REGIONAL POSTGRADUATE PROGRAM IN INFORMATION SCIENCE IN

ANGLOPHONE AFRICA: IDENTIFICATION OF AN APPROPRIATE LOCATION

REPORT OF A JOINT UNESCO/IDRC MISSION

(31 January - 26 February 1983)
# TABLE OF CONTENTS

## PART I: INTRODUCTION

- Information Needs in Africa ........................................ 2
- Need for Training in Information Science ....................... 4
- Objectives and Terms of Reference ............................... 6

## PART II: REPORTS ON UNIVERSITIES VISITED ......................... 12

- Ghana ............................................................................. 12
- Lagos .............................................................................. 15
- Ibadan ............................................................................. 21
- Ife .................................................................................. 26
- Addis Ababa ..................................................................... 30
- Nairobi ............................................................................. 37
- Zambia ............................................................................. 41
- Zimbabwe ......................................................................... 48

## PART III: CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS ..................... 54

- Conclusion ....................................................................... 54
- Recommendations ........................................................ 58

## PART IV: ANNEXES

ANNEX A: Map of Countries Visited

ANNEX B: Dates of Visits and Individuals with whom discussions were held

ANNEX C: Evaluation of the Universities' Capabilities to support a Regional Postgraduate Program in Information Science in Anglophone Africa

ANNEX D: Report of the London Planning Meeting, 10-12 August, 1982
PART I: INTRODUCTION

While African countries using English as the language for higher education maintain a number of excellent schools of library science and high level programs in computer science, there is at present no fully developed academic program in information science. For education in this field, students from these countries must now study abroad. In contrast, well established training programs in information science, taught largely in the French language, exist in Sénégal and Morocco.

Judging that the perpetuation outside the region of study in the information science field cannot provide a fully satisfactory answer to training needs in this field, Unesco and the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) have had under consideration for some time now the feasibility and viability of encouraging the establishment in Africa of an English-language regional postgraduate program in information science. The adaptation of information systems and techniques for Africa is vital. It is also important that facilities should be available for the training of a solid core of professional leaders capable of identifying particular information needs as well as the existing information resources of Africa in the context of contemporary developments.

In order to determine the interest of the African university community in the creation of such a program, the Association of Commonwealth Universities (ACU), at the suggestion of IDRC, explored the matter at the meeting of Commonwealth Heads of Universities held in Hong Kong in March 1981. The response was very favourable and a number of African universities subsequently indicated interest in supporting such an undertaking.
Shortly thereafter the Information Sciences Division of IDRC and the Division of the General Information Programme of Unesco discussed how the establishment of a regional program might be furthered. As a first step it was decided to send, during February 1983, a joint mission to eight African universities in six countries (Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Nigeria, Zambia, and Zimbabwe). The mission's task was to ascertain the views of the institutions and other appropriate bodies and individuals on needs in the field of information science, gather information on the types of program required to meet those needs, assess the capacity of the institutions to undertake such a program, and, finally, to make recommendations to IDRC and Unesco for the location of a program.

The mission participants were: Professor E.A. Poateng, former Vice-Chancellor of the University of Cape Coast, President of the Academy of Arts and Sciences of Ghana, and Executive Chairman of the Environmental Protection Council of Ghana; Mr. E.T.K. Lwanja, Chief of the Library, Central Files, and Archives Division of the African Development Bank and former Chief Librarian of the University of Zambia; Ms. Martha B. Stone, Deputy Director of the Information Sciences Division, IDRC; and Mr. Kenneth H. Roberts, Chief of PGI's Section for Training of Information Specialists and Users.

INFORMATION NEEDS IN AFRICA

Some of the constraints which have inhibited effective information transfer within and among African countries have been identified as:

1. Economic (i.e. expense of international links, non-availability of funds for capital and recurring costs; and foreign exchange problems);
2. Political (i.e. absence of formulated national information policies; lack of recognition of the importance of information at the highest levels of government; and the conflicts between confidentiality and free access to information);

3. Human Resources (i.e. scarcity of trained personnel; low prestige of information professionals; and lack of adequate "refresher" courses for continuing education; and

4. Information Infrastructure (i.e. scarcity of well-organized collections of primary information; insufficient informal information flow (invisible college); inadequate postal and communication services and linkages; prejudicial customs regulations; and insufficient attention to the "repackaging" of information for the end users).

Strategies for development can be soundly based only on up-to-date data. For Africa, quantitative data are still rare and often poorly organized. Many countries lack an established mechanism for keeping track of the published and unpublished reports, feasibility studies, evaluations, etc. produced by planners, economists, scientists, and others.

The present frequent lack of information and of efficient means for its transfer interfere with the rational use of natural and human resources, with scientific and technological development, as well as with the advancement of culture and social well-being.

In recent years attempts have been made at the international level to address the problem of inefficient transfer of information within Africa. The United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development (UNCSTD, Vienna, 1979) recommended the
establishment of a global information network of scientific and technological information. The Lagos Plan of Action for the implementation of the Monrovia strategy for the economic development of Africa adopted in April 1980 by the OAU Heads of State and Government, as well as the Final Act of Lagos, stress the necessity of establishing modern information services in Africa. These documents draw the attention of the African governments to the need for collecting, analyzing, assessing, cataloguing, and disseminating information relevant to Africa and concerning fields involved in African development as well as to the need of implementing an African network by using the most advanced satellite technology.

At present, the most technologically advanced information systems are being created mainly in the industrialized countries. While developing countries need full access to these outside data sources, they must also organize at national or regional levels their own systems and services, including bibliographic and numerical data bases. Systematic methods of collecting and handling local information are needed to support national development efforts; and to enable the developing countries to participate more fully in regional and international information exchanges.

NEED FOR TRAINING IN INFORMATION SCIENCE

Studies and surveys of the information and information systems needs of the African region, of global trends in information handling and their impact on developing countries, and the impact of African projects like the Pan-African Documentation and Information System (PADIS) being developed by the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), strongly suggest that computer applications in library and information work will spread rapidly in the region.
The growing number of information source files in computer-readable form covering a wide range of fields, an improved capability for frequent updating of data bases, the development of powerful time-sharing computer facilities, interactive "user-friendly" systems and transportable software packages, rapid access storage devices and a steady decline in the cost of data storage, the diminishing cost of intelligent terminals and the global extension of telecommunication networks, have all contributed to the enhancement of on-line information access capabilities. Also, institutions are finding it necessary to develop data bases and information storage and retrieval systems for specialized materials and local data as well as to computerize with advantage some library operations and services. In view of developments in microprocessor technology, even small institutions can now often possess computerized systems at a cost within their reach.

As a consequence, library and information personnel in the countries of the region are increasingly called upon to perform some or all of the following types of activities involving computer applications:
- organization of the utilization of and time-sharing in locally available computer facilities (hardware, software, expertise);
- development of information storage and retrieval systems of specialized local data and materials;
- provision of such computerized services as referral, SDI, and query-answer;
- application of computers to library housekeeping operations;
- carrying out of on-line searches for information users;
- assistance, guidance and the training of information users in the use of computerized systems and in on-line searching;
- computerized systems and on-line searching,
- use of data bases from elsewhere for the generation of SDI and other services,
- exchange of local data bases, resource sharing through networking, and the contribution of data (input) to international, regional, and national information systems and services,
- participation in the exchange and sharing of computer software and systems documentation among institutions,
- training library and information personnel in computer applications through academic course and/or ad hoc courses, workshops, or on-the-job training.

In view of these needs and opportunities, it is important to train personnel in the application of computers and associated technology to library processing activities and information services so that users at every level may benefit more fully from the generation of outputs from this new technology.

OBJECTIVES AND TERMS OF REFERENCE

The need for developing national or regional training programs in information science was recognized as far back as 1971 in Unesco's UNISIST Study Report on the Feasibility of a World Information System, and, this need has been frequently reiterated at regional meetings.

Although not every attempt to establish regional programs in Africa or elsewhere has been successful, examples are available in every continent to indicate that the regional concept can be viable, as is clearly shown by the program in information science at the University of the Philippines at Manila, currently receiving support from Unesco, which has been very successful.
The main objective of the mission was to identify a university which could support a program in information science at the postgraduate level. During the mission, discussions were to be held primarily but not exclusively with the universities. The question of formal governmental support could be pursued at a later date when one or more potential locations had been identified.

The mission realized that programs could be "regional" either in the sense of being supported jointly by several governments who would thus gain the right to send students, or as national programs which would undertake formal commitments to accept students from the region. While either option has inherent difficulties, the second seemed less vulnerable to shifts in international relations and therefore easier to administer. Various well known devices for ensuring that such programs continue to reflect the needs of the region in which they are located have been devised, including the appointment of an international advisory board.

In making its recommendations, the mission was expected, inter alia, to take due note of earlier successes by the institutions visited in managing regional programs in other fields, as well as the likelihood of local support being available for any program that might emerge from the mission over a period of years, perhaps from six to ten, though not at the same level throughout.

Neither Unesco nor IORC envisaged a large investment in computer hardware or buildings. Indeed, neither organization finances such capital investments from their regular budgetary resources. The university selected would have to provide a substantial proportion of facilities and services required for execution of the program. Elements like staff development, fellowships, and software to support the information science program might be provided, depending on the requirements of the institution selected. It was to be expected that supplementary funding would need to be sought from international and bilateral sources.
It was expected that the activities in which information personnel of the region are to be involved would demand a practice-oriented course, with sufficient theoretical material for a full understanding of principles and practices.

It was known that at present few library schools in African countries possess their own computer facilities. At least in the initial stages of building a program, therefore, supporting facilities available in other parts of the university or in other institutions would have to be mobilized.

In the initial stages, the emerging program would need to draw expertise from various units of the university to teach information science courses. Thus it might be necessary to orient computer experts to library and documentation/bibliographical activities. The mission was also expected to identify strengths which could be tapped in relevant areas currently taught in these universities, such as management science, library science, mass communications, linguistics, mathematics, statistics, and computer science.

It was realized that the software packages available might not be those most suitable for bibliographical information handling and library applications. These would require modification, or new programs/packages would need to be developed or obtained elsewhere. Even in the latter case, software adaptation to a different computer configuration might be necessary.
Since major African universities frequently offer short-term courses of a technical nature to practitioners in various fields, and since there was evidence of a strong demand for refresher courses for professionals who need re-training in areas where information science techniques are evolving rapidly, it was considered that the program should be capable of accommodating this level of training.

In their discussions in Hong Kong in 1981, the Commonwealth Vice-Chancellors had suggested that a minimum of two programs were necessary to serve anglophone countries in Africa. For the time being, however, it is more practical or realistic to envisage one program with "out posts", that is, with certain courses - in particular the professional upgrading or continuing education courses - being offered in the "out posts".

At the outset, the mission considered it likely that a postgraduate program in information science would cover the theory and practice of the design, development, and operation of information systems and services. At all events, the program envisaged would complement rather than duplicate the programs in library science now available in the region.

With the above in mind, it was felt that the proposed program would address the following areas:

- information provision for development planning and management;
- acquisition of one international perspective of the information field encouraging cooperative and resource sharing arrangements for information transfer,

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- problem solving and decision-making, the use of appropriate techniques and tools for systems analysis, operations research, statistical analysis, and other quantitative methods in information management,
- the applications of appropriate information technology in the design, development, and operation of information systems

A conscious effort would be made, however, to canvas the views of the institutions themselves on the appropriate structure of the proposed program so as to ensure its relevance to African needs and conditions.

**CRITERIA FOR THE CHOICE OF A LOCATION FOR THE PROGRAM**

To assist it in its assessment of the various institutions to be visited, the mission developed the following set of criteria at its London planning meeting:

1. The level of interest manifested within the university and by the government concerned (includes political commitment and professional support.)

2. The potential administrative and financial abilities of the institution to ensure continuation of the program and maintenance of its regional character at the end of a period of external support. (e.g. state of the physical plant and of the current budget, relations between administration/management and faculty, effectiveness of university in obtaining government support)

3. Presence in the university of related programs such as library, computer and management sciences, and linguistics.

4. Existence of good computer and communications facilities to support the program (Computer: potential access to data bases, disk space, software packages, programmers to work with teaching staff Communications telephone, telex, post, airport, etc.)
5. The existence of a dynamic library service strongly supported by the university administration and faculty.

6. The availability of the additional housing, classroom facilities, offices and administrative services required for the new students and staff.

7. The existence of local teaching staff available to participate in the program.

8. Suitable facilities for field work/practical training

9. An active university staff development program which would also apply to the program under consideration.
PART II: REPORTS ON UNIVERSITIES VISITED

UNIVERSITY OF GHANA, LEGON
(31 January - 2 February 1983)

A. INTRODUCTION

In the absence of the Vice-Chancellor, Professor D.A. Bekoe, who was out of the country, the members of the mission met the Pro-Vice-Chancellor, Professor K.F. Senanu, together with Mr. J.M. Akita, Acting Head of the Department of Library and Archival Studies, and Dr. Paul Ansa, Head of the School of Journalism and Communication.

The discussion turned principally on the extent of the University's desire and commitment to host the proposed postgraduate program in information science for English-speaking Africa, its ability to provide the necessary staff and infrastructure in the form of buildings, equipment, computer hardware and software, and finally the University's own conception of the course content of the program and the needs which it should seek to meet in the region.

B. POINTS ARISING FROM DISCUSSION

1. Availability of Staff

It was quite evident from the discussion that in all the relevant departments, especially the Department of Library and Archival Studies, the staff was greatly depleted either through resignation or absence on study leave. Thus, apart from Mr. Akita

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himself, none of the persons mentioned in the Vice-Chancellor's letter addressed to the Secretary-General of the Association of Commonwealth Universities in 1981 as being capable of handling various aspects of the proposed program were present in the University at the time of our visit.

The course in Library Studies includes a section on information science, and, according to the departmental prospectus, this has quite a wide coverage though various lecturers who had responsibility for teaching these courses, notably Mr. R.C Narrey, were away from the country studying for their doctorates. It was the University's view that, until the return of these lecturers, it would not be possible to say with certainty whether or not a postgraduate regional centre in information science of the kind under consideration could be regarded as a high priority area. It was felt that, immediately, it would be better to utilize available resources for strengthening the relevant sections of the library and archival studies program.

2. Accommodation and Equipment

We were assured that accommodation for the program would pose no problem. However, the account we were given of the available hardware and software in the University's Computer Centre suggested that the existing facilities were not particularly impressive owing to serious financial constraints.

3. The University's Conception of the Program

As regards the University's conception of what the program should be or should aim to achieve, it seemed that not very much consideration had been given to the matter... /14
One of the things which the proposed centre is expected to do is to be innovative and capable of developing programs and methodologies that are related to the real needs and resources of the region instead of being based too rigidly on traditional approaches. It was difficult to discern this desire to break new ground in the course of our meeting. Perhaps things might have been different if Mr. Nartey, who was identified as the expert on information science, had been present.

C. CONCLUSIONS

The University of Ghana has considerable experience in the management of regional programs. Indeed, the mission visited the Regional Institute for Population Studies (RIPS) which is widely regarded as a centre of excellence in Africa. Another notable regional activity in the University is the program in Archival Studies, now located within the Department of Library and Archival Studies.

However, Ghana and its universities are going through a very difficult period at present. This does not appear to be the right time to expect the University of Ghana to venture into the area of information science for the purpose of helping to meet the needs of the whole of anglophone Africa.
A. INTRODUCTION

In preparation for the mission's visit, the University had established a Task Force consisting of representatives of various departments whose activities and concerns were considered related to information science.

The first meeting held by the mission was with the following members of the Task Force:

Dr. O. Abass, Acting Head of the Department of Computer Sciences (Chairman)

Dr. Frank Ugboajah, Acting Head of the Department of Mass Communication.

Dr. E.O. Akinluyi, Director of Planning in the Vice-Chancellor's Office.

Mrs. O.A. Odeyemi, Planning Unit of the Vice-Chancellor's Office.

Mrs. Adeogun, Information Unit in the Vice-Chancellor's Office

On the following day, the mission paid a courtesy call on the Vice-Chancellor, Professor A.O. Adesola, followed by a second session with the members of the Task Force. After this meeting, the mission... /16
toured the Department of Mass Communications. Unfortunately, the Faculty of Business Administration, though included in the Task Force, was not represented at either of these meetings. The University Library, while not represented at the first meeting, participated in the second one.

B. POINTS ARISING FROM DISCUSSIONS

1. Existing Facilities

The University at present has a Department of Computer Sciences, a Computer Centre, and a Department of Mass Communication.

Department of Computer Sciences

This Department has a senior staff strength of 10 and offers courses leading to bachelors, masters, and Ph.D. degrees. It is equipped with one Cardo micro-computer, two Apole micro-computers (with an additional two on order) and a hybrid computer.

The curriculum is organised in such a way that students have adequate laboratory facilities for familiarizing themselves with the internal workings of computers and their use. The Department is also involved in the preparation of software support for administrative units and faculties of the University. Unfortunately, the University Library, which is currently embarked on the automation of its facilities, services, and procedures, has not benefitted from this service.

The staff are highly qualified and exhibited a striking measure of self-confidence as regards their capabilities.
Computer Centre

The mission did not actually visit the Computer Centre, but we were informed that its equipment comprises an IBM 370 with 256K memory.

The Centre offers general services to the University as a whole, and very fruitful functional links exist between it and the Department of Computer Sciences. As with the Department of Computer Sciences, the smooth running of the Centre has tended in the past, to be disturbed by frequent electricity stoppages in the national network. However, this problem has now been greatly reduced by the installation of stand-by generators. Another hazard, general to almost the entire continent, is the prevalence of dust, which interferes seriously with the efficient working of computers. Again, this problem has been brought largely under control through the use of air conditioners and the provision of dust proof rooms.

We were informed that 95 percent of the computers in Nigeria and the same percentage of computer professionals are located in Lagos, thus further strengthening the claims of the University as the seat for the proposed program.

Mass Communication Department

The Department started initially as a regional centre supported by Unesco, but is now wholly financed by the University. It has a staff of about 17 and its equipment consists of a printing press, studios for training students in broadcasting techniques, and television facilities for use as a closed circuit system within the University.
The courses it offers comprise. (a) a diploma program, (b) a bachelors degree, and (c) a masters program, which has a wide appeal. In addition, the Department organises ad hoc workshops as part of its continuing education program. We were shown specimens of the Department's publications which include student newspapers and an in-house journal both, very professionally executed. The training offered to students includes field studies and research in media resources.

Business Administration

The mission did not visit this Department, but we were informed that it is the strongest in the country and that a number of local organisations prefer its graduates to graduates from business administration schools and departments elsewhere, including Harvard. In addition to the traditional ones, courses have recently been started in Estate Management and Industrial Relations. We were informed that a course in Management and Information Systems was also under consideration, although its departmental location had still to be decided.

Ancillary Units and Facilities

Apart from the above-mentioned departments, other sections of the University whose activities would either have a bearing on or could benefit from the operations of the proposed program in information science were (a) the University Library, and (b) the Information and Planning Units, both in the Vice-Chancellor's Office. These would be essentially user units, but they could also offer useful training facilities to the proposed program.
There was also a Continuing Education Centre in the University which coordinates short-term retraining courses for practitioners. Use could be made of this facility within the proposed program.

In considering the available resources within the University for supporting the program, the mission noted what it considered to be a serious planning weakness. It appeared that at the present time, even though a number of vital material and human resources for development are available in different areas of the University, there was insufficient coordination in the mobilization and use of these resources. A good example of this was the current exercise for the automation of the Library which seemed not to be sufficiently interlinked with the resources and expertise available in the Department of Computer Sciences, even in such obvious matters as the evaluation and accommodation of the type of equipment to be purchased and used.

2. The University's Conception of the Program

Unfortunately, discussion on this subject could not proceed very far because the University felt that, until it had a clearer idea of what the mission itself had in mind, it could not fully develop its own ideas or make concrete suggestions regarding the curricular contents of the courses to be taught under the program.

The Chairman of the Task Force, however, gave a brief indication of the kinds of subject areas that he thought the program should cover. His account placed the main emphasis on the understanding and use of computers for data collection, storage, and retrieval without any suggestion of duplication with traditional courses in library studies.
The idea of a regional program of the type envisaged is not entirely new to the University. As has already been mentioned, there is currently a program in Mass Communication which, although financed by the University, started initially as a regional centre, which even now is open to Nigerian and non-Nigerian students. There is also, within the Department of Computer Sciences, an international postgraduate course in computer sciences sponsored by the University, Unesco, and OAU.

3. Availability of Employment Openings for Products of the Program

We were assured that there would be a very considerable market, especially in the private sector, for the products of the program. The rapidly growing demand for the graduates of the Department of Computer Science and Mass Communication in a variety of positions in both government and private organisations was cited as an indication of current trends. However, the Task Force was unwilling at this stage to offer any firm suggestions regarding the types of awards to be given to students to be trained under the program, until more detailed guidelines had been provided by the sponsors of the mission.

C. CONCLUSIONS

There is little doubt that the University is keen on hosting the proposed program. This was underscored by the Vice-Chancellor during the mission's meeting with him.
The available plant, equipment, and staff suggest that a viable infrastructure is already in place. The fact that the entire cost of establishing a program would not be borne by the sponsors of the mission and that the host institution would be expected to bear a major part of the cost, seemed to be clearly understood. However, the preparatory work by the Task Force for our visit did not seem to have gone as far as might have been expected, due, one suspects, to a slight misunderstanding of the purpose of the mission. It seemed that the importance of the designation of the mission as an exploratory one had not been fully grasped. Rather, the expectation was that we were coming to offer a ready-made and fully prepared package. We believe, however, that if the University of Lagos were invited to submit a proposal for the envisaged program, it could be provided with little difficulty.

**UNIVERSITY OF IBADAN, NIGERIA**

**(5-9 February 1983)**

**A. INTRODUCTION**

Following a courtesy call on the Vice-Chancellor, Professor S.O. Olayide, the mission held two meetings with the "Negotiating Team" which had been appointed by the Vice-Chancellor. These meetings were attended by:

Professor S.O. Olayide, Vice-Chancellor and Chairman  
Professor A. Banjo, Deputy Vice-Chancellor  
Professor A.O. Phillips, Chairman, Committee of Deans  
Professor B.L. Fetuga, Dean, Postgraduate Studies  
Professor M.O. Kayode, Director, CEREMAC (Planning Unit of the University)  
Professor F.B.A. Giwa, Director, Computing Centre  
Mrs. T.O. Odeinde, University Librarian
Also present in a technical capacity were representatives of the following departments: Library Studies, Computer Science, Economics, Statistics, and Planning; as well as the Assistant Registrar of the Vice-Chancellor’s Office, the University’s Public Relations Officer, and the ARCIS (African Regional Centre for Information Science) Project Coordinator.

It was quite obvious from the very outset that the University authorities had taken the mission’s visit very seriously. A number of documents had been prepared for the mission, including a detailed project proposal document for the program which had been designated as the African Regional Centre for Information Science (ARCIS), and a proposal for the introduction of new Master’s degree programs in the Department of Library Studies.

The mission subsequently held a meeting with the Dean of Postgraduate Studies, Dr. B L Fetuga, and the Chairman of the Committee of Deans, Professor Phillips. The mission also toured the University Library and the Computer Centre, and visited the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (ITTA) where the mission held very useful discussions with the Deputy Director, Dr. Shebeski, the Librarian, Dr. S. Lawani, and the Computer Consultant, Mr. D. Fox.

B. POINTS ARISING FROM DISCUSSIONS

1. The University’s Conception of the Program

As has been mentioned in the Introduction, the University had done a great deal of preparatory work before the arrival of the mission. They were of the view that the program should be administratively distinct from the on-going courses in the Department of Library Studies, but functionally related to them.
On the basis of previous experiences with other programs, the University did not anticipate any problems with the incorporation of the Information Science program into one or other of the existing academic faculties, in this case, the Faculty of Education, where the Department of Library Studies is located. Such an arrangement would be necessary in order to give the program the academic standing needed to qualify its students for the awarding of degrees by the University.

Courses in information science are already being taught within the present structure of the Department of Library Studies. With the establishment of a regional program in information science, these courses would be absorbed by the new program, although the content would be at a different level from the postgraduate program. Also, various departments and schools in the University offering relevant courses would be fully involved in the proposed program, which would lead to the award of degrees of Masters of Information Science, Masters of Philosophy, and Doctor of Philosophy. In addition, there would be various courses of relatively short duration, aimed mainly at the retraining of practitioners already in the field. The program itself, in addition to providing courses, would undertake consultancies in the public and private sectors, and carry out research aimed at the formulation of information technology, for example, ensuring the compatibility of emerging hardware and software configurations.

It emerged from the discussions that the University had not itself had much previous experience with hosting international programs of the kind envisaged, such as the International Centre for Insect Physiology and Ecology (ICIPE) in Nairobi, and the Regional Institute for Population Studies (RIPS) in Legon. However, members of the staff were fully aware of the work and organization of such programs, especially the fact that their content had to be tailored to meet the needs of all participating countries.
2. Availability of Staff

With regard to the question of staff for the program, it was fairly clear that the University already had enough qualified persons on the ground in the relevant fields to provide a good nucleus. Some of these areas are the Departments of Library Studies, Computer Science, Statistics, and the Computer Centre. However, more persons would have to be recruited and trained in order to implement the program fully. Also, the nearby IITA could provide an important input, through its computer section, the facilities of its Library and Documentation Centre, parts of which were to be automated, and by the participation of the staff in the teaching of some of the courses.

3. Physical Facilities

The University has, at present, adequate facilities for the Department of Library Studies, which could easily be expanded to support the new program. It also has excellent library facilities including a good basic collection in library and information science. In addition, a building close to the Department of Library Studies has been earmarked for accommodating the offices of the program. However, this building, as the University itself recognizes, will require considerable renovation and modification. Also, the facilities for training in Computer Science would require expansion to meet the needs of the program. In spite of these reservations, however, the existing physical facilities and the academic environment in the University appear highly favourable for the mounting of such a program.
A rather serious problem at the moment is the electrical power supply situation which is marked by frequent breakdowns and blackouts. This greatly impairs the smooth running of several services and facilities, most notably, the operation of the Computer Services. We were informed, however, that the University was taking steps to deal with the problem as far as the campus itself is concerned by installing an Unlimited Power Supply system (UPS).

4. Local and External Communication

Ibadan has no serious transportation problems. It is quite close to the Lagos International Airport, which has ready connections with other parts of the world, and it enjoys reasonable access to various government and commercial offices in Lagos. The opening of the new airport at Ibadan should further improve the position. However, telephone as opposed to telex communications are not particularly adequate.

5. Government Support for the Program

The apportionment of Government funds for Universities in Nigeria is the responsibility of the National Universities Commission. We were informed that this body had already indicated its support, in principle, for the type of program envisaged, should it be located at Ibadan. It was also felt that the assurance of such support would be even stronger if, as had been proposed, the program was established within the existing facilities of the University, thus reducing the initial capital outlay.
C. CONCLUSIONS

It is relevant to note that due to the significant increase in the number of universities in the country, Ibadan is currently shifting the emphasis of its training from undergraduate to postgraduate degree programs. The idea of establishing the proposed postgraduate program in information science would seem therefore to be consistent with this new policy.

The University authorities appeared quite confident that there would be ample job opportunities for the products of the program. In support of this, they cited the present high demand for the graduates of the Department of Library Studies. They felt that the demand for experts in information science would be even greater in both the public and private sectors.

UNIVERSITY OF IFE, ILE-IFE, NIGERIA
(9-10 February 1983)

A. INTRODUCTION

The mission held its first meeting with the Vice-Chancellor, Professor W. Abimbola, and the following members of his staff: Professor A. Adenuga, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Professor S.A. Sanni, Chairman, Committee of Deans, Professor S.B. Jaiyesimi, Head, Department of Computer Sciences, Dr G.A. Balogun, Director, Computer Centre, and Mrs. O. Ojo-Ade, Acting University Librarian. Subsequently, it toured the University Library, the Computer Centre, and the Department of Computer Sciences. Finally the mission held discussions with the deans of various faculties at a very useful working luncheon, arranged by the University.
Although the University obviously had given serious thought to the idea of establishing a program in information science at the postgraduate level, and consultations had taken place among the relevant departments, no special committee had been established for considering the program.

B. POINTS ARISING FROM THE DISCUSSIONS

1. The University's Conception of the Program

From the discussions, it was felt that the University had given reasonable thought to the nature and content of the proposed program. Without going into detail regarding the course components, the faculty members whom we met expressed the view that the program should be based on the use of modern data gathering and dissemination techniques, especially the use of computer technology. The program would initially be accommodated within an existing department and would gradually develop into a School of Information Science in its own right, which would also offer courses in library studies. They clearly saw the program as being a multi-disciplinary effort, involving several areas such as computer science, environmental planning, design and management, linguistics, and the social sciences. The program would start initially at the postgraduate diploma level and gradually develop to the masters and Ph.D. levels.
2. Availability of Staff and Physical Facilities

Possibly because of the absence of a program in library studies, it did not appear that the academic staff included any persons with formal training in information science. However, a small nucleus with some relevant expertise was available in the Computer Centre and the Department of Computer Science. Also, in line with the University's conception of the program, it seemed that use could be made of staff from other subject areas as indicated above.

With regard to the physical facilities, the software and hardware in the Computer Centre and the Department of Computer Science (especially the latter), appeared capable of giving adequate initial support to the program. It is worth noting, in this connection, that great emphasis was being placed on the need for the University to develop the capability to produce some of its own software. In the Department of Computer Science also, emphasis is being placed on the use of micro-computers rather than main-frame or mini-computers for teaching purposes and for the handling of administrative tasks.

The Library could also serve as a useful tool for training purposes, but its present facilities, while good, would need to be considerably augmented, especially in the development of collections and qualified staff, in order to give adequate support to the proposed program.

3. Employment Opportunities

As in the case of Lagos and Ibadan, we were assured that there would be ample employment opportunities for the products of the program.
4. Government Support for the Program

In response to the mission's inquiries regarding the likelihood of government support for the program, we were assured that official government funding would not present a serious problem, especially in view of the University's past record in the careful management of funds and the development of innovative and relevant programs geared to the needs of the country. This was not to say that external funding would not be required for the regional program to be properly launched; but simply that the University itself would have little difficulty in obtaining the necessary support from the government for making any reasonable counterpart contributions.

5. Local and External Communications

Ife is somewhat isolated in relation to Lagos, the national capital and commercial centre. However, we were reminded that traffic within Lagos was so congested that it was sometimes easier and quicker to reach the centre of the city, as well as Lagos International Airport, from Ife than from certain parts of Lagos itself.

With respect to telephone and external telecommunications, however, Ife is clearly at a disadvantage. It lacks direct links with Lagos and other major communications centres within Nigeria, and the establishment of ready links with data centres outside or even within Nigeria could present serious problems.
6. Electricity Supply

As with other parts of Nigeria, Ife suffers from erratic electricity supply and frequent blackouts. This has already caused serious damage to expensive computer equipment. Fortunately, this sad experience has led to the installation of certain safety devices which should help to protect the equipment in the future.

C. CONCLUSION

The mission was impressed by the dynamism of the staff, and their determination and pioneering spirit. Certainly their splendid and spacious campus offers an excellent environment for academic work.

UNIVERSITY OF ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA
(12-16 February 1983)

A. INTRODUCTION

The first official meeting of the mission was with the President of the University, Dr. Duri Mohammed, who was briefed in detail about the background and purpose of the mission. This was followed by an extensive tour of the University Library led by the University Librarian, Mr. Getachew Birru, and a visit to the Systems Design and Data Processing Centre.
Later, the mission had two longer and fuller session with the President of the University, attended by the Vice-President for Business and Development, Dr. Asmelash Sayene, the Research and Publications Officer, Dr. Aregay Waketola, the External Relations Officer, Mrs. Almaz Zewde, and the Dean of the School of Graduate Studies, Dr. Shibu Tedla.

Subsequently, the mission visited the International Livestock Centre for Africa (ILCA) and the Pan-African Documentation and Information System (PADIS) in the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA).

At ILCA, we were received by the Director, Dr. Peter Brumby, and were later taken on a conducted tour of the library, documentation, and computer facilities by the Documentalist in charge, Mr. M. Hailu. At PADIS, we were introduced to the officer in charge, Mr. K.T. Mavuba. He gave members of the mission a brief account of the work of PADIS, followed by a conducted tour of the various sections, including the computer, microfiche, photographic, and printing services.

Before its departure from Addis Ababa, the mission paid a courtesy call on the Canadian Ambassador, Mr. W. Agnès, Mr. Manirakiza, Deputy Executive Secretary of ECA, and the Unesco Representative, Mr. Awad Idris. Mr. Manirakiza, on behalf of the Executive Secretary of ECA, Professor A. Adedeji, who was out of the country, welcomed the mission very warmly and assured us of ECA's interest in the proposed regional postgraduate program in information sciences in anglophone Africa, for which the mission was trying to
identify a possible location. He pledged ECA's support for its establishment wherever it might be located, even though he felt there were many obvious points in favour of Addis Ababa. He expressed ECA's satisfaction with the PADIS program, and its appreciation of the assistance provided by IDRC and the African Development Bank.

B. POINTS ARISING FROM DISCUSSIONS

It was apparent at our first meeting with the President of the University, that he had not been fully briefed about the objectives of the mission, and that little collective discussion on the matter had taken place among the staff prior to our visit.

That the University was interested in hosting the program was not in doubt. What was not so clear was the specific steps which the University proposed to take in order to launch the program. Subsequently, however, as our discussions proceeded, a clearer conception of the program began to emerge.

The University's Conception of the Program

The University of Addis Ababa, perhaps more than any of the universities visited, is at present intimately involved in planning and developmental activities from the national level, down to the local community level. The vast amount of documentation called for by the decision-making process seems to argue strongly for the training of large numbers of people in the techniques of information handling. However, the bulk of such people would be required for middle-level information tasks. It was accepted that, without prejudice to the provision of training facilities for such persons, the program with which the mission is concerned was aimed at producing higher level personnel at the postgraduate level.
It was recognized by the University that the program would necessarily involve several disciplines, but it was not definite at this stage exactly where the program would be located within the University's academic structure. However, the University favoured either a location within the Faculty of Social Sciences, or the creation of a distinct unit within the School of Graduate Studies. In either case, inputs would be made from the quantitative disciplines of computer science, mathematics, and statistics, as well as from disciplines such as economics, business management, and accounting.

With regard to the course content of the program, the University was of the view that it would have to be substantially different from those of library studies, but the details of the curriculum could be worked out later during the planning stage, bearing in mind the views and needs of other participating countries in the program.

Existing Facilities within the University

The University has several libraries scattered among its colleges, campuses, and faculties. The main library at the Addis Ababa campus is large, spacious, and well equipped in respect of bibliographical tools, reference materials, journal collections, and other research resources. With a few additions geared to the needs of an information science program, it could serve satisfactorily as an infrastructural resource.

The Systems Design and Data Processing Centre which serves as the University's Computer Centre, is also reasonably well equipped. It has a V-8455 computer, two disc units, several IBM 20 key punch machines, as well as NCR 7500 encoders. Its main function is to provide services to the University administration, and faculties.
It is not set up for the purpose of training students at a high level in computer science, such as would be necessary in the envisaged program. Also, relevant laboratories for the training of students were noticeably absent.

We were assured that, in the initial stages at any rate, the provision of lecture rooms and residential accommodation for both students and staff would not present any major problem.

3. Possible Supporting Facilities outside the University

Apart from the facilities within the University itself, reference was made by the President to the availability of additional facilities which could be tapped from various institutions outside the University. In particular, he mentioned the facilities of ILCA's Documentation Centre, and ECA's PADIS program. The mission subsequently visited both institutions and found them to be well equipped for providing practical training, and for demonstration purposes.

ILCA has an HP 3000 series III computer, with MINYSIS software which is used for handling bibliographic information. It also has good microfiche production facilities and maintains good contact with a large number of national focal points in the region which would be covered by the program. The Documentation Centre could, without any doubt, offer facilities for technical training and practical work in such areas as the indexing and abstracting of documents. Naturally, it would be necessary for proper formal negotiations to be entered into, if these facilities were to be used by the University for the purpose of the program. In our discussion with the Director of ILCA, we were assured that, in principle, such collaboration would present no problems.
The PADIS program in ECA, though relatively new, is also very well equipped. It has similar equipment to that at the Documentation Centre at ILCA, and a large number of terminals for batch and transaction processing operations, including on-line access to in-house data bases. Also, as at ILCA, there is equipment for the making of microfiche. We were informed that there are plans for developing a network of sub-regional and national focal points. All this represents a most important resource for training purposes under the proposed program.

In addition to the physical and technical capabilities, the staff in both PADIS and ILCA's Documentation Centre, especially the latter, could be used to supplement the full-time teaching staff in the program.

4. Extent of the University's Commitment

Reference has already been made to the assurances which the University gave us with respect to teaching and residential accommodation during the initial phase of the program. At the very end of our visit, we were shown buildings within which units could be utilized for accommodating the program. We were also informed by the President that he had received assurance from governmental authorities of a strong political commitment, and a promise of financial support to the program if the University were selected to host it.
5. Availability of Staff

As far as we could gather, the University does not have any qualified information scientists on its staff. However, we were informed that, in addition to the Head of the Computer Centre, there are at least two persons in the physical sciences and mathematics faculties who have training in computer science. The University offers a two-year diploma course in Library Science, but there was no indication that any staff input could be expected from this source. Despite the suggestion by the University that staff from other relevant areas could be involved in the program, it is quite obvious that a considerable number of the staff required would have to be specially recruited or trained for the purpose. This would be in addition to the support which could be given by the staff from PADIS and ILCA's Documentation Centre.

C. CONCLUSION

There is no doubt that Addis Ababa has a number of obvious locational advantages. This point was stressed by the President, who referred specifically to the University's proximity to important on-going information services such as the Documentation Centre in ILCA and PADIS in ECA, the presence of the OAU Headquarters and ECA, and the excellent relationships which the University enjoys with these organizations. There are also excellent air and telecommunications services. Our attention was drawn to the large number of anglophone countries within the eastern African sub-region, and Addis Ababa's strategic location in relation to these countries. Finally, the congenial social environment provided by the large number of peoples from different African countries working in the many international organizations and embassies located in Addis Ababa, was mentioned as an added incentive for the recruitment of staff for the program.
A. INTRODUCTION

The mission began its work by paying a courtesy call on the Regional Director of IDRC for eastern and southern Africa, Mr. Bruce Scott. We acquainted him with the progress of the mission so far, and discussed our program in relation to the visit to the University of Nairobi. After this meeting, we proceeded to the University of Nairobi for a meeting which had been previously arranged with the Vice-Chancellor, Professor J.M. Nungai, and the University Librarian, Mr. John Ndegwa.

B. POINTS ARISING FROM DISCUSSIONS

1 The University's Conception of the Program

We were informed that the University had always been concerned with the manpower requirements of Kenya, and had therefore been seized for sometime with the need for courses in both library studies and information science. However, having regard for the national needs, what had been proposed was the creation of a large undergraduate program in these two areas, perhaps supplemented by a relatively small postgraduate program. It was also the University's view that, in order to attract an adequate number of students, especially those with a science background, such programs should be preferably at the undergraduate level. The view was also expressed that there should be sub-professional courses at the diploma level aimed specifically at training personnel for public and school libraries. These views...
were based on the recommendations of two reports on manpower requirements in these areas, submitted respectively by the Kenya Library Association and the Planning Office of the Ministry of Education. Reference was also made to an earlier report by Mr. John Dean, "A Regional Library Science Program for Eastern Africa", which was prepared for the Standing Conference of African University Librarians (Eastern Africa) in 1974.

The argument for laying the emphasis on undergraduate programs was that this would enable the University to meet the large demand for librarians and information scientists in the numerous educational and research institutes in the country most speedily and economically. It was felt that the best role for a postgraduate program would be primarily for the training of professionals who, in turn, would be able to teach others. The emphasis should be on the training of teachers. In the Vice-Chancellor's view, this approach was particularly desirable in the case of regional programs intended to meet the needs of other countries. The University had had previous experience in hosting regional programs and had come to the firm conclusion that the approach described above was the best policy to follow in the present realities of the region. As examples of such regional programs, he cited a number of postgraduate courses so far undertaken by the University in disciplines such as journalism, economics, diplomacy, education (curriculum development), water resources, and computer science.

No attempt was made in the course of the discussion to elaborate on the curriculum contents of any of the courses proposed by the University. A proposal had been approved by the University Grants Committee for courses in library, archival, and information studies at first degree and postgraduate levels, to be located in the University of Nairobi. We were informed that since then, the position had
changed significantly as a result of the government's decision to establish a second university in the country with a technological base, which would have a full faculty of information science. The government has indicated within its National Development Plan for 1984-88, now under preparation, that a program in information science should be started during this planning period. However, it is yet to be decided whether this program should be based in the University of Nairobi, or in the new university which has yet to be established.

Despite this uncertainty, the University seems to have crystallized its ideas regarding the general aims and organization of its program in this field. The Vice-Chancellor himself has had considerable personal experience in certain relevant areas of information handling, especially in the field of medicine and physical sciences, and was most convincing when he spoke about the purpose of a regional program in information science. In particular, he dwelt on the importance of such programs having a component concerned with the training of the users of information. He also emphasized the need for the public to be properly informed and educated about the use of information, in order to create a truly receptive environment for the program.

2. Kenya's Information Science Needs

Throughout the discussion, the Vice-Chancellor emphasized the need for any program in information science at the University to address itself primarily to the meeting of Kenya's manpower requirements in this field, or at least to take serious account of them. He suggested that, for a regional program to enjoy local support it would be expected to allocate not less than 50% of the student intake to Kenyans. The mission did not enter into a discussion of this particular point, but its message was fully understood.
3 Extent of the University's Commitment

There is no doubt that the University is interested in having a program in information science. It has been in touch with organizations such as Unesco on this matter, and an earlier visit by an IDRC representative confirmed this fact. However, it did not appear that much attention had been given to the question of establishing a regional, as opposed to a purely national program. Nor was the mission given the impression of highly enthusiastic support for a regional program. The indications seemed to be that whatever the outcome of the present mission, the University and the government were determined, at the present time, that Kenya should have a University program in information science as well as in library and archival studies. However, the Vice-Chancellor did not rule out the possibility of the University hosting the proposed regional program, subject to further discussion of the details.

4 Available Facilities

The mission was given a brief indication of the available facilities in the University which could be used for supporting a program in information science. The University at present offers courses in computer sciences, though it does not have a computer centre as such. The equipment in the Computer Sciences Department consists of an ICL computer, and a number of micro-computers for word processing. The University also runs courses in journalism and communication which could supply useful inputs into the program. There is also the University Library, which is to be accommodated in a new and more spacious building currently under construction. We were informed that there are plans for automating more of the Library's activities when it moves into the new building.
Unfortunately, it was not possible for the mission to see these facilities, or to meet University officials, other than the Vice-Chancellor and the Librarian. Before our visit, the Vice-Chancellor had indicated that he would be able to meet the mission for only a short time, and no arrangements had been made for a detailed program.

C. CONCLUSIONS

As a city, Nairobi possesses many geographical and other advantages for accommodating a program in information science, and, all things being equal, the University of Nairobi could make a valuable contribution. However, in light of the mission's discussions with the Vice-Chancellor, it was obvious that no serious plans for establishing the program at the University of Nairobi could be contemplated at the present time.

UNIVERSITY OF ZAMBIA, LUSAKA
(19-23 February 1983)

A. INTRODUCTION

The mission's visit to the University of Zambia began with discussions with the following officials of the University and of the Government.
Professor J.M. Kelly, Deputy Vice-Chancellor
Dr. J.M. Mwanza, Vice-Chancellor
Dr. P.M. Haamjagonpa, Dean of the Faculty of Education
Dr. V.G. Nyirenda, University Secretary
Assistant Secretary for International Cooperation in the Ministry of Higher Education, deputising for the Permanent Secretary.

Next, the mission called first on the Assistant Director General of the National Commission for Development Planning, Mr. M.J. Mwali, and then proceeded to the University for its first working session. This meeting was attended by the following representatives of various departments of the University and other individuals from outside the University, whose interests were considered to have a bearing on the proposed postgraduate program in information science.

Dr. Maurice C. Lundu, Librarian, Ndola
Mr. J.C. Samuelson, British Council
Mr. Derek T. Simons, University Library, Lusaka
Miss R.H. Shakakata, University Library, Lusaka
Mr. A.W.C. Hsika, University Library, Lusaka
Mr. N. Kalubita, Zambia Library Service
Mr. H.C. Parameswar, School of Engineering, Lusaka
Mr. I.W. Chikalanoa, Department of Education, Lusaka
Mrs. C.C. Zulu, University Library, Lusaka
Mr. A.A. Phiri, University Library, Lusaka
Dr. M. Lisinba, Department of Literature and Languages
Mr. A.M. Kamiki, Department of Library Studies, Lusaka
Mr. E.D.T. Kularatne, Department of Library Studies, Lusaka
Mr. S. Mwina, Department of Library Studies, Lusaka
Mr. J.G. Mvonga, Computer Centre, Lusaka
Dr. F.M. Lungu, Department of Mathematics, Lusaka
Prof. W.B. Banage, Department of Biology and Natural Sciences, Lusaka
Dr. G. Mwachalima, University Library, Lusaka
Mr. D.O. Bampoe, Acting Chief Librarian

The mission held a second session with the University members of the above group under the chairmanship of the Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Professor J.M. Kelly.
It should be explained at this point that the University of Zambia consists of two distinct campuses, located at Lusaka and Ndola, with a third one planned for Kolwezi. Each campus has its own academic and administrative staff, headed by a principal, and handles certain designated disciplines. The central administration of the University of Zambia is located at the Lusaka campus, hence the decision of the mission to confine its visit to this campus.

6. POINTS ARISING FROM THE DISCUSSIONS

1. University Interest in the Program

In the discussions with both the Vice-Chancellor and the Deputy Vice-Chancellor, the mission was assured of the University's strong interest in hosting the program. The Deputy Vice-Chancellor, in particular, gave a number of reasons why people trained in information science would be of use to Zambia. He referred to the various research institutes in the country and to the Ministry of Agriculture and Water Resources as examples of organizations where the need for organized information was known to exist. However, he reserved the elaboration of these points for a subsequent occasion when the mission could meet representatives of various departments in the University.

The University Secretary also endorsed the need for the program to be located in the University of Zambia. He gave, as justification for this, Zambia's acute shortage of locally trained senior personnel in this field, as well as the high cost involved in training such persons abroad. He mentioned, as some of the advantages which the University possessed for hosting the program, the fact...
that certain physical facilities belonging to the United Nations Institute for Namibia and the Commonwealth Youth Programme, based in Lusaka, were likely to revert to the University in the foreseeable future.

2. The University's Conception of the Program

During the mission's discussions with the individuals mentioned above, no attempt was made to establish how these persons conceived the proposed program. It was not until the formal meeting with the representatives of departments, that this matter was tackled. The general impression gained by the mission was that, while a few individuals, such as the professionals in the field of information and others whose work and interests entail constant search for information, had a fairly clear conception of the proposed program, the majority of those we met did not.

The specialists in computer science also appreciated the contribution which knowledge of computer technology could make to the program, even though they seemed to lack experience in the actual application of this technology to bibliographic problems. In this connection, it was indicated that, although various parts of the University were making use of the available computer resources in connection with their work, it had not yet been possible for the University Library to take advantage of these resources.

Another point which the mission noted was that, despite suggestions that a large number of departments would benefit from the proposed program if it were located in the University and might also be able to contribute to it, few of these departments seemed to have a clear idea of the relationships between their respective disciplines and information science.
It was obvious, throughout the discussions, that the University saw the proposed program as primarily serving the manpower needs of Zambia. However, it was generally accepted that, as a regional program, it would have to take the needs of participating countries into account.

With regard to the location of the program within the academic structure of the University, the view of the professionals was that it would be an entirely separate unit from the Department of Library Studies, but closely associated with it. If necessary, however, the program could start off, in the embryonic stages, as part of the existing Department of Library Studies, though retaining its own identity.

The details of the curricular structure of the program were not discussed, nor were the kinds of qualifications to which the courses would lead. However, it was clearly understood that these details would need to be worked out in consultation with the participating countries during the preparatory stages of the program, as had been the case with the proposed Regional School of Veterinary Medicine which was to have been based in the University of Zambia.

3. Availability of Staff

The University does not, at present, run full courses in information science, but it offers courses in librarianship as part of the Bachelor of Arts degree programs. There is also a diploma course for the training of sub-professionals in librarianship.

The courses in computer science are given by staff from the Computer
Centre, which is a general university facility, and from the Departments of Mathematics and Engineering. However, there are plans for starting a B.Sc. course in computer science in four years, and two students are, at present, undergoing postgraduate training abroad for this purpose. The staff from these programs could provide inputs into the proposed postgraduate program. Some of the staff from the Department of Library Studies and the University Library, especially those with training in information science, could similarly provide support. These persons, however, cannot be regarded as sufficiently capable, at present, to undertake full responsibility for the program, and would therefore need to be supplemented by much more experienced staff from outside Zambia. There appears to be no other source within the country from which additional staff could be tapped. The possibility of using staff from other departments cannot be completely ruled out, but the immediate prospects do not appear to be good.

4. Physical Facilities

The University has a good functional library which, with a little improvement in collection development within the areas of the program, could offer adequate training facilities. Another major source of physical input is the Computer Centre, which has a leased ICL 2904 interactive system, with nine terminals, three of which are located in various departments of the University. We were informed that there are plans for increasing the number of terminals. The computer is, at present, used at least 15 hours a day, but, apparently, there would be no difficulty in allocating time for work connected with the program. It would be necessary, however, for additional but less expensive equipment to be installed for teaching and for the provision of practical training for the students.
The situation in the University with respect to staff and student accommodation as well as classroom space, appears tight at the moment. However, as already mentioned above, it is expected that additional accommodation will become available when the building occupied by the Commonwealth Youth Programme, located on the Campus, reverts to the University in the near future at the expiration of the program in Zambia. Another facility which the University expects to inherit will be the premises of the United Nations Institute for Namibia, located in Lusaka, which will be vacated when Namibia becomes independent. If these additional facilities were, in fact, to become available, the University would be in a better position to accommodate the program, in the initial stages but, it would definitely be necessary to provide additional accommodation as the program develops.

E. Government Commitment

We were assured both by the University authorities and by the officials we met in the Ministry for Higher Education and the National Commission for Development Planning, that the government would give favourable consideration to providing financial support to the program, if it was formally presented by the University as a priority request. The University itself indicated that the approach it would adopt in the development of the program would ensure that the required financial outlay would be absorbed to the maximum possible extent in the regular University budget in order to facilitate the acceptance of the program by the government. 
6 Local and External Communications

The mission noted that Zambia has good air transportation to the rest of eastern and southern Africa and, via Nairobi, to West Africa. It also has excellent telecommunications connections with the outside world, although links with West Africa are not as good as they might be. On these counts, therefore, the program would face no difficulties, if it were to be located in the University of Zambia.

C. CONCLUSIONS

There is little doubt that the University of Zambia has many points to commend it as a possible location for the program. Its advantages would need, however, to be carefully balanced against the physical, institutional, and manpower deficiencies already noted.

UNIVERSITY OF ZIMBABWE, HARARE
(23-26 February 1983)

A. INTRODUCTION

The mission held meetings first with the University Librarian, Mr. S.N. Wade, and then with the Vice-Chancellor, Professor W.J. Kamba. After this, it held another meeting with the following persons representing professional library and archival interests in the University, and in the country at large.
B. POINTS ARISING FROM DISCUSSIONS

1. University's Position

In the discussion with the University Librarian, Mr. Made, the mission was made to understand that the University did not, at present, have programs in either library studies or information science, although he felt that it would be interested in a postgraduate program in the latter. The country was, at present, engaged in an extensive program for upgrading the quality of community life in the rural areas, and there were plans for establishing some 55 rural libraries. There was, therefore, a great need for middle-level library personnel who could staff these, as well as the school libraries. It has been decided, as a matter of official government policy, that until a permanent training centre for the course could be built, the most effective way to meet this need was to establish a four-year post-secondary diploma course in librarianship at Belvedere Teachers' College in Harare. The University of Zimbabwe would award the diploma and provide teaching support for the course; in all other respects, however, Belvedere Teachers' College would be responsible for it.

.... /50
The mission's meeting with the Vice-Chancellor, though short, was extremely useful and rewarding. He assured the mission that the University recognized the importance and value of information science, but did not regard a postgraduate program in the field as one of its present priorities, having regard for the large number of other programs which needed urgent attention for the purpose of meeting important national goals, as well as the limited financial and other resources available to the University.

He felt that, as things now stood, even if the proposed program were to be wholly financed from external sources, he could not see the University taking it over at some future date, so long as this would involve the assumption of any financial and other obligations on the part of the University, especially if the program was intended to serve other countries besides Zimbabwe. In his view, in establishing any program in the University, whether it was local or regional, the crucial test was what Zimbabwe stood to gain from it. He was convinced that the most realistic way for the country to meet its manpower requirements in the field of information science, for the time being, would be to take advantage of training facilities outside Zimbabwe. However, he expressed the hope that the proposed program would be located within eastern Africa which, he felt, had superior transport and telecommunications facilities to those available in West Africa.

In the light of the discussion with the Vice-Chancellor, the mission did not consider it necessary to explore any further the University's willingness or capability to host the program. This was not because the mission felt that the Vice-Chancellor had closed the door completely to the idea of a program in information science...
ever being established in the University, but rather that quite obviously the mission was not in a position to accommodated within its terms of reference the position so clearly and frankly stated by the Vice-Chancellor.

2 Views of Professionals

Bearing in mind the University's response to the idea of hosting the proposed program the mission, in its discussion with the professionals in librarianship and archival studies, focussed its attention on identifying Zimbabwe's needs in information science and how it was proposed to meet these needs.

It was evident that the majority of those present at the meeting recognized the importance of information science and the complementary role it could play in both the public and private sectors to the work of professional librarians and archivists. However, there was a division of opinion as to whether the time was ripe now for Zimbabwe to establish or support a postgraduate program of the kind the mission had in mind, either within the University or elsewhere in the country.

The general feeling seemed to be that the present realities and needs of the country in the information field called primarily for emphasis on the training of librarians at sub-professional rather than full professional levels. It was only when a sufficient number of such persons had been produced, that the country could consider embarking on more advanced and sophisticated training programs, such as full-fledged postgraduate program in information science. In this connection the point was made that, in drawing up programs for
the training of handlers of information, attention should not be concentrated only on librarians and information scientists, but should be extended also to archivists, in view of their very important role in the preservation of certain types of information of particular concern to developing countries.

With regard to the training of information scientists in Zimbabwe, the mission was made to understand that the countries forming the Southern African Development Cooperation Conference (SADCC) had endorsed the establishment of an information collection and dissemination facility for the southern African region. It was expected that the coordinating focus for this facility, which would be known as SADIS (Southern African Documentation and Information System), would be located in Zimbabwe. In addition to providing service to the region, the facility would also train information scientists for both the public and private sectors. Although the details of the proposed training program were not elaborated, the mission was made to understand that the program would be closely associated with the University.

It became obvious, in the course of the discussion, that the proposed SADIS training program would be of a different character from the regional postgraduate program in information science envisaged by the mission, not only as regards its geographical coverage, but, more important, in its level and content.
Finally, a suggestion was made that at the present time the manpower needs of Zimbabwe in the area of information science, might be better met by the establishment of a program consisting of a combination of courses in information science, as well as in library and archival studies. Interesting thought this idea was felt to be, the mission could not seriously react to it, since it fell outside its terms of reference.

C. CONCLUSION

By the end of the visit to the University, it was quite clear to the mission that the University of Zimbabwe, despite its support for the idea of the program, was not, at present, in a position to host it in view of its current concern with more urgent developments aimed at meeting important national needs. There was no mistaking the fact, however, that both the University and the city of Harare, could offer a highly stimulating and challenging environment for work in the field of information science.
PART III: CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

CONCLUSION

Unesco and IDRC, via their programs and activities within Africa, have for some time been deeply aware of the urgent need for human resource development in the field of information science. At the London Planning Meeting the mission came to the same conclusion, and agreed that the best way to meet this need was to establish appropriate programs in information science within existing African universities. After visiting the eight universities discussed in Part II of this report, the mission became even more convinced of the need for information scientists and the present inadequacy of facilities for training such specialists. Every single one of the Vice-Chancellors, as well as other academics, administrators, and professionals with whom the mission met, identified the absence or inadequacy of properly trained information specialists as the primary stumbling block in the development of effective information programs. At the highest decision-making levels in all the universities visited by the mission, the need for a strong information infrastructure was deemed as essential for the improvement of social and economic development at national and regional levels within Africa.

It was gratifying to find that although the idea of the mission had been initiated outside Africa, there was such unanimous agreement among African educators and policy-makers regarding the vital importance of its purpose. In spite of this, the enormity of the task entrusted to it was not lost on the mission. Having regard to the geographical distribution, areal coverage, and population size of the anglophone countries of Africa, it is quite obvious that a

... /55
single postgraduate program located in one university cannot by itself solve the information manpower training problems of the entire region. It was recognized, however, by both the mission and those individuals with whom we held discussions, that the establishment of the program, though not sufficient, was absolutely necessary as a first step. It is believed that once such a program is established and is seen to be successful, other similar programs will spring forth.

Part II of this report presents a summary of the discussions held with university officials and other persons with relevant knowledge and interests. It is important, however, to mention that the very strong interest in and support for the program shown by university personnel were equally shared by many government officials.

Official support for the program was particularly evident in Nigeria, Ethiopia, and Zambia. In Nigeria we were informed of the commitment by the federal government to support the establishment of a postgraduate training program in the field of information technology and related disciplines. The support by the National Commission of Universities which comes under the administration of the Ministry of Education, has already been mentioned within the section on the University of Ibadan. Any new program at the postgraduate level must be approved by this Commission before implementation. And, as has been indicated, the University of Ibadan has already received authorization to establish a postgraduate program in information science with a regional character.

In Ethiopia, as it has already been stated, we were assured that the Government has politically endorsed and financially committed itself to the establishment of a regional postgraduate program at the University of Addis Ababa. Mention should also be made of the very strong interest in the program expressed by international organizations and agencies, especially Unesco, ECA, and ILCA.
In Zambia, lengthy meetings were held with the National Commission for Development Planning and the Ministry for Higher Education. Both of these agencies must approve the establishment of postgraduate programs with a regional mandate. Although there is little doubt the "Zambianization" is of top priority with respect to the creation of a cadre of trained manpower in all sectors, it was evident that, at the governmental level, Zambia is supportive of a regional postgraduate program in information science.

In Zimbabwe, although the question of official support for the program was not discussed in specific terms, there was little doubt about the Government's interest in the development of appropriate programs in information science, although not necessarily within the context of the University as envisaged by the mission.

In the Introduction to this report, the criteria for evaluating the universities' capabilities to support the postgraduate program were given. In the mission's attempt to evaluate the capabilities of the various universities visited to support the envisaged program, the criteria were reformulated in order to facilitate the application of a numerical ranking matrix. For this purpose, the following categories were identified:

A. Level of Interest

C. Potential for Continuity of the Program

1 Please see Annex D
C. Availability of
   1) good library
   11) computer facilities
   111) supporting disciplines

D Communication
   1) transport
   11) telecommunications

E. Physical Facilities:
   1) staff and student accommodation
   11) classrooms
   111) staff offices

F. Availability of Local Staff

G. Facilities for Field Work

H Universities' Conceptions of the Program

I. Supplementary Teaching Resources outside the University

The scoring range was from one to ten, with one signifying poor and ten excellent. On the basis of this scoring, the universities have been ranked in the following order of merit:

1. University of Ibadan, Nigeria
2. University of Lagos, Nigeria
3. University of Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
4. University of Zambia, Zambia
5. University of Ife, Nigeria
6. University of Zimbabwe, Zimbabwe
7. University of Nairobi, Kenya
8. University of Ghana, Ghana
RECOMMENDATIONS

According to its terms of reference, the mission was required to identify a university which could support a regional program in information science at the postgraduate level. However, it may be recalled that in their discussions in Hong Kong in 1981, the Commonwealth Vice-Chancellors had suggested that a minimum of two programs were necessary to serve anglophone Africa. The mission felt that, although its primary concern should be the identification of a single centre for the program, for practical reasons it was necessary to keep open the option expressed by the Vice-Chancellors, in view of the vast size of the region and the high standard of work in relevant fields already in progress in many of the eight universities visited. It was particularly evident, both from the mission's own observations and from those of many persons in eastern Africa, that a serious communication watershed exists between the countries of West Africa and those of eastern and southern Africa. This would seem to point to the desirability of establishing two centres in the region so that the needs of each part can be adequately met.

In the light of the foregoing, the mission recommends as follows:

1. Other things being equal, there should be established two regional programs in information science, one in West Africa, and the other in eastern and southern Africa.
2. In the light of the ranking order given on page 57, the obvious choice for West Africa is the University of Ibadan. This choice is strengthened by the fact that the Government of Nigeria is prepared to support one regional postgraduate program in information science and, through its National Commission on Universities, has authorized the University of Ibadan to seek external support for the establishment of such a program. From the program proposal submitted to the mission by the University of Ibadan, the amount of external funding likely to be required will be relatively modest, which should enhance the chances of mobilizing support from donor agencies, and for launching the program fairly quickly.

3. Considering the high ranking attained by the University of Lagos, that institution should be held in reserve as a possible location should the University of Ibadan for any reason be unable to host the program.

4. As the location with the highest ranking in eastern and southern Africa, the University of Addis Ababa is the obvious choice for this part of the region. The strengths of the University of Addis Ababa have already been discussed in Part II and do not require restatement. However, attention should be drawn briefly to the impressive concentration of organizations and agencies in the city which provide an unparalleled environment for the proposed program, especially with regard to the practical aspects. It should be pointed out, however, that despite the highly favourable locational and environmental advantages enjoyed by Addis Ababa, the absence of an adequate infrastructure in the University could constitute a serious drawback for the ready implementation of the program. The willingness of donors to provide additional financial support required will be crucial to the success of the program.
5 Much as the mission would have liked to recommend an alternative in the event of the University of Addis Ababa not being able to host the program, it feels that in the prevailing circumstances, it is unable to do so.

6. The mission recognizes that it will not be immediately possible to implement the above recommendations until certain preparatory processes have been set in motion. These matters do not strictly fall within the mission's terms of reference, but they are so important to the success of the program that they require serious attention. We have therefore ventured, in the final paragraph of the report, to make certain recommendations regarding these processes.

This report of the mission cannot be concluded without giving sincere thanks to the university officials with whom we met in the execution of the mission's task. Without exception, the hospitality and kindness offered were of the highest order. Every attempt was made to make our hectic and sometimes difficult schedule illuminating and productive. The task of attempting to select one out of all the institutions we visited for the location of the program has been for us an invidious one. However, we are encouraged by the thought that regardless of the location selected for the program, all those whom we met during our mission appeared to be fully committed to the idea of establishing a viable program within to the region and are prepared to work for its full implementation and success.
It is also our hope that as a result of the mission, the development of programs in information science will generally be stimulated in English-speaking universities in Africa.

The next step is for academic and administrative models for the program to be worked out for the institutions selected, taking into account local circumstances, needs, and capabilities. It will also be necessary for detailed implementation schedules to be developed.

For these two tasks, we would recommend the establishment of an interim planning committee composed of information specialists and individuals with broad academic and administrative experience. This committee will be expected to work in close consultation with the universities selected for the program and with the sponsoring agencies.
MAP OF COUNTRIES IN ORDER VISITED

LEGEND

1. Accra, Ghana
2. Lagos, Nigeria
3. Ibadan, Nigeria
4. Ife, Nigeria
5. Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
6. Nairobi, Kenya
7. Lusaka, Zambia
8. Harare, Zimbabwe
Annex B

Dates of Visits and
List of Individuals with Whom Discussions Were Held

Accra, Ghana 31 January - 2 February

Dr. Jil Akita, Acting Head of the Department of Library and Archival Studies
Dr. Paul Ansa, Head of the School of Journalism and Communication
Professor K E Senanu, Pro-Vice-Chancellor

Lagos, Nigeria: 2-5 and 11 February

Dr. O. Abass, Acting Head of the Department of Computer Sciences (Chairman)
Mrs. Adeooun, Information Unit in the Vice-Chancellor's Office
Professor A.O. Adesola, Vice-Chancellor
Mr. Simeon B Age, Director, National Library of Nigeria
Dr. F.O. Akinluyi, Director of Planning in the Vice-Chancellor's Office
Mr. A. Calloway, Acting Unesco Representative
Mrs. B A Mowoe, Secretary General, Nigerian National Commission for Unesco
Mrs. O A. Odeyemi, Planning Unit of the Vice-Chancellor's Office
Mr A Bola Olaniyan, Director, National Planning, Federal Ministry of Education
Dr. Frank Ugboajah, Acting Head of the Department of Mass Communication

Ibadan, Nigeria: 5-9 February

Professor A. Banjo, Deputy Vice-Chancellor
Professor B.L. Fetuga, Dean, Post-graduate Studies
Professor F.B.A. Giwa, Director, Computing Centre
Professor M O. Kayode, Director, CEREMAC (Planning Unit of the University)
Mrs. T.O. Odaninde, University Librarian
Professor S.O. Olayide, Vice-Chancellor and Chairman
Professor A.O. Phillips, Chairman, Committee of Deans

Mr. D. Fox, Computer Consultant, IITA
Dr. S. Lawani, Librarian, IITA
Dr. Shebeski, Deputy Director, IITA
Ife, Nigeria 9-10 February

Professor W. Abimbola, Vice-Chancellor
Professor A. Adenuga, Deputy Vice-Chancellor
Dr. G A. Balogun, Director, Computer Centre
Professor S B Jaiyesimi, Head, Department of Computer Sciences
Mrs. O. Ojo-Ade, Acting University Librarian
Professor S.A. Sanni, Chairman, Committee of Deans

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia 12-16 February

Mr. Ato Getachew Birru, University Librarian
Dr. Duri Mohammed, President
Dr. Asmelash Sayene, Vice-President for Business and Development
Dr. Shihru Tedla, Dean of the School of Graduate Studies
Dr. Aregay Waketola, Research and Publications Officer
Mrs. Almaz Zewde, External Relations Officer

Dr. Peter Bumby, Director, ILCA
Mr. M. Hailu, Documentalist, ILCA

Mr. Manirakiza, Economic Commission for Africa
Mr. K T. Maruba, PADIS, Economic Commission for Africa

Mr. Awad Idris, Unesco Representative

Mr. W. Agnès, Canadian Ambassador to Ethiopia

Nairobi, Kenya 16-19 February

Professor J.M. Njunjai, Vice-Chancellor
Mr. John Mdegwa, University Librarian

Mr. Bruce Scott, Regional Director, IDRC

Lusaka, Zambia 19-23 February

Mr. D.O. Bampoe, Acting Chief Librarian
Professor U B. Banage, Department of Biology and Natural Sciences, Lusaka
Lusaka, Zambia (continued)

Mr. I. W. Chikalanga, Department of Education, Lusaka
Dr. P. M. Haamjompa, Dean of the Faculty of Education
Mr. A. M. Kamiki, Department of Library Studies, Lusaka
Professor J. M. Kelly, Deputy Vice-Chancellor
Mr. E. D. T. Kularatne, Department of Library Studies, Lusaka
Dr. M. Lisinba, Department of Literature and Languages
Dr. Maurice C. Lundu, Librarian, Ndola
Dr. E. M. Lunqu, Department of Mathematics, Lusaka
Mr. A. L. C. Msika, University Library, Lusaka
Mr. J. G. Mvonga, Computer Centre, Lusaka
Dr. H. Mwachalimba, University Library, Lusaka
Dr. J. M. Mwanga, Vice-Chancellor
Mr. M. Mwila, Department of Library Studies, Lusaka
Dr. V. G. Nyirenda, University Secretary
Mr. H. C. Parameswar, School of Engineering, Lusaka
Mr. Z. M. K. Phiri, University Library, Lusaka
Miss R. K. Shakakata, University Library, Lusaka
Mr. Derek T. Simons, University Library, Lusaka
Mrs. C. C. Zulu, University Library, Lusaka
Assistant Secretary for International Cooperation in the Ministry of Higher Education, Deputising for the Permanent Secretary

Mr. J. C. Samuelson, British Council

Mr. M. J. Mwali, Assistant Director General, National Commission for Development Planning

Mr. N. Walubita, Zambia Library Service

Harare, Zimbabwe 23-26 February

Professor W. J. Kamba, Vice-Chancellor
Mr. S. M. Made, University Librarian
Mr. Odysseus T. Mupawenda, University Library

Mr. Bradshaw L. B. Mushonna, Government Library Service

Mr. John Mapondera, Acting Chief, Information, Ministry of Education and Culture
Mrs. Jane Smith, Ministry of Education and Culture
Harare, Zimbabwe (continued)

Miss Pamela Francis, National Archives of Zimbabwe
Mrs. Angeline Kamba, Director, National Archives of Zimbabwe

Mrs. Theresa Harvey, British Council

Mr. Keith A. Youds, Belvedere Teachers' College
## EVALUATION OF THE UNIVERSITIES' CAPABILITIES TO SUPPORT A REGIONAL POSTGRADUATE PROGRAM IN INFORMATION SCIENCE IN ANGLOPHONE AFRICA

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<td>iii) supporting disciplines</td>
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<td><strong>E. Physical Facilities</strong></td>
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<td>iii) staff offices</td>
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<td><strong>F. Availability of Local Staff</strong></td>
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<td><strong>G. Facilities for Fieldwork</strong></td>
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<td><strong>H. University's Conception of the Program</strong></td>
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<td><strong>I. Supplementary Teaching Resources outside the University</strong></td>
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**NOTE** Scoring Range 1 to 10 (poor to excellent).
REGIONAL POST-GRADUATE PROGRAM OF INFORMATION SCIENCE
IN ANGLOPHONE AFRICA

Report of a planning meeting of the
Unesco/IDRC "mission

to identify an appropriate location for the program

August 10-12, 1982
Association of Commonwealth Universities
36 Gordon Square
London, England

PARTICIPANTS

Professor K. A. Boateng
Environmental Consultancy Service
Accra, Ghana

Mr. E. T. E. Lwanga
Chief Librarian
University of Zambia
Lusaka, Zambia

Mr. Kenneth Roberts
Chairman
Chief, Section of Training
Information Specialists & Users
Division of General Information Programmes
Unesco
Paris, France

Ms. Louise Rohonczy
Rapporteur
Senior Program Officer
Fellowship Program
IDRC
Ottawa, Canada

Ms. Martha B. Stone
Deputy Director
Information Sciences
IDRC
Ottawa, Canada
I. INTRODUCTION

The Information Sciences Division of IDRC and the Division of the General Information Programme of Unesco (UNESCO) have been discussing for some time the feasibility and viability of establishing a regional post-graduate program of information science in anglophone Africa. In order to determine the interest in the creation of such a program among the African university community, Dr. A. Christoulou, Secretary General of the Association of Commonwealth Universities (ACU) has at the suggestion of IDRC explored the matter at the meeting of Commonwealth Heads of Universities held in Hong Kong in March 1981. The response was extremely favorable and a number of universities soon indicated interest in supporting such a school.

It was then evident that considerable work would have to be done to identify the most appropriate location for the program. Unesco and IDRC agreed to send a joint mission to visit several African universities and make recommendations to both agencies as to a suitable location.
Professor C.A. Roatere, former Vice-Chancellor of the University of Cape Coast and former President of the Academy of Sciences of Ghana and Professor F.T.K. Luanga, Chief Librarian of the University of Zambia have consented to participate in the mission. The mission will also include Mr. Kenneth Roberts, Chief of PCI Section of Training Information Specialists and Users, Unesco and Ms. Martha Stone, Associate Director, Information Sciences Division, IDRC.

The Association of Commonwealth Universities kindly offered to provide the facilities for a planning meeting for the mission. Discussions were based on the following informal agenda.
II. AGENDA

1. Introductory discussion. Origins of the proposal; history and development to date.

2. Terms of reference and objectives of mission (including discussion of the eventual administrative structure of the program, possible types of training and criteria for selection of a location).

3. Discussion of correspondence received from institutions.

4. Review of other possible locations.

5. Decision on list of institutions to be visited and preparation of tentative itinerary.

6. Discussion on contents of final report of the mission and preparation of its draft outline.
III. DISCUSSIONS

1. INTRODUCTION

In order to make the context of the mission clear, Ms. Stone and Mr. Roberts began the meeting by explaining briefly how Unesco and IDRC had arrived at their decision to work toward the establishment of a regional post-graduate program in information science in anglophone Africa.

There is an increasing need for information scientists in the developing world and IDRC invests heavily in training in connection with the research projects it supports. Moreover, while anglophone Africa has a number of excellent schools of library science and programs in computer science, no program exists which can provide teaching in the interdisciplinary fields of documentation; information systems design, analysis, control and retrieval. To obtain these skills students must now study abroad.
Although not every attempt to establish regional programs in Africa or elsewhere has been successful, there have been experiences on every continent which indicate that the regional concept can be viable. The program in information science at the University of the Philippines at Manila, currently receiving support from Unesco, has been very successful.

Unesco and IDRC have also felt that the perpetuation of study abroad can never provide a fully satisfactory solution to all post-graduate training needs. The adaptation of information systems and techniques for Africa is vital, and it is also important to train a solid core of professional leaders who understand the particular problems of information needs and resources in Africa. The need for developing national or regional training programs in information science had been put forward as far back as 1971 in Unesco's UNISIST Study Report on the Feasibility of a World Information System.

Information Systems and Access to Knowledge with a strong emphasis on the use of information in development is one of the 13 major program areas developed in Unesco's Draft Medium-Term Plan for 1984-1989. Training is certain to receive major emphasis in the implementation of this Plan.
After obtaining the favourable reaction of several of the Vice-Chancellors of African universities, the Information Sciences Division of IDRC approached the Division of the General Information Programme (PGI) of Unesco in September 1981 to discuss how the establishment of a regional program might be furthered. As a first step, it was decided to send a joint mission to investigate and recommend a suitable location for the program. If a full scale proposal can be developed, it will be submitted to appropriate sources such as UNDP for funding. IDRC would be interested, subject to the approval of its Board, in supporting the design and implementation of a curriculum, with a follow-up evaluation of the program's effectiveness.

2. TERMS OF REFERENCE AND OBJECTIVES OF THE MISSION

Mr. Roberts had drawn up draft terms of reference of the mission for discussion at the meeting which included a number of criteria for the choice of a location of the school.

The main purpose of this discussion was to examine and refine the criteria, and the final list is to be found in Appendix 1.

In the course of the examination, a number of questions were raised and debated as follows.
a) **Should governments be sounded concerning their possible support for the project prior to or at the same time as the universities?**

This question arose from the regional nature of the program and the fact that funding from intergovernmental organizations may be sought. Furthermore, government support will obviously be necessary for any university which sets up the program.

In the case of the Manila program, the original support came from university administration, heads of information organizations and institutions and other professional leaders who ultimately gained support of governments of the region for well-prepared plans.

Insofar as the main object of the mission is to discuss the ability of the university to support a graduate program in information science, the meeting concluded that these discussions would be held primarily with the universities. The question of formal governmental support could be pursued at a later date when one or more locations have been recommended.
Furthermore, as Professor Boateng pointed out, it is generally up to universities to convince governments to support their initiatives, and one of the areas the mission must try to assess is the general level of political support the various universities enjoy. The mission should also seek information on the working relationship between the government and university (see criteria 1 and 2).

b) In what sense is this program to be "regional"?

The two possibilities would be 1) a program supported jointly by several governments who would thus have the right to send students from their countries, 2) a national program which has ongoing formal commitment to accept students from the region.

Either option has inherent difficulties, but the meeting agreed that option 2 was the least vulnerable to the changing climate of international relations, and was much simpler to administer. Some means would have to be found to ensure that the program reflected the needs of the region to be served, and to ensure that foreign students would be admitted on as equal a basis as possible with students of the host country.
The program might be endowed with an international advisory board or council and no doubt a system for awarding fellowships would be needed. The mission should pay careful attention to institutions which already have experience in managing successful regional programs in other fields.

c) **What is the nature and extent of the support envisaged?**

Building new programs will obviously take a number of years. The meeting agreed that support would be required for a minimum of six years and possibly for as long as ten, although not at the same level throughout.

Ms. Stone and Mr. Roberts made it clear that Unesco and IDRC do not have in mind a large investment in computer hardware and buildings. Neither organization finances large capital investments from their own budgets. The university chosen would have to provide a solid basis of facilities and services. Serious weaknesses in such areas as criteria No. 4 (existence of good computer facilities) and No. 6 (housing, classroom facilities, offices and administrative services) would probably eliminate any institution from serious consideration. Staff development, assistance fellowships and software to support the information science program would be provided, depending on the requirements of the university.
Obviously no one institution under consideration will meet equally well all criteria, and the type and amount of support required cannot yet be stated even approximately.

d) Should the program provide short-term continuing education or 'refresher' courses in addition to the regular post-graduate degree?

Discussion showed that major African universities do frequently offer short-term courses of a technical nature to practitioners in various professional fields. For example, over the years, the German Foundation for International Development has developed an important program for this type of training in Africa and has provided technical and financial support to many African universities. Mr. Lwanga pointed out that there continues to be a strong demand for refresher courses for professionals who need training in areas where information science is evolving rapidly. Through such courses the program could reach larger numbers and increase its impact.

Although it was noted that the short-term course is not the level of training which is of primary concern to the mission, it was agreed that the universities would be asked about their interest in offering short-term courses, which might be offered for example, between academic terms, in addition to the establishment of a formal program in information science.
e) Should the mission consult with the African professional library associations as well as the universities?

Mr. Iwanga recommended that the professional community be consulted in order to obtain their opinions on the viability of the project, and (hopefully) their support. This consultation might take place via the national and regional library associations, for instance. Some reticence was felt on this point as a very wide consultation would add substantially to the work of the mission and more importantly, might uselessly raise expectations for a project which is by no means yet certain.

It was agreed, however, to send information to professional associations in the library and information science field. This could be done first through Unesco, IFLA, and FID channels such as the UNISIST Newsletter and the Newsletter on Education and Training Programmes for Information Personnel.

f) Should we be thinking in terms of one regional centre only?

In their discussions in Hong Kong in 1981, the Commonwealth Vice-Chancellors had suggested that a minimum of two programs were necessary to serve anglophone Africa. While this is obviously true, there can be no question at present of identifying funding for the development of two regional programs.
However, Professor Boateng suggested that it might be possible to envisage one program with 'out posts', that is, with certain courses -- in particular the professional upgrading or continuing education courses -- being offered in the 'out posts'. The information science program at the Institute of Library Science, University of the Philippines, may move in this direction and, it may be useful to examine their experience.

This suggestion was taken up with enthusiasm, particularly as such a system could have the effect of slowly building strength and competence in the field of information science in other Africa universities.

3. DISCUSSION OF CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED FROM AFRICAN UNIVERSITIES

The Secretary-General of the A.C.U. had written on February 21, 1981, to the Vice-Chancellors of African Commonwealth Universities asking them to discuss the idea of a regional post-graduate program of information science at the Hong Kong meeting of Vice-Chancellors of Commonwealth Universities in March 1981. In addition to the favourable response at the meeting itself, written responses have been received from a number of African universities. These have ranged from expressions of general support but without interest in setting up a program locally, to one very complete proposal for a program which has already been formally submitted to several international funding agencies.
The meeting proceeded to discuss the institutions which have responded in writing, as follows: the University of Ghana at Legon; the University of Ife; the University of Nairobi; the University of Zambia; the University of Zimbabwe.

2) THE UNIVERSITY OF GHANA

The present economic situation in Ghana militates against locating a new program there, particularly one of a regional nature; however, the meeting agreed that the particular strengths and evident interest of this University make it a serious candidate.

It has long been a leader in librarianship studies, and has a regional school of archival studies in operation. In addition, it provides graduate level teaching in the cognate disciplines of computer science, linguistics and business administration.

b) THE UNIVERSITIES OF NIGERIA

1) IBADAJ is the university which has submitted a very complete and well developed proposal for an "African Regional Centre for Information Sciences" (ARIS) to several international funding agencies.
The University is well established; it has a strong library school and good programs in relevant disciplines. The meeting noted that Ibadan's presentation of such a fully articulated proposal was due in large measure to the fact that Wilson Aiyepelu, senior lecturer in the Department of Library Studies, recently spent a year with JDRC and had been involved in early discussions concerning the regional school of information sciences. This University is obviously a prime candidate, but the meeting did feel that in reaching a decision serious consideration should also be given to building up another university which might be somewhat less well-endowed.

2) LAGOS: the letter from Lagos was interesting in that it showed the Vice-Chancellor has consulted the various departments and schools which could be expected to have input into the program, and all had shown interest. This University has a good library and a regional program in computer science; it is in touch with many professional communities in the country. As a result, the University of Lagos seems a strong candidate.
3) **Ife**. The Vice-Chancellor of Ife expressed support for the establishment of a regional program in a letter dated 10 March, 1981, and indicated that the university would send "a more detailed response in due course". This has never arrived and it is thus not known whether Ife wants the program there, or simply thinks it should be located in Nigeria. It has a good library as well as departments in computer science, linguistics and management. The meeting agreed that it seemed a secondary candidate, but should probably be visited particularly as it is so near Ibadan.

c) **University of Nairobi**

The reactions from the University of Nairobi have been varied. The Vice-Chancellor had indicated (in April 1981) that the University plans to set up its own program of librarianship archives and information studies (a technical report on this training project was prepared by Unesco at the request of Kenya in 1977-1978) and was therefore not prepared to follow up on this proposal. However, there is also information that the Department of Computer Science was indeed

...... /16
interested and, in January, 1981, the Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Professor 'Usanga, had expressed considerable interest during a discussion with Wilson Aiyepeku (then working with INRC). The University of Nairobi appears to meet many of the criteria drawn up for the choice of a school and would be a strong candidate if it should prove to be interested.

d) UNIVERSITY OF ZAMBIA

In March of 1981 the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Zambia had written to say that the University was not prepared to set up the proposed program, although he and his staff strongly supported the project. The then Dean of the Faculty of Education (which houses Library Studies) felt that his faculty could not launch a program of information sciences until it has at least set up its own I.L.S. program. Mr. Lwanga had suggested that the East and Southern African School of Management (ESAMI) in Arusha should be approached. The German Foundation for International Development has since 1981 supported the ESAMI in organizing and coordinating regional training programs to build up national and regional information infrastructures. In this venture they have sought the advice of a regional committee of experts. (This is an informally structured body of professionals which has been in existence since 1974.) It therefore had seemed logical at the time to encourage support of ESAMI.
Since then the thinking of key people at the University of Zambia has changed. The new Dean of Education feels it is time for the University to give serious thought to setting up post-graduate programs and is, indeed, hoping to launch a M.L.S. program in 1983. He also pointed out that the Library School already attracts many students from neighbouring countries and would undoubtedly draw many more if a quota were not imposed.

Mr. Lwanga now thinks that while ESAAT is an excellent venue for short courses, it is inappropriate for graduate training because it cannot give degrees and would have to affiliate with a university in order to do so. It would be more appropriate to locate the post-graduate information science training at a university than in an intergovernmental regional institute.

The meeting agreed that the University of Zambia could now be considered a strong candidate for the program. It is the most developed training centre south of Nairobi, and is easily accessible for all countries of Eastern and Southern Africa.
e) UNIVERSITY OF ZIMBABWE

In his letter of 2 March, 1981 to the A.C.U., the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Zimbabwe said that the proposal would be discussed with the senate and a report given later. As in the case of the University of Ife, no follow-up has been received. The University meets many of the criteria for the program. Information is accorded a high national priority; the University has departments of Business Studies, Computing Science, Linguistics and a Computer Centre; it is dynamic and its thinking is fresh. On the other hand, it is perhaps not ready to start a full new program. A good candidate, but the level of interest needs to be ascertained.

4. REVIEW OF OTHER POSSIBLE LOCATIONS

After discussing the universities which had reacted formally to the A.C.U. enquiry, the meeting went on to consider other institutions in African countries using English in higher education which might be considered as possible locations for the new program.
A certain number of universities were set aside because they did not have strong programs, either in library studies or coreate disciplines, i.e. Malawi, Khartoum, Sierra Leone and Liberia.

Professor Boeteng put forward the federal Universities of Nsukka and Amadu Bello in Nigeria. These are both well established institutions with good programs in relevant disciplines. Neither has evidenced interest in hosting the proposed program but it was suggested that a further letter of enquiry might be sent. On receipt of a reply the mission would decide whether to include them in the list of universities to be visited.

UNIVERSITY OF ADDIS ABABA

As Ethiopia is not a Commonwealth member, and as contacts with the universities have thus far been conducted via the ACU, Addis Ababa has not been asked to consider the proposal concerning a program of information sciences.

Ms. Stone suggested that Addis Ababa was worthy of serious consideration. the University is rethinking and expanding its programs and now has good government support.
The presence of the OAU, and other international installations such as ILCA in Addis Ababa, assure relatively good communications links and an 'international' presence in the city. Although the University does not have good computer facilities, arrangements might be worked out to give the program access to the excellent facilities of the ECA. The mission need not consider Commonwealth universities only.

It was agreed that the University should be asked if it wished to consider establishing a program in information science. A visit to the University would provide the opportunity for a consultation with ECA and OAU.

b) MAKERERE UNIVERSITY

The University is not now likely to wish to consider new programs. However, the meeting decided that a letter should be sent, as a courtesy, informing the University of the mission and inviting comments.

c) UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF BOTSWANA

The country is working on a strong central-ized national information plan and the Department of Library Studies at the College, headed by Professor S.I.A. Kotelo, former head of the Department of Library and Archival Studies at the University of Ghana, Legon, has already developed a good reputation. The school
is not yet in a position to start a graduate program but it was felt that Professor Kotel's advise and comments on this project would be of value, and that he should be consulted, either in person or in writing.

c) EAST AND SOUTHERN AFRICAN MANAGEMENT INSTITUTE, Arusha, Tanzania

As indicated during the discussion on the University of Zambia, ESAMI was not considered a suitable place for a post-graduate program: a) because of its regional intergovernmental character and b) because it cannot offer academic degrees or diplomas. However, the meeting did think that it might be a good location for short courses particularly as it already has some experience in this area.

5. DECISION ON UNIVERSITIES TO BE VISITED AND ESTABLISHMENT OF TENTATIVE ITINERARY

In light of the previous discussions, the following decisions were taken on university visits:

...... /92
a) To be visited

1) University of Ghana at Legon
2) University of Ibadan, Nigeria
3) University of Lagos, Nigeria
4) University of Ile, Nigeria
   (To be visited as it is close to Ibadan, but only for one day. It will be useful to discuss the proposal with them in view of their expressed support for it.)
5) University of Nairobi, Kenya
6) University of Zambia
7) University of Zimbabwe
8) University of Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

d) Possible visits:

1) University of Asuaka, Nigeria
2) Ahmadu Bello University, Nigeria

A letter should go to both inquiring about their interest in the program. The response would determine whether visits should be arranged.
c) **Not to be visited:**

1) **East and Southern African Management Institute (ESAMI), Tanzania:** ESAMI is not a university and is not in a position to offer graduate courses, although it might be considered as a suitable location for continuing education courses. It might therefore be mentioned in the final report as a possible 'outpost'.

2) **University College of Botswana:** A letter should be sent to Professor Kotei, Head of the Department of Library Studies, seeking his opinion on the concept of the regional program.

3) **Makerere University, Uganda:** A letter should be written to the Vice-Chancellor to inform him of the mission and its purpose.

4) **University of Sierra Leone**

5) **University of Liberia**

6) **University of Khartoum, Sudan**

7) **University of Malawi**
During the discussion on the schedule of visits, it rapidly became evident that, due to the commitments of various members of the mission, it would not be possible to undertake the mission it before the beginning of February 1963. This at first caused some dismay. However, considering that the letters to universities could not be mailed such before the academic year begins in October, and that the recipients would require time to study the matter and prepare for the visit, it was agreed that February, 1963, would be a satisfactory date.

The proposed itinerary for the mission is attached (Appendix II).

It was agreed that the background documentation for the mission would be mailed to the members of the mission in early December (see Appendix IV).

6. FINAL REPORT OF THE APRICAN MISSION

It was agreed that this report is to be addressed to the Director of Information Sciences of IDRC, and to the Director of PGI, Unesco, and signed by all members of the mission. The report will be divided into three parts.
Part I will be an introductory and background section, tracing the origins of and rationale for the proposal, outlining the objectives and terms of reference of the mission, and describing the type of program envisaged (as distinct from traditional library science) and the eventual role of the graduates of such a program. This section will be written prior to the mission by Kenneth Roberts and the final version will serve as a position paper for the mission.

Part II will be composed of the reports on the visits to the universities which will be written after each visit. Each report will assess to what degree the institution visited meets the criteria established for the choice of a location for the program. They will be written according to an established format, so as to allow relatively easy comparison. Mr. Lwanga and Professor Boateny agreed to be responsible for Part II.

Part III will contain the Conclusions and Recommendations of the mission. A first draft, prepared by Ms. Stone immediately after the mission, will recommend two or three universities for the location of the post-graduate program, in order of priority.
Professor Boateong felt strongly that the mission should also give its views on the eventual academic and administrative model for the program, as well as a proposed schedule for the implementation of the project. This could provide the selected university with useful guidelines and suggestions for the preparation of a formal proposal for submission to donor agencies. This was readily agreed upon.

The members of the mission decided to meet in Paris from 15-17 March, 1983, to discuss the draft of Part III Conclusions and Recommendations, to put it in final form, and also to introduce any necessary changes to the previous sections.

It is expected that the final report of the mission will be presented to Unesco and IDRC by 21 March 1983.

At the conclusion of the planning meeting, Ms. Stone, Mrs. Rononczy and Mr. Roberts met briefly to draw up a list of tasks to be carried out prior to the mission. This is attached as Appendix IV.
CRITERIA FOR THE CHOICE OF A LOCATION FOR THE PROGRAM

It is understood that, in addition to the graduate program, the school will offer short courses for the purpose of professional upgrading.

1. The level of interest manifested within the university and by the government concerned. (Includes political commitment and professional support.)

2. The potential administrative and financial ability of the institution to ensure continuation of the program and maintenance of its regional character at the end of a period of external support. (e.g. state of the physical plant and of the current budget; relations between administration/management and faculty, effectiveness of university in obtaining government support)

3. Presence in the university of related programs such as library, computer and management sciences and linguistics.

4. Existence of good computer and communications facilities to support the program. (Computer: potential access to data bases, disk space, software packages, programmers to work with teaching staff. Communications: telephone, telex, post, airport, etc.)

5. The existence of a dynamic library service strongly supported by the university administration and faculty.

6. The availability of the additional housing, classroom facilities, offices and administrative services required for the new students and staff.

...... /28
7. The existence of local teaching staff available to participate in the program.

8. Suitable facilities for field work/practical training.

9. An active university staff development program which would also apply to the program under consideration.
DRAFT OUTLINE OF FINAL REPORT

PART I:

1. Background of the mission: trace UNESCO and IDRC interests, origins and membership of the mission.

2. Trace interest expressed in Africa and donor agencies for such a program.

3. Objectives and terms of reference of mission.

4. Description of program envisaged, as distinct from traditional library studies programs. Role of the product of such a program.

5. Related experiences in other developing countries (ex: Philippines).

6. Description of types of tasks, jobs for graduates of programs.

PART II:

Report on visits to universities.

(Application, by institution, of the criteria for the choice of a location for a regional post-graduate program of information sciences).

PART III:

Conclusions and Recommendations.

1. Recommended location(s) (rationale and justification) in order of priority.

2. Proposed model (academic and administrative).

3. Envisaged implementation schedule.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COUNTRY</th>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>UNIVERSITY</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ghana</td>
<td>Arr. Monday Jan. 31</td>
<td>Legon</td>
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<td>Tuesday Feb. 1</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>Tuesday Feb. 8</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Wednesday Feb. 9</td>
<td>University of Ife</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>Monday Feb. 14</td>
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<td></td>
<td>or Sunday Feb. 27</td>
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<tr>
<td>Paris</td>
<td>Arr. Monday Mar. 14</td>
<td>Meeting to complete to</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Tuesday Mar. 15</td>
<td>and approve final report of mission.</td>
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Preparations for the UNESCO/IDRC Mission to determine a possible location for a post-graduate school of information sciences in anglophone Africa

As agreed during our final working session on Thursday, August 12th, here is the list of tasks to be accomplished prior to the mission, including approximate dates and/or deadlines and the division of labour.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TASK</th>
<th>PERSON RESPONSIBLE</th>
<th>DEADLINE</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
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<td>Final to be mailed to participants in September</td>
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<tr>
<td>2. Thank you letter to Association of Commonwealth Universities</td>
<td>M. Stone</td>
<td>by August 31</td>
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<tr>
<td>3. Letters to Universities outlining the objectives of the visit:</td>
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<tr>
<td>a) the 8 to be visited</td>
<td>Stone/Roberts</td>
<td>for mailing September</td>
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<tr>
<td>b) Makerere</td>
<td>Lwanga to draft</td>
<td>October</td>
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<tr>
<td>c) Botswana (Dr. Kotei)</td>
<td>Roberts</td>
<td>October</td>
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<tr>
<td>d) Nsukka/Ahmadu Bello</td>
<td>Roberts/Stone</td>
<td>September 30</td>
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</table>

...... 32
Note re Letters: Ssuka and Ahamaju Bello have thus far shown no interest in the school, although they have strengths in related areas. The purpose of this letter is to sound them out a little further and, depending on their reactions, to visit or not to visit.

Botswana is not a site to be considered, but K. Roberts is to seek comments and advice on the matter from Dr. Kotei.

The letter to Makerere is a matter of courtesy to a University we do not intend to visit for obvious reasons, but which would once have been a prime candidate for the school.

4. Information letter re project and mission to professional bodies Roberts Late Oct./early Nov.

5. Draft of Final Report (Part I) (also to be used as a position paper for the mission) Roberts

6. Background documentation for the mission
   a) Information on universities (course, listings, extracts from ACU Yearbook, exchanges of letters, etc.) Rohonczy to be mailed December or end November
   b) Information on UPILS Stone "
   c) Information on admin- Roberts "
   d) Extracts of Unesco Roberts C4/84-89
I would suggest that the documentation for the mission be assembled and mailed in one bundle from IDRC in early December or earlier if at all possible. The Canadian diplomatic bag should be used for Dr. Boateng and could also be used for Lusaka.

Universities should be asked to reply by mid-November so that by Christmas we might be able to finalise the itinerary and make hotel and flight bookings. I should like to suggest that the IDRC travel service work out the travel schedule which we will communicate to Unesco so Mr. Roberts and Mr. Lwanga's ticketing and hotel reservations can coincide.