

Serving African Studies in Germany

Africana Collections Online

Colonial Picture Archive

Collection

- 55,000 historical photographs
- a unique pictorial record of the history of African countries and of German colonial history
- collected mainly by the German Colonial Society beginning in the 1890s to illustrate public lectures supporting the colonial movement

Regional and thematic scope

- photographs cover the German dependencies in Africa (Togo, Cameroon, German South West Africa and German East Africa), the Pacific Area and the colonies of other states in Africa and Asia
- the main themes concern geology, mining, vegetation and agriculture, zoology and animal husbandry, activities of natives and settlers, transport of all kinds, economic development, military, administration and buildings

Access

- fully digitized and freely accessible
- indexed by place, subject, person, photographer and ethnic group
- searchable with keywords in English

Preservation

- on microfilm
- the preservation and digitization work has been supported by the German Research Foundation (DFG) and various private foundations

German Colonial Encyclopaedia

- digital version of the 1920 "Deutsches Kolonial-Lexikon", a three volume set edited in 1914 by Heinrich Schnee
- reference work of the German colonies
- entries are fully cross-linked
- accomplished by Prof. Dr. Uwe Ulrich Jäschke, University of Applied Sciences in Dresden

Partner

- Hamburg: German Institute of Global and Area Studies (GIGA), Institute of African Affairs (IAA), Information Centre
 - <http://www.giga-hamburg.de/iaa>
- Halle: Virtual Library MENALIB (Middle East North Africa Virtual LIBrary)
 - <http://www.menalib.de>

Abstract

The Frankfurt University Library possesses one of the outstanding Africana Collections in continental Europe; its regional and disciplinary scope is unique in Germany.

Today about 5,000 new acquisitions a year have accumulated over 200,000 items on Africa south of the Sahara. Some 50,000 historical and rare photographs are fully digitized and freely accessible. Together with a collection of around 18,000 books stemming from the collections of the German Colonial Society at the end of the 19th and the beginning of the 20th century they constitute the historical foundations of the collection.

Recently the University Library Frankfurt and the library of the GIGA Institute of African Affairs, Hamburg, started the project ilissAfrica (internet library sub-Saharan Africa), a central subject gateway for online resources and a powerful tool for bibliographic research. These new services will be indispensable for researchers and librarians of African Studies and will promote African studies worldwide.

Africana Collection

Collection outline

- 200,000 volumes
- a major resource centre for African studies in Germany
- collecting scientific literature on the languages, history and culture of Africa south of the Sahara

Acquisitions network

- member of the nationwide co-operative Area & Subject Specialisation Scheme for the acquisition
- permanently funded by the German Research Foundation (DFG) to guarantee all researchers in Germany access to comprehensive subject literature
- one copy of every relevant text should be stored at the library, regardless of current demand
- supplies literature and information concerning Africa for the whole of Germany, through interlibrary loan

Budget

- over 100,000 EUR per year
- 75 % of the expenditure provided by the German Research Foundation (DFG)
- all other costs are covered by the Frankfurt University Library

Nation-wide access to databases

- licensing of German National Licenses for digital publications
- funded by the German Research Foundation (DFG)
- "Le Corpus de la littérature francophone de l'Afrique noire" is available to all members of academic institutions located in Germany free-of-charge
- nation-wide usage of the NISC Africa-Wide: NIPAD database collection via a pay-per-use-platform

Future developments

- setting up a free internet-library called "ilissAfrica" (internet library sub-Saharan Africa)
- offering a cross-search over many different library catalogues relevant for African Studies, aiming to include some of the strong Africana libraries world wide to build an important bibliographic account
- selecting and subject indexing of important internet resources
- using international standardized classification
- collaborating with the Library of the Institute of African Affairs (IAA), Hamburg



» www.ub.bildarchiv-dkg.uni-frankfurt.de

» www.ub.uni-frankfurt.de/ssg/eafrika.html

Credits

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Isabel Stecklina, computer department, Frankfurt University Library



Contact

Dr. Hartmut Bergenthum
Africana Librarian

h.bergenthum@ub.uni-frankfurt.de

Frankfurt University Library

Bockenheimer Landstrasse 134-138, 60325 Frankfurt am Main, Germany

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