-catalogues. The Documentation Centre of the Angolan National Bank is engaged only in acquisition co-operation, while the Documentation Centre of the Angolan Parliament is engaged in storage, inter-library loan, union catalogues and publication exchange co-operations. The Documentation and Information Centre of the Ministry of Labour, Public Administration and Social Insurance is only engaged in publication exchange co-operation and the Library of the National Anthropology Museum is engaged in cataloguing co-operation while the National Centre for Historical Docu-

mentation is engaged only in acquisition co-operation.

Analysis has shown that co-operation between libraries is minimal. These schemes are carried out on an informal basis depending on the type of relationship existing between the libraries.

## Recommendations and conclusions

The development of libraries in Luanda, and in Angola in general, has been affected by certain policy issues. The issues have not been given due consideration and have hindered the proper functioning of the library services.

As it was seen previously the development of libraries has been hindered by factors such as lack of manpower; inadequate funding; accommodation and equipment and the minimal use of information technology, especially the use of the computer in the provision of services.

For development to occur in any sector, the basic concepts of management have to be considered as every service has to be properly managed to derive the best out of it. In management there are the basic principles of planning, motivation, coordination and control. The library services in Luanda, and Angola in general have to be properly planned, coordinated and controlled, if they are to make any meaningful impact

on the society. In this respect it would be suggested that a national committee be appointed to plan the proper development of the library services. In 1977 when the National Department of Libraries in Angola was created, it was expected to perform the duty of supervisory the library network. In this respect we propose that this Department be reactivated into a national coordinating committee on the basis recommended by *Unesco*. The composition of this committee could include senior librarians, representatives of the appropriate ministries, and organizations, associations and individuals concerned with the development and use of library and information services. Such a committee, could inter-alia, consider all libraries where library development is being hindered and also coordinate and motivate the whole service.

Areas of consideration for the committee would be:

*Manpower*

There is a great shortage of trained manpower in the field of librarianship and documentation. Also, on the whole the profession does not attract people with the right qualifications. Instead, such people seek employment in other sectors, either public or private. The result is that libraries remain ill-staffed. Since there is a lack of trained manpower

and of local training facilities, libraries are poorly organized and therefore they have little impact on the society. A major reason for this is the fact that training is always done overseas with the result that only a limited number of people can be trained at any given time.

We propose that the recommended national coordinating committee should look into the issue of manpower development as a priority. Library staff should be at three levels:

a) Professional staff which would consider implementation of policies, supervising juniors, decision making at institutional level, advising on procedures and providing leadership. In this respect the professional staff should be fully qualified and motivated to enhance good output.

b) Para-professional, to execute the decisions and perform routine duties. These need to have the necessary training to help them in the delivery of their duties as well as some training in public relations as they are those who would be mostly in contact with the users.

c) Support staff who would be concerned with the work that is technical in nature such as binding, reprography, etc. These duties would be better

done by such staff so as to relieve the para-professional staff to do the duties expected of them.

When considering the question of staff another element that needs to be looked into, is training. We have seen that the actual staff is not fully trained and also no such training facilities exist in Luanda. In this respect the short course of three months that is being organized by the Angolan National Library could be improved and reformulated into a fully fledged course for junior staff at a certificate level. The coordinating committee should take necessary steps to establish this training facility as a matter of urgency. Training of staff could also be contemplated at other African Library schools in the region, especially in SADC member countries. But the peculiarity of Angola should not be lost sight of. It is a lusophone country while the other SADC countries, except Mozambique, are English-speaking. Consideration should be given to this concept, even possible training at professional level in lusophone countries could be entertained in the short run. In the long run, with sufficient experience and necessary staff, a library school catering for the needs of the country, and implying the realities of the country could be started. Such a school, could be established in phases. A certificate course for new entrants, para-

professionals and junior staff, could be started first. This could be followed later by a diploma course for advanced para-professionals. Later a degree programme, either a single or double major in library and information studies could be added. All these courses could be organised under the aegis of the University of Angola. In this way in one decade the country could have its own locally trained staff with the provision of sufficient trained staff, the library service of Angola could be expected to make definitive progress.

*Funding*

Librarians in Luanda and Angola in general, are also handicapped by lack of adequate funds, due to the fact that almost all libraries do not have their own budgets. Money comes from the central government which is pre-occupied with other «more urgent» problems like health, education and military. Without adequate funds, all efforts to improve library services are frustrated, because it is impossible to get relevant and up to date materials from overseas. In addition to this, is the obvious foreign currency problem, especially with inflation daily eroding the value of the Angolan currency. The national coordinating committee should see and lobby the necessary authorities

so as to provide sufficient funding for the running of the libraries.

## Accommodation and Equipment

Almost all the librarians are housed in inadequate premises. The majority of the libraries lack the necessary equipment for effective dissemination of information. Reprographic facilities are quite inadequate and the existing photocoping machines are generally not working. Lack of transport and communication (telex, fax and telephone) is notorious. This situation limit communication with other institutions both inside and outside the country. The national coordinating committee should study these problems seriously with the view to improving the situation.

## Services

Almost all the libraries in Luanda provide reference services to either the whole public or their specific target user groups. This is a very positive aspect of the services being provided. However, a major issue is the non-existence of school libraries and library provision to children, we suggest that consideration should be given to this group of users. Public libraries should consider the possibilities of introducing children's sections to inculcate in the youth the idea of the library as a source of information.

## Automation

Libraries need to adopte new information technologies in order to keep abreast with the changing demands of modern society. So far there has not been much use of computer-based information due to lack of technical know-how.

We suggest that attention should be given to this aspect, in order to facilitate library services. Libraries should have financial facilities to acquire more computers and training manpower to use these computers.

## The Angolan National Library

Special recommendations are given in respect of the Angolan National Library due to the possible leadership role it can play in the development of Library and Information Services in Angola.

The National Library is an institution which is expected to play a major role in the development of libraries. As such, considerations should be given to the functions it has to perform and the proper set-up be initiated to allow it to act accordingly. A national library, is among other things, responsible for the collection and conservation of the

national literature, the publication of a national bibliography, co-ordination of national library and information resources and the provision of leadership.

The Angolan National Library has not been able to play fully its function as expected of it, due to several reasons, such as lack of financial support from the government; inappropriate and ineffective legislative support; lack of staff, etc. For the Angolan National Library to perform its functions properly the following recommendations are being made:

1. The legal deposit law should be revised and made more effective than it is, so that a more comprehensive collection of locally produced materials may be achieved.

2. The Angolan National Library should publish a national bibliography reflecting the materials received in accordance with the legal deposit law, or those relating to the country and acquired through other means by the national library. The national bibliography would serve as a useful record of the national literacy out-put and also as a publicity medium for literature about Angola.

3. The National Library should survey areas of library co-operation in collaboration with the national coordinating committee. As we have seen, libraries can not be self-sufficient in terms of stock and therefore co-operative schemes among the libraries would be most welcomed. In this respect the Angolan National Library could consider the following:

a) the preparation and publication of a national union catalogue;

b) the monitoring of inter-library loans at both national and international levels;

c) acting as a national centre for the exchange of publications (duplicates, surrogates, etc) and both at national and international levels;

d) doing everything to encourage library co-operation and resource sharing among libraries in Angola.

4. Due to the language problem that exists in Angola, the National Angolan Library should consider setting-up a translation unit to translate documents and books from their original languages into Portuguese and other local languages.

*Conclusion*

In conclusion, we can say that the non-use of libraries also arises from the high percentage of illiteracy in Angola. In addition to this, is the problem of multilingualism with more that eleven national languages being spoken in the country as a

whole. Due to illiteracy, the demand for use of libraries is minimal to the extent that little attention has been paid and continues to be paid to the importance of libraries to the community. Angola has been at war for sixteen years. The effect of this is that all resources were directed toward the basic needs of the military. Also special attention was given to education, health and food with very little, if any, attention being paid to libraries, even though libraries are supposed to supplement the educational programmes. The reason for this neglect appears to be based on the nature of information itself. When there are no libraries, nobody complains, but when there is food shortage everybody complains. In this perspective, we can easily see the reason why libraries have been left into oblivion.

However, with the coming of peace, the prospects for the future are bright. There ought to be ample opportunity for libraries to have relatively adequate money to purchase books and materials, but this will depend more on the level of consciousness that the government would have about the role of information in national development and the part the government should play in the development and use of the information resources.

With the ending of the war, the absence of «more serious» national issues will be an incentive for libraries to put their cases more forcible before the government. The government, on the other hand, is more likely to listen to requests for assistance from the libraries. This is an opportunity libraries should not miss and the sooner the better, libraries put their case before the government.

The future of libraries in Angola depends on whether or not information is recognised as a crucial resource necessary for sustained economic development. Up to the present, libraries have been neglected because of a number of national problems beyond anybody control. These problems were political, economic and social. With the return of peace and stability libraries in Angola have the opportunity for development. The chance should not be missed.

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