

REPORT FOR THE FILMS ARCHIVES FOR AFRICA/GOETHE- INSTITUT AUDIO VISUAL TRAINING PROGRAM IN NAIROBI, _7TH MAY - 11TH MAY 2012

Acknowledgement

I wish to start by acknowledging and thanking all the people who made this training a success. I start by thanking Eva Orbanz who played a very instrumental role in sourcing of resources and experts, her organizational skills cannot be under estimated and she made the training a success story, Thank you.

A lot of Thanks to the institutions that facilitated the training by funding and sponsoring the courses, Film Archives for Africa/ FIAF/SoW, Goethe-institute Kenya, and the Ministry of National Heritage and Culture. Your assistance made the course what it was and you have assisted in imparting knowledge and skills to Audiovisual Archivists of 14 institutions, a lot of thanks.

I recognize the support given by the Director, Kenya National Archives and Documentation Service Mr. John G. M'reria, who worked tirelessly to see that the training is a success. My thanks to all the institutions that participated in the training by releasing their staff to come and train with us and strengthen the preservation of films and audiovisual materials in Kenya.

Last but not least, I sincerely wish to thank our trainers for their dedication and commitment, Ms Thelma Ross, Mr. Luca Giuliani, and Mr. Egbert Koppe, you all made our training a success and Thank you again. Finally, I wish to thank all those who worked behind the scenes to make this training a reality, although I may not mention all of you by name, kindly accept my appreciation.

Introduction

The relationship between the Kenya National Archives and the International Federation of Films Archives (FIAF) dates back to 2009, when the federation sponsored the writer to attend the FIAF Summer School in Bologna, Italy. I have to reiterate that the training in Bologna was an eye opener and has led to the growth of preservation of Films in Kenya. I have been able to co-opt other institutions with films to not only try and maintain them in proper conditions but to see the importance of preserving films in situ as part of our cultural heritage.

In 2011, Films Archives for Africa in collaboration with Goethe-Institut sponsored me for the 1st African Summer School which was held in Johannesburg South Africa. After attending the Summer School, I was able to come back and establish a resemblance of Film Archives in the Kenya National Archives although, the National Archives have set aside a section to be used as a repository of films, the area is yet to be constructed properly to house the films in the manner that we were taught in the Summer School, with proper air conditions and relative humidity, but we shall get there in time.

The training started on Monday, the 7th May, 2012. Before the start of the classes, the experts paid a courtesy call to Director, The Kenya National Archives and Documentation Service, Mr. John M'reria, who later opened the training session on behalf of the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of National Heritage and Culture. On his speech (see attached) the Director thanked, FIAF, Goethe-Institut, Kenya for funding

the training, and the experts for finding time to come to Kenya and train the archivist on this very important subject. He noted that lack of practical skills and knowledge has led to deterioration and loss of Audio Visual materials. He welcomed all the participants especially those drawn from other institutions. A total of eighteen (18) institutions and sections were represented with Kenya National Archives and Documentation Service producing the most of the participants as shown below:-

S/No.	Name of the Institution	No. of Participants
1.	Kenya National Archives and Documentation Services	12
2.	Kisii University	3
3.	Department of Film Services	3
4.	Department of Information	2
5.	Kenya Institute of Education	2
6.	University of Nairobi	1
7.	Department of Culture	2
8.	Moi University	2
9.	Mombasa Records Centre	1
10.	Kenya Broadcasting Corporation	2
11.	Nairobi Records Centre	2
12.	Microfilming Section	2
13.	Ministry of Education	1
14.	Inoorero University	1
15.	Ghetto Potential	1
16.	Kenya Polytechnic	1
17.	Permanent Presidential Music Commission	1
18.	Broad space Interactive	1
19.	Total	40

In total forty (40) participants were trained for a period of one week (7th - 11th May, 2012) (attendance register attached).

During the first day, the participants were introduced to collection policy as the base of Archives Management. This topic introduced the participants on management issues as well as the need to have a collection policy. While analyzing the participants feedback, I found out that majority of them (58%) were receiving this kind of training for the first time.

One of the most interesting and intriguing subject was the cataloguing. It appears most of the participants have heard of it but have not physically participated in cataloguing; the most they have done is to develop retrieving indexes, which is a simple form of cataloguing. The topic was tough but enjoyable. According to the evaluation forms when asked how they found the topic on definition of cataloguing and catalogs, (57%) said it was good, while (43%) said that it was excellent. They all agreed that the topic requires more time than what was allocated. They were however grateful for what was taught and most of them said they would strive to learn

more on cataloguing. Majority of the participants (84%) said the delivery of the topics related to cataloguing was excellent.

Another exciting topic was that dealing with curatorial, Acquisitions, Preservation and Classification formats. Just like cataloguing, most the participants (85%) said that the delivery was excellent.

The topic on curatorial framework, acquisition, preservation and access was one of the other very interesting topics. Most of the participants when asked how the presentation was delivered, (88%) of them said it was excellently done. When asked about the analysis of condition, treatment and duplication (78%) of the participants said that the delivery was excellent.

Another question posed was for the participants to say how they understood the topic on defining cataloguing and catalogs, cataloguing standards, data content standards where (69%) of the participants said it was excellent and (31%) of them said it was good.

When asked to say how the topic on references, selected publications/websites, work place rules and safety rules were delivered and understood, (71%) said it was excellent, while (29%) said it was good.

On controlled vocabulary, (72%) of the participants said it was excellent while (28%) said it was good.

Another question posed was about cataloguing work flow and management and cataloguing types of moving images where (55%) of the participants said it was excellent and (45%) said it was good.

When asked how the presentation on approaching the digital era, new challenges and old misunderstanding for audio visual archiving was, (64%) said it was excellent, (25%) said it was good and (17%) did not comment.

When asked the question "Do you think the key themes of your interest were appropriately addressed?" (86%) said yes, (11%) of the participants said no while (3%) did not comment.

The evaluator also posed the question of the opinion of the participant on the time allocated for the programme, (57%) said the time was short, while (43%) said it was adequate. None of the participant said it was long. On the question of if their expectations were met, it was a record, as (100%) said most of their expectations were met.

Methodology

The training was conducted from the 7th -11th May 2012. We trained in the Archives auditorium where different forms of films and audiovisual materials were assembled. Learning was delivered using both power point projection and flip charts which were used for demonstration purposes. Classes were starting at 8.30 and were going till 5.00 P.M, with 1 hour lunch break, and two coffee breaks in between classes. One hour was

set aside for Q&A during the afternoon. Both theory and practical methods were employed to deliver the materials to the participants.

At the end of the training, an evaluation form was issued to all the participants, (See attached) this was meant to gauge the participants understanding of the different topics which were delivered. It also assisted in knowing the areas that the participants may require further guidance and training. The evaluation forms were later analyzed and the result formed part of the report.

Benefits derived from the Audio Visual Training

First, I would like once again to thank FIAF, Goethe-Institut for bringing the Films Archives for Africa to Kenya.

The Kenya National Archives had an opportunity not only of hosting the FIAF Experts but also other Institutions. As an institution charged with preservation of Cultural Heritage, it was a privilege to get experts to talk to us on the areas that continue to be a challenge to our Institutions.

The National Archives had the bulky of the participants and they benefited immensely on the topics covered.

As a way forward, we have started cataloguing a collection of DVDs and CDs that we acquired recently. This would not have been done without that kind of training.

The training also brought together other Institutions dealing with audio visual materials. This had an effect of developing new networks. It gave us a chance of knowing what other Institutions are holding and their conditions.

The other institutions invited had a chance of knowing what the National Archives does. Some of the participants who work in institutions, but had not gotten a chance to be trained in the audio visual, and they according to the evaluation form said they benefited immensely from the training.

As for the Kenya National Archives, we shall endeavor to put in practice what we were trained on, starting with the cataloguing of the materials in our Audio Visual section.

Conclusion

The training was a very big success in the audio visual fraternity. Most of the participants hailed the level of knowledge of the training experts and they drew a lot of benefits from them.

I wish to state that the training was very successful in imparting practical skills and knowledge to the participants. Some of the participants had little knowledge on what they do and how they are supposed to do it. Some topics like cataloguing and preservation may require more training while others will require more practical sessions with the materials. Topics in restoration and repairs may not have been exhaustively covered as the archives lacked repair tools like splicer's, cement, film tapes and other repair equipments required for such works, besides I think the time would not have been sufficient enough to train 40 people in detail repairs besides training them on what was on the time table. Finally, I wish to reiterate

that the training received by the participants and myself in particular will go a long way in equipping and arming the archivist from 18 different sections in film and audiovisual archiving. Thank you so much the Experts, Thank you Eva, FIAF and Goethe-Institute- Kenya, for your support; I reckon that Participation in a few more of such trainings, as well as summer schools, am seeing myself leading and training other film and audiovisual archivists and institutions in this field. Thank You.