



MATUKIO

Tanzania Library Association Newsletter

THIS SPACE IS FOR SALE

July - Dec 2010 / Jan - June 2011

ISSN 0378-3375

Tsh. 1000/-

FACTORS CONTRIBUTING TO THE POOR STUDENTS' PERFORMANCE AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT IN TANZANIA

Shortage of teachers and school libraries in most schools has been one of the factors that has contributed immensely to poor students' performance in Tanzania. This was revealed in the resolutions made at the 2011 Annual Workshop and Annual General Meeting of the Tanzania Library and Information Association (TLA)



Mr. A. Hassan, Chairman of TLA welcoming the guest of honour at the opening of AGM & Workshop in Mbeya Feb. 2011.

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Published bi-annually by Tanzania Library Association.

News item should be sent to the Editorial Chairperson.

in Mbeya region in February, 2011.

The Mbeya Regional Administrative Secretary Mr. Moses Chitama, who presided at the workshop on behalf of the Mbeya Regional Commissioner, John Mwakipesile noted in his inaugural speech that, unless the government and the people of Tanzania collaborate to construct and equip the school libraries, the problem of poor performance by our students will persist for a long time to come.

Mr. Chitama urged the district councils in the country to plan and work closely with TLA

and Tanzania Library Service Board to ensure that school libraries in the country are well equipped and utilised by the student community to further their knowledge on productivity, entrepreneurship and professional development. He said the spill over effect of knowledge development by student community must reach the communities around and in so doing the relevance of having school libraries will be felt in the country.

Responding to the inaugural speech by Mr Chitama, the TLA chairman, Mr Abdallah Hassan commended the Government's efforts of

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FACTORS CONTRIBUTING...

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increasing secondary schools in the country; but urged the government to ensure that all schools have libraries which are sufficiently stocked and manned by trained personnel.

The workshop brought together over 90 librarians and information professionals from both Tanzania Mainland and Zanzibar.

In another development, the TLA with support from EABDA/BAMVITA organised a Hands-on Training Course on Information Literacy to practicing Librarians as a pre-conference to the annual event. The workshop took place from February 21st to February 23rd, 2011 at Mkapa Hall in Mbeya.

In recognition of the importance of information literacy to librarians and information workers in the country TLA organised the training to enable librarians to keep



Guest of Honour touring the Book Exhibition

pace with the fast changing professional environment including development in technology.

Participants who mainly came from South and Southern Highlands appreciated the workshop and indicated that the knowledge gained from the course coincided with what they expected, and that they feel now more comfortable in

the field than before.

TLA would like to express gratitude to EABDA and BAMVITA for their support which made the training possible. TLA also recognise the contribution of facilitators under the leadership of Dr. Evance Wema from the University of Dar es Salaam for their tireless efforts during the training.



Group photo of participants and the Guest of Honour of TLA Mbeya AGM and Workshop.

STREET LIBRARY FOR ALL SEASONS

By Dorothy Sekimang'a

Lack of adequate reading materials and library services for the neighborhood children moved Mr. Paul Luvunga to start a street library at his residence in "Sinza E" area in Dar es Salaam in 1998. The project has now earned him the Safari Lager best contributor to community social development award, which was broadcast live by ITV Radio.

Mr. Luvunga narrates nostalgically, that the road to winning this award was both arduous and straining. He recalls how he indulged into this project in 1998, at a time when his hands had hardly laid on cash, neither was he expecting to secure any external support to his project, yet, his obsession and conviction of providing the children in the neighborhood with a modest library was

so strong that it was literary overriding all other factors.

He says, there is nothing more touching than to see small children who are so dedicated to reading that they would literary beat up the cold weather of the night and the deadly mosquitoes to book for a convenient corner outside Luvunga's house, where they would spend long hours either reading or finishing school assignments, with the help of the security lights around his house.

He notes that, it was this background that he was so touched by these unfortunate children's spirit and their insatiable dedication in searching for knowledge that he vowed to help them nurture their dreams by providing them with modest reading room, which will be equipped with some convenient reading facilities.

Luvunga says to begin with he stashed away some 750,000 shillings from the family budget to overhaul his small shop and reconvert it to a small library. He says that, although the room was small and ill equipped with a few reading materials, it was comparatively far much better and far more convenient than the outside verandah where the vagaries of weather greatly hampered the childrens' efforts.

He says gradually the number of users have increased tremendously resulting into a further expansion of the room and services. When he made an interview with this reporter, the soft spoken Luvunga said, recently he had to inject into the project an additional TSh. 3.5 million to cater for increased reading space and book shelves and additional reading materials in form of

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Some users of Mr Luvunga's street Library concentrating in reading.

BE INNOVATIVE,; LUHANGA TELLS SLADS GRADUANDS

By Dorothy Sekimang'a

Prof. Luhanga has urged SLADS graduands to be more innovative and increase efficiency in carrying out their day to day duties in the various Libraries they are going to serve.

The Don noted at the 16th School of Library, Archive and Documentation Studies (SLADS) Graduation ceremony, which was held at its Ukuni Campus – in Bagamoyo that, as the world is now moving towards an information society, library profession needs to re-evaluate itself and move in line with the new information needs.



SLADS graduates group photo.

Luhanga noted that, college products should therefore be well equipped with new skills in information search, processing and retrieval mechanisms so as to be able to work in the new environment.

Earlier on, the Principal of the college, Hemenegild Maganja informed the guest of honour that out of 246 graduands who paraded at the occasion, 184 received certificates in Library Studies after completing a one year course successfully. He further said a total of 62 graduands had completed a 2 year Diploma Course in Library Archives and Records Management Studies.



SLADS Chairman (middle) Dr. Alli Mcharazo with Guest of Honour during the graduation ceremony.

According to Mr. Hemenegild Maganja, the Principal of SLADS, to date a total of 1,869 candidates have graduated at certificate level and 586 at Diploma level.

SLADS CURRICULUM REVIEWED

By Dorothy Sekimang'a

The School of Library, Archives and Documentation Studies (SLADS) Bagamoyo, held a stakeholders workshop in Morogoro from 22nd - 25th November 2010, specifically to review the school curriculum.

The workshop brought together all key stake holders from SLADS, TLSB, National Council for Technical Education (NACTE) and various higher learning

institutions, who shared views and experiences in matters of curriculum development with a view to not only improve it so as to reflect the current needs in the fields of Library and information Studies, Archives and Records Management.

The School's Chief Executive told this reporter that further to reviewing the school curriculum, the workshop also examined and analyzed courses currently taught in order to evaluate their validity

and relevance of present day Library and information manager.

The workshop tried also to identify qualities and competencies that the present Library and Information service Manager/Officer is expected to have and relate them to the curriculum as well as to come up with a draft copy that will eventually be molded into a new curriculum expected to last several years before the next curriculum review.

COTUL FEES GOES UP NEXT YEAR

By Dorothy Sekimang'a

Consortium of Tanzania University and Research Libraries (COTUL) Annual General Meeting (AGM), which was held at Dolphin Hotel in Tanga from 29th - 30th September 2010 has endorsed a suggestion by the COTUL Secretariat to raise the annual membership fees from the current 300,000 Tshs to 500,000 Tshs effective next year.

The meeting was informed that as a result of the soaring operational costs by the COTUL secretariat in Dar, as well as the rise in inflation, which is said to have gone up four folds since the last time the fee was restructured, has really bogged down COTUL operations in Tanzania. The Incumbent COTUL Chairman, Professor Jangawe Msuya asked the meeting to endorse the changes in its fee structure so as to resuscitate the organization.

Further to endorsing the new fee structure, the meeting also observed that the use of e-resources by majority of the universities in the East African Region was still low possibly because of lack of awareness registration and searching skills. Speaking at the launch of the meeting Dr Alli Mcharazo said, many Universities are still shy to use electronic resources, noting that as a result they have been groping with skyrocketing prices of printed materials and more often they have found themselves unable to buy these printed materials and therefore failed to satisfy the user information needs.

He noted that it is not a secret that our library's are ill equipped with reading materials because library budgets have constantly been declining in nearly all universities. He said the right solution to combating information needs in the universities is to turn to electronic resources.

Dr Alli Mcharazo called upon every member to form an

e resource team and to coordinate e-resource related activities. He also called upon members to subscribe to e-journals for the year 2011.

AGM culminated with the launch of COTUL website by Dr. Alli Mcharazo, the Director General of Tanzania Library Services Board. The URL for is www.cotul.org

STREET LIBRARY...

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journals, magazines, and newspapers.

He boasts that all services at his library are free of charge to those who are willingly offer to contribute a token amount for electricity bills. He further says that the Library is jointly managed by users themselves where everybody is responsible to make sure that nobody steals the books or newspapers. Lending services exist whereby users borrow books and return them as scheduled. The users of the Library include Primary, Secondary, College students and adults who are interested in reading and developing their skills.

He says through this integrative system of library administration and management the readership find this library as "their own" and therefore have refrained from stealing library property, and furthermore they have voluntarily brought in reading materials from their respective home for sharing with others.

"No one will in this case steal from the Library that he owns himself". He says boastfully as an answer to the question how does he manage to come to terms with the problem of library vandalism and thieving.

With a minimal training in Librarianship, Lvinga has created a self structured system of lending services. He says the system enable him to constantly monitor his stock and has literary controlled the problem of overdue returns. He says currently his main challenges include lack of enough books especially for primary school pupils, and reading space. Despite the challenges, Mr. Lvinga's plans for the future is to establish more libraries (at least four) in Sinza area and if possible move to other Regions e.g. Coast, Iringa and Mbeya. He plans to use part of the TSh. 10 million he won to start establishment of Libraries in the Regions he has mentioned.

BOOK WEEK FESTIVAL ATTRACTS MORE PARTICIPANTS

By Correspondent

Eighteen (18) regional guests from Kenya, Uganda, and Rwanda participated in this year's National Book Week festival, at the Blue Pearl, Ubungo Plaza from 25th - 28th November, 2010, where they shared knowledge and experience in cross border trade and jointly explored the challenges facing book industry at regional levels with a view to find regional solutions to the development of the East African book industry.

This year's book week festival whose theme was "Soma Vitabu Ujiendeleze, Ujikomboa" culminated with a number of activities such as book exhibition, City reading tent, upcountry outreach, inter

- Secondary School quiz, book talk (adult), book talk (students), book slum, literary award, cultural performance, reading competition and seminar on book sector which marked the event. The TLA Chairperson Abdallah Hassan said the aim of having this range of activities was to enhance a campaign of eradicating illiteracy and reverse poverty trends in Tanzania.

Hassan said, TLA stake holders coordinated several activities including: organising city reading tents at the central library, Children reading tents in Biharamulo district, training to teacher librarians as well as establishment of libraries to twenty five primary schools in the same district. Mr. Abdallah

Hassan the TLA chairperson chaired the national book week committee for the second consecutive year.

This useful event which is organized under the auspices of National Book Council of Tanzania (BAMVITA) has been enjoying support from the regional body, East African Book Development Association (EABDA), whose support ends this year. With the funding challenges we have been facing and lack of support from the government part, especially the Ministry of Education and Vocation Training it is most likely that future festival need to be prepared with keen eyes and hearts to make them as successful.



Some participants of the National Book Week in a group discussion.

DAR LIBRARIAN VISITS CANADA

By Correspondent

Mr. Apollo Abungu of Aga Khan University in Dar Es Salaam visited the Alberta Province in Canada in June 2010, and attended a Canadian Library Association (CLA) Annual General Meeting as an observer from Tanzania. During the meeting Apollo had time to share experiences with the Canadian Library Association members.

Commenting on the meeting, Apollo says the gathering was generally a colourful event that attracted over 1000 participants. He says these participants were drawn from LIS Students, Archivists, Library professionals, IT specialist, Industry corporate Leaders and Publishers.

He says the enthusiasm which Canadian Librarians value the profession was very high as compared to the enthusiasm

that we have in Tanzania. Apollo further noted that lots of retired Librarians were present in their droves and made good contributions through Advisory roles and some presented papers as well.

He said most of the papers presented at the meeting focused on divergent views showcasing modern Librarianship trends and how it is able to grapple with modern technology as it tries to serve the changing needs of society. It is something that as an Association we could emulate in order to make our services more responsive to the needs of everyone in our midst, says Abungu.

During the conference Apollo met and talked to a number of people both at the CLA and IFLA Top leadership. At CLA he met the then outgoing President John Teskey,

In-coming President Keith Walker and the Executive Director Kelly Moore and a large number of past CLA Presidents including his host Margaret Law who was planning to visit Tanzania and attend TLA 2011 Conference and AGM in Mbeya.

Apollo also had a chance to meet IFLA President-elect Ingrid Parent, who urged active participation from Tanzania to IFLA meetings and activities. Ingrid's only comment was that Tanzanian Librarians are not active in IFLA & she would love to see more people getting involved. Also present at the conference were two former IFLA presidents, Kay Raseroka immediate former University Librarian Botswana University and Robert Wedgeworth from Chicago, Illinois US, as he explains.



Group photo with IFLA president-elect, Ingrid Parent 2nd right, two former IFLA Presidents Kay Raseroka and Robert Wedgeworth and the CLA Executive officer Kelly Moore 2nd left.

TLA Training Workshop on Enhancing, Promoting and Marketing Library and Information Services using Web 2.0/ Library 2.0 Applications, Dodoma, 15 - 17 June, 2011

Introduction

Information sharing and access is a key focus of information service providers in the era of ICT including information agencies such as libraries, archives etc. The advent of web 2.0/Library 2.0 in 1990s as pointed out by (O'Reilly, 2005) has made information access more easily through collaboration and interaction. The current library has become a user-centered also known as "Library without Wall"

Library users and Information professions in Tanzania can benefit from this technology by equipping themselves with knowledge and skills of applying the web2.0/Library2.0 tools following the best principles and practices.

The aim of the workshop

To empower Librarians and Information professionals to understand how Web 2.0 technologies such as synchronous messaging and streaming media, blogs, wikis, social networks, tagging, RSS feeds, and mashups might improve the way libraries provide access to their collections and support users to access information.

What will be learned?

- The use of Web 2.0 /Library 2.0 tools to enhance library services.
- Using web 2.0 tools to market and promote library services.
- Integration of Library 2.0 applications into the library's programs.
- How to make the library's space (virtual and physical) more interactive, collaborative and driven by user needs.

Who should attend?

Librarians, IT Staff /System Librarians, from - Higher Learning Institutions, Research Centers, Private Institutions, Public Departments, NGO, etc.

Eligibility criteria: Computer literate and conversant with browsing the Internet

Workshop date: 15th to 17th June, 2011 **Note:** Deadline for registration is 10th June, 2011.

Venue: IRDP-Dodoma

Registration fee: A registration fee of Tshs 250, 000/= per person should be paid in advance. Participants will be responsible for their transport, meals and accommodation. They are advised to request fund from their employers.

Rewards: Certificate of participation will be provided to participants.

Additional Information: Breakfast, Lunch and Soft drinks will be provided during the workshop.

Applications should be posted to: Mr. Paul Muneja – at the following addresses:
pmuneja@yahoo.com, pmuneja@googlemail.com or tla_tanzania@yahoo.com
P. O. Box 33433, Dar es Salaam

We are looking forward to meeting you in the workshop,
A.K. Hassan
Chairperson, Tanzania Library Association



Institute of Accountancy Arusha New Library Building

BIHARAMULO DISTRICT RECEIVES BOOK DONATION

By Abdallah Hassan

More than 5225 copies of book donation were distributed to different Primary Schools in Biharamulo District Kagera Region during the 19th National Book Week which took place in November 2010.

The organizers who implemented this activity among others, were Publishers Association of Tanzania (PATA), Baraza la Maendeleo ya Vitabu Tanzania (BAMVITA) and Tanzania Library Association (TLA).

In the first place the District Council of Biharamulo was requested to assist in selecting 25 schools to receive the donated books as well as select a teacher from each school to attend the Library development training. The criteria used for selection was for schools in most remote areas with high illiteracy and high rate of poverty. The District Education Officer helped in identifying such schools.

The Book donation/Library development is as activity that is carried once a year with the following objectives:

- To train Primary school teachers in the library



- To improve academic performance in schools through supplementing formal education.
- To establish/develop 25 school Libraries in Biharamulo District;
- To inculcate reading habits and love of books in young people;
- To inculcate learning skills through affective reading;

- To improve academic performance in schools through supplementing formal education.

Teachers Librarians in the schools which received book donations will be responsible for day to day running of the Library. Depending on availability of funds there will also be a follow up to those school libraries to ensure continuity of the service. Challenges facing this project include lack of adequate funds for purchasing books to cater for more schools.

The donors have however commended Biharamulo District officials for their co-operation in the project and promise further collaboration.



BEST LIBRARIAN OF THE YEAR 2010



Ms. Juliana Manyerere

Ms. Juliana Manyerere, the Librarian of Institute of Rural Development Planning (IRDP) Dodoma, was unanimously elected the Best Librarian of the year 2010, during the TLA Workshop and the Annual General Meeting

held in February 2011 in Mbeya.

According to the Chairperson of the Best Librarian Award Committee Mrs. Dorothy Sekimang'a, Juliana won the highest number of votes among other seven names who were nominated for the award. Among the factors which led to her winning the highest number of votes included her industriousness in collection development, introduction of ICT facilities in the library and self development which has earned herself a Masters Degree in

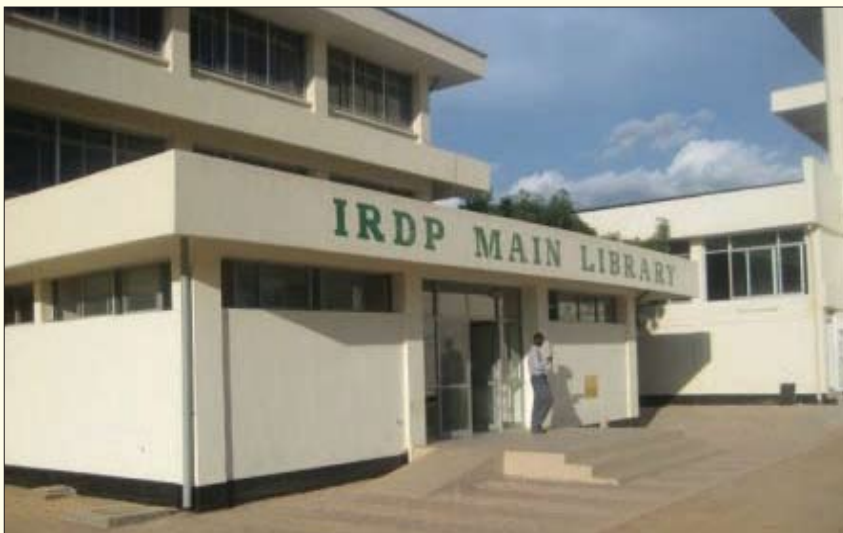
Library Studies, having started with elementary certificate.

Ms. Manyerere's performance was also recognized as outstanding in reader service and general library management which has resulted to a big percentage increase in the users of her Library.

Other members of Tanzania Library Association are highly encouraged to emulate Mrs Manyerere's example and make a difference in their places of work.

Nominations are now sought for the Best Librarian of year 2011 to be presented at the Annual General Meeting to be held in Tabora in February 2012. Self nominations are also accepted.

For Further information contact: the TLA Executive Committee or the Chairperson for Best Librarian Award Committee, Mrs. Dorothy Sekimang'a, P.O. Box. 33433 Dar es Salaam, or e-mail dandeseki@yahoo.co.uk



IRDP LIBRARY – A SUCCESS STORY

By Correspondent

The Institute of Rural Development Planning (IRDP) Library is located at Miyuji area about 7km from Dodoma Municipal Centre along Arusha Road. The IRDP Library was established in 1979 with the main objective of providing information materials that meets the teaching, research and consultancy needs.

Since year 2007 IRDP library has succeeded in various ways which include staff development, infrastructure, library collection, library services and library membership in various organizations such as Tanzania Library and Information Association (TLA) and the Consortium of Tanzania University and Research Libraries (COTUL).

IRDP Library right now has 14 members of staff with qualifications ranging from certificates to Masters level as compared to the period prior to 2007 when there were only six members of staff with one Diploma holder.

As regards the infrastructure, IRDP has capacity of serving 600 users at a time whereas

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SCECSAL XIX, 2010 SUCCESSFULLY HELD IN BOTSWANA

By Abdallah Hassan

The XIX Standing Conference of Eastern, Central and Southern African Library and Information Associations (SCECSAL) was hosted by the Botswana Library Association at the University of Botswana, in Gaborone Botswana, from the 6th to 9th, December 2010.



Tanzania Delegation

The main theme of SCECSAL XIX was **Enhancing Democracy and Good Governance through Effective Information and Knowledge Services.** Librarians, archivists and other information workers from East, Central and Southern Africa and beyond attended the conference. Tanzania was represented to the conference by nine participants from different types of organizations and libraries. On the list was Mr. Abdallah Hassan from the

Economic and Social Research Foundation (ESRF) and the current chair of Tanzania Library Association, Dr. Doris Matovero, the Director of Library at Sokoine University, Dr. Edda Tandi Luoga, the Acting Director of Muhimbili University of Health and Allied Sciences (MUHAS) Library, Mr.



Hassan presenting a paper on behalf

Gabriel Mihambo from FAO Dar es Salaam, Mr. Daniel Kimambo from Tanzania Petroleum Development Corporation (TPDC) Library and Mrs. Juliana Manyerere Head of the Institute of Rural Development Planning (IRDP) Library - Dodoma. Others were: Mr. Haruna Hussein, Librarian, Ministry of Health and Social Welfare, Barnabas Bwango from Institute of Adult Education and Mr. Richard Kasuga from the Ministry of Agriculture.

The attendance to the conference from Tanzania this time greatly improved comparing to the previous SCECSAL XVIII Conference 2008 in Zambia where only one person from Tanzania had attended. Nevertheless, only three papers were prepared from Tanzania. This is a very small number compared with other countries!.

We therefore urge all librarians and other information professionals in the country to start planning to attend SCECSAL XX which will be held in Kenya and those capable should write papers.

SCECSAL was established in 1974 as a biannual regional conference for librarians and information professionals in the Eastern, Central and Southern Africa region. Currently it has a potential membership of over 20 African countries. Tanzania Library Association last hosted the conference in 2006 in Dar es Salam. During The SCECSAL business meeting, Kenya Library Association was nominated to host the SCECSAL XX in 2012.



Tanzania Delegation



Dr. Tandi presenting a paper

AMERICAN PROFESSOR DELIVERS LECTURES TO LIBRARIANS

A distinguished American Professor of Library and Information Science at the University of California, Los Angeles Dr. John V. Richards Jr recently visited Tanzania to deliver a series of professional lectures to Librarians and Students of School Library Archives and Documentation Studies (SLADS) Bagamoyo. Dr. Richardson Jr was in the country from Friday, August 27 to Friday, September 17 when he departed back to the US from Kilimanjaro International Airport.

During his visit, which was sponsored by the American Embassy (Dar es Salaam) Dr. Richardson had opportunity to meet Librarians of various institutions with whom he exchanged notes. He visited the University of Dar es Salaam Library; National Central Library, Tanzania Library

Association (TLA); Library School (SLADS) Bagamoyo; Zanzibar Public Library; State University of Zanzibar (SUZA) Library; Pemba Library and American Corner in Pemba; Arusha Regional Library and finally the East African Community Library in Arusha.

Dr. Richardson delivered professional talks on Library and Information Science, among them the following; Challenges of expanding LIS programme in the context of recent developments; Training Library and Information Science in American Colleges and Universities; Research methodologies for Library and Information Professionals; Planning and Budgeting for Public Libraries; Free vs Charging for Information Provision and Services in Public Libraries – what developing countries like Tanzania can learn from the U.S experience? Promoting Information Economics in Developing Countries; Information Resources Sharing and

Networking in the Electronic Era - Will the Print-based Library Service Survive in the New Digitization World?; The Role of the Public Libraries in Eradicating Illiteracy; Open Access to Information in Africa Fostering Democratic, Economic and Intellectual Development.

In one of his presentations, Dr. Richardson insisted that we (librarians) should not hesitate sending proposals to the U.S. Embassy for programs and projects. He said "Librarians' number one goal is to acquire and disseminate accurate and up to date information to the community. In doing so, we will help in improving the quality of education in Tanzania".

We thank the American Embassy (Dar es Salaam) for sponsoring this distinguished professor of Library and Information Science; we hope more visits can be arranged in future.

IRDP LIBRARY...

From page 10

before year 2007 it had capacity of serving only 70 users. IRDP is also connected to the Internet, CCTV and a fire detector system. It is also automated using Adlib software.

Currently IRDP Library book collection stands at 14,924 whereas in 2007 it was 11,326. The library also subscribes to e-resources on 45 databases through PERI/INASP. The future plans for the Library are on collection development and further improvement in information service to users.



Dr. John V. Richards during one of his presentations