The place of 'Library, Archives and Museum' in the Preservation of Documentary Heritage: A professional challenge for Uganda

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Abstract

Libraries, archives and museum constitute a major part of the people's life and reflect the diversity of people's languages and cultures in the knowledge society. Despite of the colonial influence, many African countries including Uganda have preserved their natural and cultural heritage in terms of social tradition and documentary heritage with little emphasis on the integration of the functions of the libraries, archives and museum. A survey on selected institutions that are involved in the collection, storage, preservation and promotion on the use of natural, historical, cultural documentary heritage in Uganda was conducted. The data was obtained through interviews of key persons that were selected purposively from those institutions, attending the consultative meetings with staff at the National Library of Uganda, Uganda Museum, National Archives and East African School of Library and Information Science, department of Records and Archives Management. The paper also attempted to review the literature about the subject. Findings indicated that there is lack of a strategy in co-ordinating the functions of libraries, archives and museum in documenting and preserving the documentary heritage in Uganda. Although various efforts have focused on preservation of natural, historical and cultural heritage, there is no central strategy to integrate the libraries, archives and museum function to effectively collect, store, preserve, co-ordinate and enable access to documentary heritage in Uganda. It remains a professional challenge to Uganda in addressing the issues of space, funding, expertise, preservation, co-ordination, government intervention, publicity and accessibility and ensuring culture of access to information. That is why a strategy for training, sensitising and recruitment of professionals in a co-ordinated function is required to ensure the preservation and promotion of use of the documentary heritage in Uganda.

Introduction

> Therefore, if it is seen good to the king, let a search be made in the royal Archives there in Babylon, to see whether a decree was issued by Cyrus the king for rebuilding of this house of God in Jerusalem … Then Darius the king made a decree, and a search was made in Babylonia, in the house of the Archives where the documents were stored. And in Ecbat'na, the Capital which is in the province of Media, a scroll was found on which this was written (*Ezera, 5:17 – 6:1).*

Knowledge societies are only equitable if all people can be able to access, share and use information on documentary heritage in all forms of intellectual life for educational and cultural development of the society. Documentary heritage constitutes a major part of the people's life in the world and reflects the diversity of the peoples languages and cultures in the knowledge societies (UNESCO [S.a.]:3). An important principle of knowledge societies should be the diversity of access to cultures and languages of a given society (UNESCO 2004:3). The diversity of access to such cultural and documentary heritage requires use of libraries, archives and museum (LAM) 'trinity' that play an important role in democracy and in promotion of social inclusion because they select, preserve and facilitate use of various sources of knowledge and information. The LAM 'trinity' connects people to knowledge and information, creativity, and inspiration for socio-economic development.

For example, libraries grew and developed in civilised society when a man [sic] begun to make and keep records. In fact the beginning of libraries are lost in antiquities—the trophies (an object, building or work of art) and crude records and writings of the ancient, past especially the period of classical and other human civilisation (Sengupta 1981:29). Like all the archaeological disciplines, the preliterate and palaeographic writings in the early civilisation show writing as a heritage of man's entry into history time. Majority of the sources of such writings that extend across the libraries, archives and museum includes art, sound, photography, film, archives and literature, multimedia and digital (Harley & Hampden 1964:9). In fact, the earliest libraries in Egypt, Mesopotamia, Palestine and Sumeria in the real sense were the collections of writings in the very early civilisations. Such libraries were connected with temples, the centres of the whole life and documentary heritage of early communities. (Sengupta 1981:29.) For example, archives—a collection of government or religious documents were prevalent in Sumeria by 2000 BC kept in religious and government libraries.

In Egypt, the libraries were generally of 3 kinds—government archives, religious (temple) and private libraries. For example, to preserve culture and protect the documentary heritage of his people in Egypt, Alexander built Alexandria in about 300 BC as a center of art, culture and education that became the 1st public library and museum in the area to serve the community (Bose 2003:183). Further more, the temple libraries that kept church records, religious writings and the value of Egyptian gods seem to have impacted in many developments of the LAM 'trinity' of documentary heritage in the Egypt. Further developments were also exhibited by the Library of the Popes in the Vatican at Rome in 13th and 14th Century and the Palatine library in the Temple Apollo in the reign of Augustus between 39 BC and 27 BC. In the 17th century with the French revolution, the Church became national property and the libraries were confiscated and books were assigned to the University library and the French royal library. Combining the British Museum library that began in 1753 with other institutes for co-ordinated national service in 1973 (Sengupta 1981:36) gives a pre cursor to the integration of the LAM 'trinity' functions as a strategy to ensure preservation of the documentary heritage in a country.

To ensure integration of the library archives and museum services, some countries in the world have merged them into one organisational structure. For example, in the UK, the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council (MLA) is the national development agency working for and on behalf of museums, libraries and archives and advising government on policy and priorities for the sector (The Museums, Libraries and Archives Council 2005). MLA's roles are to provide strategic leadership, to act as a powerful advocate, to develop capacity and to promote innovation and change. In fact, the Museum's Library and Archives in UK hold the world's premier collections of literature and original drawings and manuscripts relating to natural history, biology, Biodiversity, systematic, taxonomy and the history of science (Natural History Museum 2005). The Norwegian Archives, Library and Museum Authority established in 2003 followed the merger of Norwegian Directorate for Public Libraries, the Norwegian Academic and Special libraries, and the National office of Research Documentation. This Authority under the Ministry of Culture and Church Affairs is responsible for promoting partnerships and collaboration between the three sectors, and encouraging the sectors to find solutions to specific tasks to meet new challenges. (Grongstad 2005:68.)

Developing countries have always separated the functions of libraries, archives and museums (LAM) to suit different missions serving different departments or ministries. In academic libraries there have been attempts at integrating Archives into the library—the 'Africana' section in most of the African University libraries. In Archives and libraries the concept 'Africana' has always referred to written and printed record while museums have given more attention to objects (Bekker, van der Walt & Theron 2003:169). This concept 'Africana' embraces the information of historical importance in connection to Africa, on Africa and about African countries particularly the documentary heritage that flows from the colonial influence on African countries including Uganda.

Despite of the colonial influence, Uganda has preserved its natural and culture heritage in terms of social tradition, crafts, music, dances, folklore, food and dressing, and Christianity with the minority practicing African African religions (Gakwendi 1999:36). However, there is no strategy in place that defines how the functions of library, archives, and museum can be integrated to ensure effective preservation of documentary heritage in Uganda. This paper therefore addresses 3 research questions:

- To what extent are LIS organisations and institutions in Uganda integrating libraries, archives and museum functions in their mainstream objectives and programmes?
- What are the challenges of integrating libraries, archives and museum functions into the organizational objectives and programmes?
- What are the implications of this integration in the knowledge society?

Methodology

A survey on selected Libraries, Archives and Museum and institutions that were considered to be involved in the collection, storage, preservation and promotion on the use of natural, historical, cultural documentary heritage in Uganda was conducted. Included in the survey was also the Uganda Library and Information Association and the East African School of Library and Information Science because of their professional and educational role respectively, they play in the information sector. The study was conducted through the team of students undertaking the Bachelor of Library and Information Science with a Records and Archives option in selected organisations and institutions. The purpose of the survey was to establish the extent to which

various institutions/organisations have integrated the functions of libraries, archives and museum into their main stream programmes. The attempt were made to establish the state of integration of library, archives, and museum services in the organizational main stream functions in an effort to preserve the documentary heritage. The challenges of integrating library, archives and museum functions into the mainstream of the organizational objectives and programmes were also established. The team was also required to capture from the respondents what they would suggest to various stakeholders towards integrating the library, archives, and museum services in their development strategies in preserving the documentary heritage in Uganda. Purposive sampling was used to select the respondents who were basically the professionals and or practitioners involved in the preservation and promotion of the use of documentary heritage in the country in the selected institutions. The institutions selected included the Uganda Museum, National archives, Makerere University Library (Africana Section), Uganda Management Institute Documentation Center, National Library of Uganda, East African School of Library and Information Science, Margret Trowel School of Industrial and Fine Art and Radio Uganda. The others were the New Vision, Uganda Library and Information Association, Uganda Wild life Authority, Church of Uganda (Namirembe Cathedral), Bank of Uganda and Uganda National Cultural Center. The researcher also participated in a consultative meeting organised by the National Library of Uganda that had representation from majority of stakeholders in the above mentioned institutions. The purpose of the meeting was to find out the user expectations of National Library of Uganda. Available literature was also analysed to supplement the information obtained from interviews. Data was qualitatively analysed and presented acknowledging the source where possible.

The development of the trinity 'Library, Archives and Museum' in Uganda

The concept of the library, archives and museum 'trinity' gains its history from the religious connotation not only in terms of the Christian meaning but also in the preservation of the memories of the country's heritage. The memories of the Uganda's heritage follows from the arrival of Arabs in Buganda—1844; the death of Kabaka Ssuuna II and the take over of his son Muteesa I in 1856; the arrival of Church Missionary Society (CMS) in 1877 and later the Roman Catholics Missionaries who belonged to the White Father Society in 1879 (Ssekamwa 1997:25). For example, since the coming of Christianity in Uganda, the Church of Uganda has attempted to create, preserve and maintain archives, museums and library collections in Uganda (Mukungu, 2001). The Archives of the Church of England and the British Government Public Record office have contributed to the development of history, administration, growth and activities of the Church of Uganda and Uganda documentary heritage. The fact that the most of the institutions such as schools and hospitals were started by the church, the church's relationship with the Government of Uganda has played a significant role in the preservation of documentary heritage in the country. When the Dean of the Namirembe Cathedral, Reverend M. Musiwufu (2005) was requested to comment on the services offered by the Church of Uganda in the preservation of documentary heritage confirmed this. From the interview, it was noted that many documentaries in both print and audiovisuals concerning the missionary societies, history of church and the developments to are still kept in the Archives of most of most of the Churches in the Church of Uganda. Some of these documents and artefacts are preserved in the National Archives and Legal deposit libraries and Uganda Museum in Uganda.

Uganda Museum was established between 1908 to 1909 under the Imperial British company administrative headquarters in a small building that was taken over by the Uganda Museum Supreme Council in Old Kampala. The Museum became a part of the Ministry of Culture and

Community Development in 1954. Currently, the Uganda Museum is under the Ministry of Tourism, Trade and Industry. The Museum keeps Artefacts and records about the culture and history and ethnographic displays of the Ugandan Cultural heritage. The museum targets to conserve and educate the public on the Uganda's natural heritage to the researchers, students, tourists, and the government. and the formation of the Uganda Society in 1923 as the Uganda Literary and Scientific Society brought further development of the preservation of document heritage. The formation of the Uganda society in 1933 from a humble beginning of presenting lectures of scientific, historical, economic, or religious interest in the country helped to attract wider support for the promotion of documentary heritage in the country. Some of the developments like the establishment of Margret Towell School of Industrial and Fine Art, Makerere University in 1937 has played a role of collecting and displaying Artworks and paintings which are specifically for study and recreational purposes (Aboth 2005). To ensure the preservation of government records, the Uganda National Archives, under the Ministry of Public Service was established in 1955 by BT English. In 1956 Doyale was appointed a 1st professional Archivist. The National Archives keep records that date back 1892. Further more, in 1956, the Makerere University was made the official depository of the United nations printed materials (Uganda 1999a:136). This was the period that professionalism emanated with the formation of the East African Library Association in 1957 that aimed at bringing together the librarians and information workers in East Africa. In a similar development, the enactment of the Makerere College Deposit Library Act, 1958 that required publishers to deposit copies of their publication in the Makerere University Library (Africana and Special Collection) enhanced the development of documentary heritage in Uganda. The Aficana section has continued to keep such documentary including photographs, pamphlets, newspapers, and university collections, manuscripts, theses and dissertations some of that date back 1900. Further developments were the establishment of the National Theatre by the Ordinance of the Legislative Council in 1959 as the main centre for developing performing arts in Uganda. The Theatre aimed at facilitating the presentation of cultural songs and cultural dances, drama and poetry. The theatre aims at preserving culture by educating the masses through music, dance and drama. Further more, the integration of the Uganda Society with the National Cultural Center in 1960 developed further preservation of documentary heritage in Uganda. In this year, the Hocky (1960) report of library and information services in Uganda provided the future developments of libraries in Uganda.

With the coming of the political independence in 1962, further developments emerged in an effort to build an independent Uganda. Some of these developments include the establishment of East Africa School of Librarianship that was set up at Makerere University in 1963. At the same time, the Uganda Museum buildings was completed and this integrated and strengthened further the Uganda society library. In 1964, the Public Libraries Board Act was enacted to establish the Public libraries board charged with the responsibility of establishing, equipping, managing and maintaining public libraries in Uganda (National Library of Uganda, 2005:1). Relatedly in the same year, the National Cultural Centre (the Nommo Galley) was established to promote fine art in the areas is textile designs, ceramics, and scripture. Further more, the Copyright Act was enacted in 1964 that provided for copyright of literary, music and artistic works, cementegraphy pictures, gramophone records and broadcasts among others. This period was characterised by the abrogation of the 1962 independence constitution and a new Uganda constitution that was believed to give equal treatment for all parts of Uganda was enacted in 1967 that worked until 1971. The development that followed a new constitution was a need to increase preservation of the government documents. Thus the Deposit library and documentation centre act, 1969 that made provision for the deposit of copies of books in Uganda administered by Institute of Public Administration now Uganda Management Institute (Uganda 1969:350) was enacted. Like

Makerere University, the Institute has played this role up to the present. All these developments lacked a coordinated environment to integrate libraries, archives and Museum in the country. In fact, in an effort to enhance the library services in the Country, in 1969, the Minister of Culture and Community Development appointed Mr. S Nekyon, a one-man committee to inquire whether the public libraries board has made the specific functions assigned to it. The committee recommended for extension of services including branch libraries, mobile van services among others. Such a need for expansion of library services was reflected in the 1971/72 – 1975/76 and the Action programme 1977/78 – 1979/80 (National Library of Uganda 2005:1). With the collapse of the East African community, the Uganda library Association was formed in 1972. Following the long period of civil unrest in Uganda beginning from 1971 up to the early 1980's, many, or even most, important historical documents and archives pertaining to the country and the region were lost or destroyed. Nevertheless, the National Museum, the Uganda Society library collection, the National Archives, the Makerere University (Africana Section) and Uganda Management Institute among others maintained some of the collections that give a crucial link between the past and present.

When the National Resistance Movement (NRM) came to power, in 1986, it inherited a nation shuttled by years of political instability and ethnic and religious strife (Lateef 1991:20). The policy of Government was devolution of power to the people through decentralisation. In the same year, UNESCO requested Uganda to set up a committee to advise the government on establishing a National Information System (NIS). In may, 1987, the Economic Recovery Programme was launched that aimed at restoring the economic stability and rehabilitation of social infrastructure (Lateef 1991:26). In fact, in 1988 the Government of Uganda with the support of ODA launched a Records management programme in the Ministry of Public service. Further more, the world Bank through IDA credit supported an Institutional capacity Building Programme that had aimed to build a centre for the Archives (Uganda 1999a:140). This pledge however has never taken root. In 1992, the output of the NIS committee resulted into a National Information policy and Co-ordinating Agency Bill, 1992 (Uganda 1992:1). This bill was never presented to the parliament and no progress report has ever been published. This made a significant decline in the integration process of the library, Archives and museum in the country. Article 41(I) of the 1995 constitution provides for right of access to information. This provision has been enhanced by the enactment of the Access to Information Act, 2005 that promotes an efficient, effective, transparent and accountable government and public accessible and accurate information (Uganda 2005). Further developments in the information sector including the Press and Journalist Statute, 1995 and the Electronic Media Statue 1997. Further more, the enactment of Local Government Act, 1997 decentralised various services including information services and cultural affairs (Uganda 1997:115) have consolidated access to documentary heritage in Uganda. Other laws include the Communication Act, 1997, Communication and information for Development White Paper 1999 and the Information and communication policy in 2003 (Ministry of Works, Housing and Communications 2003:13) have all endeavoured to ensure co-ordination and utilisation of documentary heritage. This revolution in information industry guided the Uganda Library Association to develop a strategic plan that focused at working towards integrating libraries and information services into the daily lives of Ugandans.

To address the decentralisation needs and a persistence need for a national documentary heritage in the country, the National Library Act, 2003 that repealed the Public Libraries Act, 1964 was enacted to establish the National Library of Uganda (Uganda 2003:3). The National Library targets to keeping the Uganda national collection, African collection, special collections and news papers, Books Journals, Periodicals, computers, maps, microfilms, newspapers and

magazines, pamphlets, gazettes, government publications, films, audio tapes, photographs. Although the National Library has a supervisory and co-ordinating role in terms of standards, advise, norms to public libraries to conform to the national policies, guidelines and standards (Birungi 2005:2), there seem to be lack of a strategy to integrate the already existing services of the museum and archives. Actually, Uganda Library and Information Association has expanded its membership from the Librarian and information workers to include Archivists, curators, conservators with a vision is 'working towards a society that values information and knowledge for personal and national development' (Uganda Library and Information Association 2005:1). That is why a strategy is required to examine the extent to which various organisations have tried to integrate the services of library, archives and museum in their main stream functions. It is also important to examine the challenges and give a way forward for the trinity of library, archives and museum in Uganda.

The Extent of Integration of Library, Archives and Museum 'Trinity'

There have been a number of attempts in an effort to integrate the three services in the country as explained below:

Education and Training: In Uganda Museum, scholars, secondary school students, and visitors from in and outside the country visit and learn about the history of the Country in the museum and the Uganda Society Library. At Makerere University, the Departments of History, and Music, Dance and Drama, Faculty of Technology, and the School of Fine Art are involved in the preservation of the country's heritage. The others are the East Africa School of Library and Information Science, the School of Fine and Industrial Art, and the Faculty of Technology. For example, the Department of Music, Dance and Drama train specialist teachers to be performers, composers, choreographers, and playwrights using traditional dances. On its part, the East African School of Library and Information Science has introduced palaeography, oral history and tradition, museum, preservation and conservation, and archives management to its curriculum. Through its training programmes, the students are exposed to various techniques like classification and cataloguing, reference services, current awareness, electronic information services among others. During its training, the EASLIS students visit the National archives, legal deposit centres, Uganda museum to learn the management of archives, and preservation and conservation techniques involved in the 3 perspectives.

Legal Deposit and Documentation Services: The Deposit Library and Documentation Centre at Uganda Management Institute (UMI) is involved in compiling occasional bulletin. Further more, the National Library of Uganda that operates under the Ministry of Gender and Social Development is mandated by various functions including setting national policy on public and community libraries, acting as a legal depository centre (National Library of Uganda [*S.a.*]:2). In carrying such duties, the library is responsible for compiling of the national bibliography. The National Library (NLU) of Uganda has published the ever first National Bibliography. In a NLU consultative meeting, it was noted that, Makerere University Library and UMI were established under different acts, so they still offer services for which they were set. However, it was noted that while compiling the National Bibliography of Uganda, UMI and Makerere University are invited to provide records of what they have received. It was noted that it is the work of NLU to create the database and a national catalogue to link with other institutions in Uganda.

Reference Services and Research Services: Currently, the Uganda National Museum houses the Uganda society library with a collection of approximately 3,000 volumes. In addition to its

collection, the library houses the books of the East African Wildlife Society and a number of books from the museum which were given to the society's care some years ago. Currently, Uganda Wildlife Authority library keeps and manages information on Policies, plans, research, research and information dissemination, public education, and awareness of wildlife conservation and management. The museum acts as a research centre and therefore offers research services to scholars who for example wish to study about culture and human history. For example, the Museum provides information on what is available and disseminates it through brochures that are given to any one who visit the institution. In Africana section, the collections include thesis and dissertations of University and have been a fundamental source for research information in the Country.

Community and Extension Services: To exploit the services offered by library, archives and museum, it requires bringing services to the people. For example, the Uganda Library and Information Association organises reading camps, holds information bazaars for its members and the community to promote reading culture amongst its members and other institutions like schools, NGO's and teachers colleges. To appreciate the documentary heritage, the National Council of Sports has encouraged and introduced African traditional games and sports to preserve African culture. For example, schools are now encouraged to organise indigenous sports and games like *Omweso (*a local indoor sport that helps in memorizing and counting*)* and *Amahiri* (a traditional field sport with rich language and logic components*)* (Magara 2005). Further more, the Uganda National Council of Science and Technology (UNCST) with the assistance of UNESCO and the International Development Research Council (IDRC), is promoting the use of community Tele-centres in Uganda (eg, Nakaseke, Buwama, Apac, Kagadi, Nabweru and Kachwekano). The purpose of these Tele-centres is to enable communities in remote places to access information on the global network (Nakazi 2003:2). UNCST is also currently promoting the adoption of the African Traditional Healing System to involve the people in health care delivery and the fight against HIV/Aids. Emphasis is in areas of traditional medicines, pure herbalists, herbalists/spiritualists, divines and magicians, mixed activity practitioners, bone settlers, and traditional midwives (Magara 2005). To utilise the power of ICTs, there are a number of efforts have been done in integrating the Museum, archives and libraries. For example, the 'Museum of a person' that has taken root in Brazil with branches in Canada, the USA, and Portugal (Museum and the Web, 2005) is organising the International year of the web life story to evangelise a cultural web of personal life stories (Stafford 2005:1).

Manuscripts and Archives: Makerere University, Africana Section is predominately known for keeping of A legal deposit documents in the country. Some of those manuscripts include Church Missionary society (CMS) 1926-1948, Personal archives of outstanding Ugandans like Sir Apolo Kaggwa papers and Ham Mukasa papers, Uganda Newspapers. In Radio Uganda there are exhibits of historical materials and confidential documentaries and speeches in both audio and print. In Church of Uganda, the records like baptismal, confirmation or marriage certificates and often consulted by government officials go to the church records/books for copies or certifying. Some records are used for finding ages of people, places, or property (Mukungu 2001). Bank of Uganda Archives keeps records of fiscal, legal, evidential, historical and research values including government speeches (like Budget) and other government statements (Enyondo 2005).

Digitisation and Microfilming Project: The Uganda Society with the assistance from the United States Information Service in 1996 attempted at computerising the card catalog. The computerisation was completed in 1997. In Makerere University, there is a digitisation project currently going on for science based subjects. Further more, there are bout 2980 reels and about

2000 micro cards. Efforts are being made to secure a machine, which can convert the information into digital format. Since 2000, the Microfilm Unit started microfilming the Theses and Dissertations after a break of about three years. So far, the 800 theses and dissertations have been microfilmed in Makerere University and the work is going on. The computerisation of the documentary heritage is a global issue. For examples, the Museum and the Web—an international conference for culture and heritage on-line organised by Archives and Museum Informatics, explores opportunities for utilisation of cultural and heritage content across the institutions and around the world (Trant and Bearman 2005). In such conference, the social, design, technological, economic, organisational and cultural issues of culture and heritage on-line are discussed. However, the challenge is the community's ability to empower audiences to more fully interact with the shared collections, by capitalising on information and communication technologies that is a key to success (Sarkar 2005). That is why there is a need for removing barriers, equalising opportunities, and ensure interactive services in the provision and use of information. Digitisation will change faces of the virtual society that would help libraries, archives and museum in serving the public and the community (Anami, 2005).

Exhibition of documentary heritage: During the Makerere Platinum Jubilee to mark the 75th Anniversary of Makerere University's existence in 1997, the library exhibited photographs of historical importance and it aroused a lot of interest to viewers and it was evident this collection needed to be organised and made accessible. The challenge is of acquiring new photographs and preservation methods that are lacking. In Uganda Museum, there are always displays on what ever is held and explained in form of captions. The Museum offers services to the public by providing receptions for weddings, workshops, lecturers and field extensions to enable the public have access to the museum. The commonest exhibits are objects and paintings of art portraying the natural heritage of Uganda's culture. The School of Fine Art Makerere University holds educative and sales exhibitions. It is involved in documenting of fine art of different artists, educational workshops and consultation services. The Uganda Wild Life Authority (UWA) organises an open-air museum that exhibitions the history of different species in Uganda. In UWA, it allows student to the centre at a subsidised price. Uganda wildlife has documentaries on poaching, photographs of different national parks, newsletters, books about animals, videocassettes about different animals and birds found in different parts of the country. That is why it is important to add value to the library, archives and museum collections for targeted audiences. Jacobson and Spichiger (2005) refers to such strategy as telling an old story in a new way to help audiences or users during a visit to a museum, archives or libraries to acquire information required.

Advocacy and Professionalism

Advocacy and professionalism has an impact on the promotion of the development of documentary heritage. For example, Uganda Library and Information Association keep register about the professionals and library institutions in the country advocates for libraries and information institutions and its members. The Association has been engaged with professional development like promoting information management skills amongst its members to enable them cope up with the changing world. E.g. training of teachers in library management and development of reading culture among the children and teachers. The Association also takes interest in curriculum review and development with the training schools (e.g. EASLIS) to discuss course units taught. Likewise, the historical buildings conservation group of Uganda works to protect and conserve notable buildings in Uganda that is at risk from decay or demolition. This group acts as an advisor to the central and local government, private sector owners and

developers of building sites in Uganda. This group has coupled and is enhancing its list of buildings that are historical, architectural or cultural (including the great Uganda Kingdom building) reasons are worth saving for prosperity within the Country (The Uganda society 2005:1). At the international level, the trinity efforts have been demonstrated by the international cultural heritage informatics (ICHIM) that organises meetings every two years since 1991 reflecting on changes in technology and maturation of cultural informatics (International Cultural Heritage Informatics Meeting 2001:15). Such issues like digital preservation, design and evaluation, user interaction, geographical information systems, managing musical archives, Academic Library's role in transmitting cultural heritage and museum application. Some of the In fact his closing remarks to Museum and the Web 2005 (MW05), Ian Wilson (2005), the Librarian and Archivist of Canada challenged participants to exploit opportunities to bring together museum, archives and libraries in the knowledge society, hence the trinity 'library, archives and museum '.

Although various efforts have focused on preservation of documentary, natural, historical and culture heritage, there is no central strategy to integrate the functions of museum, archives and libraries in Uganda to effectively collect, store, preserve, co-ordinate and enable access to documentary heritage in Uganda.

Challenges

To integrate the services of library, archives and museum in Uganda, it remains a professional challenge to Uganda as explained below:

Space for accommodation: It was clear that majority of institutions lack space for expansion to integrate the three functions. For example, the National Archives have been longing for the construction of a building that was promised by the World Bank as early as 1988. Although the National Library of Uganda is in the process of planning for building a national library, it is not certain of its funding, and sustainability of such building and no substitutive guarantee by the government is place for putting up one. In fact, it the duty of the Government to facilitate the Increase of office accommodation for government institutions (Kyeyune 2005). Even when it is put in place, it is intended to cater for preservation of books imprint and no strategy is in place to integrate the other functions.

Funding: Funding is a major challenge of integrating library, archives and museum functions. Actually the Uganda Library and Information Association position is that the Government spends less on libraries, Archives, Records Centres and Museum. The fact that most of these institutions are solely funded Government requires a careful strategy for such integration.

Lack of expertise: There is lack of expertise in preservation and conservation of records in most of the places visited. For example, the National Library lacks a staff to assist in the preservation and maintenance of documents that have undergone deterioration. In Makerere University Library, there is absence of a qualified archivist that has remained a challenge for a long time (Nakiganda 2005). It is however hoped that the on-going proposed archival policy for Makerere University will be a welcome move to remedy this. In Uganda Museum, there are limited qualified personnel like curators and conservators. Some of the staff lack computer knowledge in the work of digitising museum records and library services. The National Archives has only two-trained archivist (Emokot 2005) but lacks support staff. According to the General Secretary

ULIA, there is lack of adequate training of Archivists and Records managers in the country (Batambuze 2005). He noted that there are few Curators and conservators due to the fact that no institution that trains such. In the School of Fine Art, they lack skilled manpower that knows how to handle and preserve the paintings and artefacts (Aboth 2005). Although there is a librarian in the UWA, he lacks records and archives management skills.

Preservation of rare materials: From the research, it appeared that many of the organisations lacked preservation and conservation plans and programmes. For example, in Makerere University, the conservation work that had started in the bindery stopped due to lack of essential materials. It was also noted that the newspapers required microfilming. According to the respondent, the machine that was bought for microfilming was a wrong one that could not handle the work it was intended (Nakiganda 2005). In Uganda Museum, it has remained a challenge to put in place a program to ensure the conservation of archives and artefacts. According to the Museum Curator (2005) in Uganda Museum, this has limited the resources of the museum to facilitate such conservation measures.

Lack of Common Unit among the organisations that preserve the documentary heritage. It was noted that there is no unit that co-ordinates institutions that attempt to preserve the documentary heritage in Uganda. Most of these institutions fall under various government ministries. For instance, where as the Uganda National library is under Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development; National Archive is under Ministry of Public service; while the Uganda Museum is under Ministry of Tourism, Trade and Industry. No Unit is responsible for co-ordinating the efforts of preserving documentary heritage.

Government Intervention: It was noted that there is high government intervention in the museum activities and programmes that highly disrupts them while there is little motivation of workers in terms of staff welfare. According to Etomet J. C. Emokot (2005), the A.g. Government Archivist, there is a problem of sustaining of the accessions due to small allocations given. It was also noted that it is not easy to implement the law as expressed by the General Secretary ULIA that 'the government is always slow or reluctant in implementing of policies'. According to the Bank Archivist, the considerable uncertainty and turbulence of the current political transition from one government to another has resulted in Confusing laws for cultural heritage protection, or laxity in enforcing existing laws (Enyondo 2005).

Lack of Publicity about the services and Accessibility to Records: Through observation, it was noted that in Uganda Museum, there is lack of printed materials like brochures, prospectus and Website about the holdings. According to Batambuze (2005), the services of the Professional Association have not been recognised fully by the public as well as professionals themselves. It was noted that the negative attitude towards museuology and archival activities has led to misuse and under use of museum, and archives. In fact Ikoja-Odongo (2005) attributes the trend the Government of Uganda considers museum as a tourist attraction that makes it difficult to integrate. Further more, there is lack of access points that guide where to find what kind of documentary in the Country. Although NLU is mandated to compile a Union catalogue, there is no strategy access and acquire some of the items that were published before the institution was put in place. Even if, no programme is available to integrate library, archives, and museum collections to enable easy coordination of documentary heritage.

Culture about use of information: It was observed that there is a poor-reading culture in Uganda. In fact while opening the consultative meeting organised by the National Library of Uganda, the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Gender Labour and Social Development (2005) noted 'we are the pillars of next generation and we must do something about ourselves'. The Permanent Secretary noted that the National Library is a key institution in the development of documentary heritage. This however requires that the services of the library be integrated with other sources of cultural, historical and natural heritage information to developing citizens who are concerned about the 'home of our ideas'. That is why it is important to develop a strategy of exploiting such 'homes of ideas' that are available in libraries, archives and museum—the trinity.

Strategies for developing a trinity 'Library Archives and Museum' in Uganda.

In order to develop a strategy for integrating libraries, Archives and Museum in the mainstream functions of various organisations, respondents were required to give their views concerning such, as discussed below.

Training and recruiting qualified personnel: To ensure effective document preservation, training of personnel should be emphasised to embrace more skills to be applied so that documents are maintained and preserved properly and conserved or restored in case of damage. In some institutions like the National Archives, more staff are required and existing staff required more training mostly in the digitisation technologies. To build the capacity manpower, ULIA, suggested to all LIS training institutions to introduce the museum, archives management to minimise on the expenditures of sending people abroad for training. Supporting this was the School of Fine Art that felt that training of students in preservation and conservation activities of artwork, artefacts, paintings in the gallery is the way forward. It was also felt more useful for the institutions to employ more personnel specialised in preservation and conservation activities to help develop and improve the archival museum and library activities in such Ugandan. In fact, in its *Vision 2025*, it was noted that to improve the current institutional infrastructure of archives and museum, the education system should integrate the use of museum, libraries and archives to enable students appreciate their use and to encourage them take up courses that would make them professionals (Uganda 1999a:144). The Vision pledges that the government should ensure Archivists and museum managers are properly trained, possesses the right kind of attitude and knowledge. Although the East African School of Library and Information Science has introduced the Archives studies, musiology, and preservation and conservation of documentary heritage, no strategy is in place to guide its integration in the main stream functions of various organisational programmes and strategies.

Sensitisation: There is a need for a strong policy for mass mobilisation and education, so that all citizens are sensitised on the importance on the use of the archival, museum and museum services in the country. That is why majority of the institutions showed a need to publish a cultural and historical heritage profile in the country. This requires a publicity strategy about the documentary heritage in various organisations Uganda. In fact, The ULIA respondent suggested to various stakeholders in the documentary heritage sector for better and more libraries, information centres and museums to be able to safeguard documents. He further noted that there is a need for building a more positive attitude among the professionals to promote the services offered. Further more, institutions should establish their current stock and services and put in place a publicity strategy to ensure the public is aware about their effective utilisation resources and services.

Government Funding and Policy Enforcement: It was suggested that there is a need for developing a government strategy to acquire appropriate funding to enable institutions preserve the documentary heritage of the country. This however requires government support and good will. This requires a business plan to be put in place for documentary heritage institutions to generate money on their own. It was noted that those institutions could be able to solicit money from tourists and the local people to ensure sustainability of such institutions. This however requires government involvement in the supporting such initiatives. It was further suggested that there is a need for enforcement of laws and regulations in the field of cultural heritage management (Enyondo 2005). The government policy should be more favourable to improve artefacts, documents and records preservation and conservation in Uganda.

Digitisation of the Museum, archives and library: It was a general observation that computerisation and digitisation of the records is the way forward for the integration of the trinity. In Uganda museum, it was suggested that a new software called Past Time Projection Program which has been donated by the American Embassy to ensure effective delivery of services should be installed and utilised. According to the Museum staff, this software will ease documentation and accessibility of information. In his remarks, the General secretary ULIA gives advice that 'institutions should digitise their objects so that originals can be kept away from users for preservation purposes'. Actually, Makerere University Library is in the process of digitising the thesis and dissertation recommended for acquisition of necessary equipment to ensure systematic preservation/conservation work to be part and parcel of the activities of every organisation's functional programme. It was suggested that Universities that train Archives and museum professionals should establish conservation laboratory coupled with increasing number of staff trained in the preservation, conservation techniques.

Cooperating function: It was suggested by majority of respondents that there is a need for a good will and co-operation among professionals working in different institutions that tend to preserve and disseminate information on documentary heritage that include libraries, archives and museum. This will enable sharing ideas and views on how to promote the national documentary heritage. The A.g. National Archivist noted 'if there was a common understanding to develop a common area where information can be centralised' (Emokot 2005). According to respondents, this suggested a need for togetherness among the stakeholders to discuss the way forward. In fact, the Government Archivist suggests such strategy as a project to be set up to give a direction on how the institutions can work together. Actually majority of the respondents suggested for a policy of the LAM trinity in the country such trinity function should be co-ordinated under one ministry. In fact, it is an aspiration of Ugandan Government to aspire for an effective, well developed and country wide natural depository, library and records system to collect, preserve and disseminate information materials and natural intellectual and cultural heritage to empower the community to make informed decision for socio-economic development (Uganda 1999b:38). Such co-ordination requires regulatory and monitoring authority. That is why it requires a mechanism to ensure effective integration of the trinity in the organisational functions and programmes.

Implications of the 'Trinity' in the Knowledge Society

From the findings, it was established that many organisations have separated the functions of library, Archives and museum that has cased disintegration in the preservation of national heritage in many countries. It was also noted that even where courses in archives museum have been introduced in library schools, little attempt is made to build the capacity of the student to

appreciate the functions of the three that has made archivist and museum managers take them selves different from librarians. This is why professional s have to exploit this credit of having integrated Archives, museum and library studies in its curriculum to create an impact on documentary heritage. It is therefore important to produce an all round information professional that has an integrated library management, archives and museum to meet the challenges in the knowledge society. This is more so in the use of ICTs to digitize documents or records or museum objects to ensure effective information processing and accessibility in the era of knowledge society.

It can be **concluded that**:

The role of the library, archives and museum (LAM) differ in terms of forms of materials kept and the services provided by the institutions, but they all supplement each other. All the three aim at enabling easy collection, storage, preservation, co-ordination and enable access and effective use of information of documentary heritage. In simple terms a museum—a objects of historical, scientific, artistic, or cultural event represents is 'the father' of the documentary heritage. A record about such museum is born (created) and archives are kept and maintain — 'the son'. For people to be aware about such events that happened, books, periodicals, films, recorded music, electronic information is documented. Such documented information keeps the society with a fresh of the events that happened – 'the Holy Spirit'. Thus the term trinity 'library, archives and museum'. This however, requires a system to integrate such trinity in the organisational programmes for proper preservation of national, historical and cultural documentary heritage in the knowledge society

It is therefore suffice to give the following **recommendations for Uganda**:

- The LIS Training Institutions in Uganda specifically EASLIS needs to launch a postgraduate programme in Archives management and that incorporates the management of museum and the web, targeting at LIS graduates as well as other disciplines.
- Teaching in undergraduate programmes need to orientate its students to integrate the functions of the Library, archives, and museum to be relevant to the community as far as use of ICT is concerned
- Universities need to start a Museum unit as a demonstration unit to preserve its history where students undertaking library, archives and museum classes can use as a laboratory.
- Professionals in LIS should exploit an opportunity of developing the classification and cataloguing system in the digitisation environment to meet the challenge of integrating the functions of library, archives and museum.
- Researchers (students at masters or PhD level) should think about practical research that is tailored to designing systems like various classification systems, thesaurus, and indexing techniques that would help the management of the information about the documentary heritage in our institutions and communities.
- A relationship between the Training School with Uganda Museum, National Archives and National Library, and professional Associations (including Uganda Library and Information Association) need to be established to forge a possibility of establishing a national coordinating unit for promotion on the management and use of documentary heritage information in Uganda.
- Uganda Library association should enhance its strategy of implementing chapters and divisions and integrate a museum and/or archives section in the Association's organisational structure.

- There should be established an authority or agency comprising library, archives, and museum function responsible for setting standards, co-ordination of information regarding the documentary heritage in the country among others. A task force could be made including the stakeholders in the sector to come out with a proposal and the way forward for such integration.

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