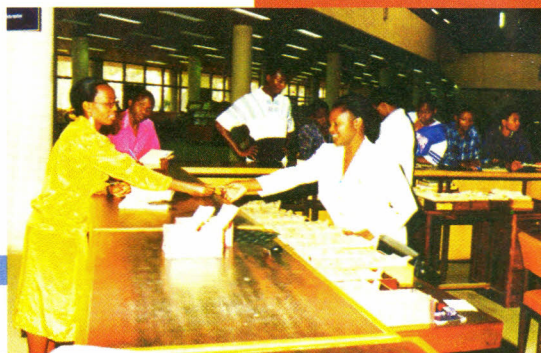


Conference Report



WORKSHOP ON PRESERVATION OF AFRICAN DOCUMENTATION HERITAGE, CAPETOWN, SOUTH AFRICA, 27TH – 31ST OCTOBER 2003

The seminar was held at Cape Town's Milner Hotel. It was organized by IFLA Africa section and sponsored by UNESCO Memory of the World Program. About 35 participants representing over 16 Institutions in the Africa region attended it.

Topics covered included:

- Deterioration of Library and Archival materials with special emphasis on paper materials
- Preventive conservation
- Collections care with respect to climate
- Storage and Basic book repair
- Preservation program
- Emergency preparedness
- Integrated pest management
- Reformatting – Microfilming and digitization as
- Preservation strategy.

The workshop reviewed the problems facing conservators and librarians *derived from "Inherent vice"* and gave guidance on how to tackle them.

The workshop was an intense five - day learning experience consisting of formal lectures, practical hands-on exercises in conservation, demonstrations of repair techniques, and panel and working groups discussions. Material distributed included a book on preservation of library and archival materials prepared by IFLA.

Benefits from the Seminar

The benefit from the handouts for reference use in our Institutions was non pareli:

- We learnt of what is termed as the "*inherent vice*" i.e. the risk of our collections disintegrating because of component materials.
- We learnt how destructive we might be in using photocopy machines or even allowing our materials to be taken out for photocopying by non-conservators.
- We learnt new techniques; our knowledge of conservation was either confirmed or corrected.
- We shared experiences and met colleagues whom we can turn to for help and advice.
- About the preservation plan and risk assessment, we have been given the motivation, the means and modus operandi to put theory into practice in our Institutions without further delay.

As one bestowed with taking care of University archives am particularly pleased to advice, share and affect the knowledge and skills acquired.

Finally, it is quite important to be provided with regular training; we all need updated information.

Emmah Manyeki

Head, University Library Archives