THE NORDIC AFRICA INSTITUTE
NORDISKA AFRIKAINSTITUTET

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Acquisition policy

at the

Nordic Africa Institute's library

THE NORDIC AFRICA INSTITUTE

https://nai.uu.se

The Nordic Africa Institute was founded 1962. The Institute is funded by Nordic countries and is a Swedish authority led by a director in consultation with a Nordic Program and Research Council. The members of the council represent governments and the research community in five Nordic countries (Sweden, Finland, and Iceland plus representatives from academic institutions in Denmark and Norway).

The goals of the Nordic Africa Institute

According to its instructions, the Nordic Africa Institute has the task to contribute to a deeper understanding of modern Africa among Nordic decision makers by

- Conducting, making available and disseminating interdisciplinary research and analysis
- Creating conditions for a research-based policy dialogue
- Stimulating research concerning Africa in the Nordic countries and promoting research cooperation between Nordic and African researchers
- Providing a library in order to acquire and make available literature and other information sources that are relevant to research and study of modern Africa

THE LIBRARY AT THE NORDIC AFRICA INSTITUTE

https://nai.uu.se/library

The library is the Nordic region's largest special library for literature on modern Africa, with a focus on the social sciences. The library is partly funded by Uppsala University Library.

The library's primary target groups are Nordic decision makers, researchers, students and teachers who conduct studies, research and teaching about modern Africa. Other important target groups are aid workers, journalists, authors, librarians, and the general public interested in Africa.

The library's task is to build up, maintain and make available the collections to support the institute's mission. Relevant material are made available for research, studies and information about modern Africa, both locally, within the Nordic countries as well as digitally for a global user community. The library continually develops its services towards remote users. An important task is also to provide information and guidance on how to search for facts and literature with the help of various collections and resources.

Cooperation agreement with Uppsala University Library

Uppsala university library and Nordic Africa Institute library cooperate around services to Uppsala-based students and researchers. Uppsala University Library with its large Africana collections within humanities and African history until 1945 and NAI's library collection with its focus on social sciences and modern Africa post 1945- complement each other and constitute an invaluable resource for research on Africa.

Other partners

The library collaborates with the libraries within NORDOC, an informal Nordic network with libraries in development, development assistance and human rights.

The network ELIAS – European Libraries in African Studies between the European Africana libraries was established 2007 and the NAI library has an ongoing collaboration within the network in terms of interlibrary loans and open access resources. The network has opened up for a broader collaboration between Africana libraries in Europe.

https://aegis-eu.org/european-libraries-african-studies-elias

DESCRIPTION OF THE LIBRARY'S COLLECTIONS

The library acquires all types of media in print, electronic and audiovisual form, with a focus on modern Africa from 1945 onwards. The main subjects are social sciences, such as politics, sociology, economics and selected humanities, African fiction among them. The library mainly acquires materials in English, French and Portuguese.

The acquisition is idea-driven meaning that media is acquired broadly within the social sciences, not only to support research areas relevant today, but also with a view to support future research areas. This has contributed to a unique collection within the Nordic region as well as within Europe that stays relevant for its users over time.

The library's collection aims to cover all countries on the African continent and to be of high quality within its subject areas. Acquisitions of print and digital media as well as selection of free electronic resources follow the same guidelines. Accessibility for remote users usually guides selection of format.

The production of bibliographical metadata connected to the acquisition/cataloguing process is distributed mainly through the library discovery service AfricaLitPlus and various exports to Nordic and international information services. Resources not catalogued are selected for NAI services like the link collection "A guide to Africa on the Internet" or accessible via the institute´s website.

- **Books**

  The library's book collection comprises approximately 90 000 titles and each year the library acquires about 1500 new books. Most of the books acquired are in print but an increasing number of electronic open access titles are selected. Regarding licensed electronic books, the library seldom acquires them for the collection as there are limitations for access for target groups outside of Uppsala. E-book packages where vendors offer remote access options for users are considered for selection. Handbooks, reference works and annual yearbooks are monitored and acquired continuously to update our reference library.

- **Periodicals**

  The periodicals collection includes over 3400 titles, the major part of which are journals, both current and discontinued titles. Journals are acquired mainly in electronic format but print format is considered with regard to the preservation and accessibility aspect, especially in the case of journals from small publishers. Back issues of electronic titles are occasionally selected for the collection. Open access journal titles are regularly selected for the collection.
  Similarly, electronic series and reports from various institutions focusing on Africa and/or based on the continent are selected for the collection. For all open access titles, preference is given to titles within repositories or with a URI but PDF:s are also considered.

- **News coverage / newspapers:**

  The value of current news in printed African newspapers has decreased as news reporting on the Internet has increased. Parallel to the usage of online newspapers, there is a still a demand for newspapers in print, partly due to unreliability in long-term storage for digital titles. Older newspapers are an important source for historical research and it is therefore important to ensure access to older newspapers. Evaluation of the newspaper collection is done according to our weeding criteria. Newspapers that are available on microfilm or digitally through

collaborative libraries within the ELIAS network are screened. About 80 titles are still unique and are preserved for the time being. Supplements to the newspaper collection are only made through donations.

- **Official documents**

  The library's collection of official documents is unique in its kind and since the institute was founded, material such as development plans, population censuses, statistics, reports and policy papers have been acquired. Official documents are increasingly published on the internet and from 2026 the library will only acquire development plans and population censuses in hard copies and will focus more on guiding library users to available digital official documents.

- **The pamphlet collection**

  Over the years, the library has built up a collection of pamphlets in various subject areas from/on the African countries. The collection is organized in a system with more than 700 boxes containing 10 to 100 documents each and searchable via Africalitplus. The material is in the form of booklets, brochures, essays, posters, flyers and telegrams. A large part of the documents are published in Africa as well as originates from or deals with the various liberation movements in Africa. The collection grows mainly through donations. Pamphlets today are usually published on the internet.

- **Film and music**

  The library has a collection of music and film, which are continuously acquired in accordance with the current acquisition policy. The core of the collection is films with documentary content, as well as some music.

- **African fiction**

  The library has a large collection of African fiction written by African or diaspora authors. The library continuously monitors the publication of fiction that has been mentioned and/or reviewed in the press and social media, as well as nominations for literary prizes.

- **Maps**

  The library has a collection of atlas works, maps and overview maps supplemented with e.g. topographical and thematic maps. Acquisition of maps takes only place in exceptional cases and is mainly focused on keeping the collection up to date.

DONATIONS

The library accepts donations in accordance with the acquisition policy, subject to the condition that the donor signs our donation agreement. The material should be unique, which means that it is not available at any other library in Sweden or the Nordic countries. The material must also not be available digitally.

Material published in Africa is prioritized. Publications published in countries outside Africa are selected very restrictively and Swedish publications are always excluded, as they are available at other libraries in Sweden.

WEEDING

As a special library with a unique collection in the Nordic region, media in different format are weeded only occasionally. Keeping a collection relevant over time implicates that weeding is not done subjectwise. Research areas currently not relevant may turn relevant in the future. It is still important

however, that the collections are regularly reviewed and that storage and weeding is considered. The NAI library is a member of the Shared Print Sweden project where Swedish libraries will collaborate in questions regarding for example weeding and preservation.

Following criterias can be used for weeding:

- Older African newspapers as they become available on microfilm or digitally through partner libraries in the ELIAS network.
- Books, journals and report series that are not Africa-specific.
- Books acquired in more than one copy where the demand decreases.
- Damaged titles.
- Print titles that are digitized and accessible open access.