

Publishing & Book Culture in Africa: A Literature Review for 2024

Compiled and edited by Hans M. Zell

hanszell@hanszell.co.uk

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The Year in Review

As is reflected in the wide range of articles and studies in this 2024 literature review, there are several positive signs that publishing and the book sector in Africa is increasingly enjoying a much higher profile than in the past. The British Council, for example, has been undertaking a welcome new study of the publishing landscapes in six African countries, while UNESCO is currently involved in a major new initiative to gather authoritative data for each of UNESCO's 54 African member states, in order to provide an analysis of trends, challenges, and opportunities for growth in the book and publishing sector on the African continent.

The much-respected journal *Logos. Journal of the World Publishing Community*, edited by Angus Phillips, head of the Oxford International Centre for Publishing and published by Brill, devoted an entire special double issue to publishing in Africa in 2024 (vol. 35, issue 2-3), the online version of which, very generously, has been made freely accessible without charge.

There have also been articles about African publishing in major newspapers such as *The Guardian* (two articles, 16 and 17 January 2025) and even the *New York Times* (in its 19 January 2025 issue) showed increased interest in African publishing and African writing in an article "There is a Renaissance Going On", and stated that a new ecosystem of publishers, bookstores, literary magazines and festivals is promoting African writers, "and changing the stories told about the region."

Meantime major international organizations like the International Publishers Association (IPA), and the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), continue to be supportive of the African book sector.

All this bodes well for the African book industries.

Introduction

The first in a series of annual literature reviews, this document identifies close to a hundred new studies about publishing, book culture, and the book sector generally in anglophone sub-Saharan Africa. Published during the course of 2024, and since the appearance of the third updated and expanded edition of *Publishing & Book Culture in Africa: A Repository of Selected Resources* <https://www.hanszell.co.uk/repository.htm>, which remains freely accessible online.

These new records will eventually all be cumulated and integrated in new editions of the Repository or ideally – if funding could be secured – transformed into a fully interactive online database.

Scope/Type of material included

The literature review includes journal articles, books, chapters in books and edited collections, interviews, opinion pieces, publisher profiles, as well as significant blog postings. Short news items or stories, press releases, etc. are not included. Newspaper articles are also not generally included, unless of substantial length or of special significance.

Arrangement and classification

Records are grouped under a series of general, topic/subject, and country headings, listing records in alphabetical order by author. Multiple papers by authors are listed in date of publication order, most recent first.

Symbols used

¶ This symbol indicates a journal article behind a paywall or, for books, access is subject to purchase.

- Indicates a new/late record, *not* previously included in the 2024 edition of the Repository.

Omissions

It is entirely possible that I may well have missed a number of studies published during the course of 2024 that would merit inclusion. If so, would the authors or publishers please send details or a file to hanszell@hanszell.co.uk and they will then be included in any updates, and/or included in the next annual edition of the literature review.

HMZ

31 January 2025

Contents

General and regional studies on African publishing and the book sector

Adeyanju, Isaac Ademola **Just Publish It, Who Needs the Publisher? Self-publishing and the Challenge of Quality Book Production.**

https://www.academia.edu/114802171/_JUST_PUBLISH_IT_WHO_NEEDS_THE_PUBLISHER_SELF_PUBLISHING_AND_THE_CHALLENGE_OF_QUALITY_BOOK_PRODUCTION (2024)

“In many developing countries such as Nigeria, there are several authors who are either ignorant of the importance of the editors (publishers) or discountenance their importance in the publishing process”, the author claims. “Furthermore, the low capacity of local publishers to publish the avalanche of manuscripts they receive has made many authors to resort to the self-publishing option. The resultant effect of this development is the publication of poor quality books due to non-adherence to quality control measures in book production.”

General and regional studies on African publishing and the book sector

Brittlepaper **9 Major Trends in African Publishing and Literary Culture in 2024.**

<https://brittlepaper.com/.../9-major-trends-in-african.../> (Posted 10 December 2024)

Brittlepaper says “Earlier today, we released our annual 100 Notable African Books of 2024 list <https://brittlepaper.com/2024/12/announcing-the-100-notable-african-books-of-2024/>

It’s the result of months of compiling, sourcing, and sorting through nearly 300 titles, and, in the process, deepening our knowledge about African writing and literary culture. Each book on the list tells us something about where African writing is headed – through new voices, daring ideas, and unforgettable characters. Lists like these do more than celebrate great books. They capture stories about the culture, the market, and the industry. They give us a sense of what’s happening, what’s changing, and what we still need for the future. “

General and regional studies on African publishing and the book sector.

Fokwang, Jude **Centring Africana Voices in Contemporary Publishing.**

https://judefokwang.com/centring-africana-voices-in-contemporary-publishing/#_ftn1

Another version also at <https://www.readafricanbooks.com/opinion/centring-africana-voices-in-contemporary-publishing/>

The author, who is the head of Spears Media Press in the USA <https://spearsbooks.org/> offers “a few reflections on what it entails to move beyond rhetoric with respect to decolonising publishing in Africa.” As I see it, he argues, “we are doing, not just talking about defiant scholarship and publishing. We understand decolonising within the context of our work as defying and dismantling the norms, assumptions and gate-keeping practices that have historically shaped who and what gets published. Whilst we celebrate book publishing as an artistic venture in its own right, we take specific exception to the prevailing tendency in Western-based academic institutions to assign ‘inferior status’ to titles that issue from African-owned or based publishing outfits, and in the same spirit, decry African-based academic institutions that assign ‘superior status’ to titles that issue from Western-based publishing outfits.”

General and regional studies on African publishing and the book sector

Isong, A., Murua, J., Chideme, M., Nene, N., Kizza, R., & South, R. eds. **Publishing Futures. A Study of the Publishing Landscapes in Ghana, Kenya, Nigeria, South Africa, Uganda and Zimbabwe.** London: The British Council, 2024. 120 pp.
<https://doi.org/10.57884/mvn6-hz12>
https://www.britishcouncil.org/sites/default/files/ssa_publishing_futures_2024_full_report.pdf (Free access)

This important and extensive new study from the British Council says it “aims to bring forward new knowledge on the development of publishing in fiction and non-fiction for adult leisure readers, providing market insights, highlights of innovative practices and the economic impact of the sector.” It is an “in-depth study of the trade publishing and literature sectors in the following Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) countries: Ghana, Kenya, Nigeria, South Africa, Uganda and Zimbabwe. It offers an up-to-date overview of the sectors in each country, with a particular focus on recent developments and the creative sector. ... This study cuts across the book publishing ecosystem, which has historically included printing, bookselling, distribution and in more recent times has expanded to cover digital platforms and channels. It also includes the literature and broader creative sectors, including festivals, prizes and libraries.”

This is certainly an innovative approach to analyse the African book sector and there are some genuinely fresh and interesting insights in this new study. The overviews of the publishing landscapes in the six countries it covers are informative and quite extensive, as are the individual profiles of some publishers and booksellers. The study states that it has an emphasis on “publishing landscapes”, and that “the findings of this research are a representation of voices in the publishing sector in the selected countries”. Yet it is a bit surprising to see that only *one* member of the report team – among 16 other contributors listed – has a background in publishing and is currently active in the publishing sector. However, the many recommendations the report offers (pp. 106-107) are both sensible and appropriate.

The publishers and book professionals interviewed come from these African countries: Cameroon, Kenya, Liberia, Malawi, Mozambique, Nigeria, Senegal, South Africa, Zimbabwe, and Uganda, as well as including an interview with the head (and former head) of the Oxford-based African Books Collective <https://www.africanbookscollective.com/>.
General and regional studies on African publishing

Kitchen, Stephanie, David Mills, and Anshita Ail, eds. “**Small is Beautiful: Africa’s Independent Book Publishers.**” *Logos: Journal of the World Publishing Community* 35, nos. 2-3 (2024): 1-78. [Special double issue, free access]
<https://brill.com/view/journals/logo/35/2-3/logo.35.issue-2-3.xml>

This special issue of *Logos* dedicated to publishing in Africa will be of much interest to all those interested in the African book sector and, unusually, access to the entire double issue, or download, is free! In his introduction, *Logos* Editor Angus Philips writes: “The papers presented here show a diverse and dynamic publishing scene across a variety of areas, from fiction to academic monographs. The contributions mostly describe a cottage industry powered by enthusiasm. The role of women in starting and running independent publishing houses is emphasized; and women are also seen as the larger part of the market for many books.”

Following an introductory paper by the editors, who ask “what does the future hold for Africa’s independent publishing sector”, it brings together independent publishers from across the continent “to talk about their publishing passions”, many of them women; and to hear “about the challenges of running a dynamic publishing business on a shoestring” in a series of hugely insightful interviews.

General and regional studies on African publishing

Mushakavanhu, Tinashe **African Publishing is Being Revolutionised – Report Explores Trends in Six Countries.**

<https://theconversation.com/african-publishing-is-being...> (Posted 31 October 2024)

A review of the British Council study *Publishing Futures: A Study of the Publishing Landscapes in Ghana, Kenya, Nigeria, South Africa, Uganda, and Zimbabwe*. “A newly published British Council study concludes that a new generation of African readers and writers has been disrupting traditional publishing. They’re using new technologies and social media, holding public events, promoting indigenous languages and changing consumer behaviour through savvy self-publishing methods.” While noting a number of positive aspects about the new study, the author says “the report is only a snapshot covering a small fraction of the continent”, and argues that it “does not offer much data. It mainly relies on anecdotal evidence gleaned from a mix of document analysis and in-depth interviews with industry experts – publishers, booksellers, writers and scholars, among others.”

Note: → see also full review of this British Council study above.

General and regional studies on African publishing and the book sector

Ngalame, Elias **Africa’s Publishing Landscape in Urgent Need of Collaboration.**

<https://www.universityworldnews.com/post.php...> (Posted 07 November 2024)

“Stronger collaboration in Africa’s publishing industry, including the higher education sector, is a matter of urgency, was a message from the recent Business of Books Conference in Zimbabwe. The industry could also benefit from what a new study in six countries in Africa calls ‘changing consumer behaviour’ emanating from publishing methods that include new technologies and social media.”

General and regional studies on African publishing and the book sector.

Powers, Jessica #**Reading Africa**. In *African Small Publishers Catalogue* edited by Colleen Higgs, with Cassandra Scheepers and Jessie Cooper. Cape Town: Modjaji Books, 2024: 123-126. ¶

Jessica Power’s Catalyst Press, <https://www.catalystpress.org/meet-the-team> launched in 2017, is based in both North America and South Africa. Catalyst Press started Reading Africa Week <https://www.catalystpress.org/readingafricaweek> in 2017 as an annual celebration of African literature. “What this means is that marketing ‘African literature’ to our southern readership is easy, but we face challenges in North America. For example, what is African literature? And how do you get Americans to read it?”

General and regional studies on African publishing and the book sector

Thierry, Raphaël **Review of Three Africa-Centered Titles from the Cambridge Elements in Publishing and Book Culture Series.** [Book review article] *Publishing Research Quarterly* 40, (2024): 323-330. <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s12109-024-10001-9> ¶

Three recent volumes in the Cambridge University Press 'Elements in Publishing and Book Culture' series—entitled *African Literature and the CIA: Networks of Authorship and Publishing* (by Caroline Davis), *Publishing Against Apartheid South Africa: A Case Study of Ravan Press* (by Beth Le Roux) and *Underdevelopment and African Literature: Emerging Forms of Reading* (by Sarah Brouillette)—"provide wide-ranging, invaluable insights. These well-documented yet accessible Elements will interest a scholarly audience, but also a readership curious to better understand the behind-the-scenes developments that have shaped the evolution of actors and practices in international publishing. These dynamics remain poorly understood and little investigated, yet have been influential to this day." The three authors' substantial contributions "significantly expand the geographical scope of postcolonial literature research, particularly within the African context, and are underpinned by a sociological approach to publishing studies."

General and regional studies on African publishing

Reference resources, bibliographies, and library collections

Higgs, Colleen, Cassandra Scheepers, and Jessie Cooper, eds. **African Small Publishers Catalogue 2024. 6th edition.** ¶

Cape Town: Modjaji Books, 2024. 200 pp. [available as paperback or ebook version]
https://modjajibooks.co.za/?mgi_724=238694%2F2024-african-small-publishers-catalogue-pdf-version&fbclid=IwY2xjawG2e9FleHRuA2F1bQIxMAABHbL2ywgfy8yRHvcgkBX-_ZFpNRX8Erf14keCOZZcyK4dG374AntX8nDlqA_aem_IRK6zFMlueq_88LrvvIQ

Distributed outside Africa by African Books Collective

<https://www.africanbookscollective.com/books/african-small-publishers-catalogue-2024>
[paperback or ebook version]

A handy reference resource, now in its sixth edition, for all those interested in the African book world, including not only publishers, but also booksellers, librarians and literary professionals. It showcases independent publishers from across Africa, "celebrating their contributions while making their work more visible and accessible". Lists a wide range of over 60 small and independent publishers in countries from around Africa and some elsewhere that publish African books. Listings also include literary agents, and NGOs that promote children's literature and reading, in Cameroon, Canada, Egypt, France, Ghana, Malawi, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, South Africa, Switzerland Togo, Tunisia Uganda, the UK, the USA and Zimbabwe. The catalogue also contains a number articles that offer insights into the challenges and experiences of small publishers in Africa. At the same time the catalogue "connects independent African publishers with a global audience and fosters vital networks within the continent itself."

Reference resources, bibliographies, and library collections

Social media, book review media, blogs, podcasts and other platforms

20 Best South Africa Book Blogs and Websites.

https://books.feedspot.com/south_africa_book_blogs/ (Posted 16 April 2024)

“The best South Africa book blogs from thousands of book blogs on the web and ranked by traffic, social media followers, and freshness.”

Social media, book review media, blogs, podcasts and other platforms

Children’s Books Professionals in Africa (Writers, Illustrators, Publishers).

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/723635351089520/> [New Facebook group]

For those interested or active in children’s book publishing in Africa may be interested to learn about this recently established Facebook group which seeks “to facilitate knowledge, experience and opportunities sharing among children's and young adult books professionals in Africa. The platform welcome authors, Illustrators, publishers, librarians, readers and anyone interested or working in children literature, promoting reading or literacy in Africa. The posts allowed must be related to reading, children books and publishing.”

Social media, book review media, blogs, podcasts and other platforms

Author-publisher relationships/Publishing of African literature

Boydell and Brewer Publishers **Celebrating 40 years of James Currey** [Blog post]

<https://boydellandbrewer.com/blog/african-studies/celebrating-40-years-of-james-currey/>
(Posted 12 August 2024)

To mark the of 40th anniversary of the well-established James Currey Publishers imprint, here some of the imprint’s African Studies authors and series editors pay tribute: “James Currey Publishing was at its founding, and remains, the only publisher to focus on African Studies alone. Founded in 1984, one of the key imperatives from the start was to publish books on Africa by Africans alongside those of scholars elsewhere, and to ensure those books on Africa were available on the continent”. says Jaqueline Mitchell, who was Commissioning Editor at James Currey from 2012 – 2023.

Author-publisher relationships/Publishing of African literature

Book fairs and book promotional events

Dzwowa, Cecil **The Zimbabwe International Book Fair. A Moment of Pain and Promise.**

<https://www.esafrica.es/en/culture/the-zimbabwe-international-book-fair-a-moment-of-pain-and-promise/> (Posted 24 October 2024)

“Only three years after a protracted war of liberation that forced millions of children to skip school, the Zimbabwe International Book Fair (ZIBF) emerged on the young nation’s book marketing scene when the country needed it most. Back then in 1983 millions of children were returning to school and hundreds of newly liberated adults were eager to read and learn more

about the world. With books so much in demand, the rise of ZIBF was so dramatic that by the early nineties, it was one of the premier book fairs in Africa. Today, the ZIBF is a pale shadow of its former, but in a country with such a deep-rooted reading culture, there is still hope that one day it will retain its past glory.”

Book fairs and book promotional events

Book industry training/Education for publishing

Scheepers, Cassandra “**The Ariel Publishing Story.**” In *African Small Publishers Catalogue* edited by Colleen Higgs, with Cassandra Scheepers and Jessie Cooper. Cape Town: Modjaji Books, 2024: 129-132. ¶

Aerial Publishing <https://www.ru.ac.za/schooloflanguagesandliteratures/creativewriting/> was born from an informal course in creative writing at Rhodes University in South Africa in 1997, known as the ISEA short course. It is still running, as a weekly two-hour evening class over 14 weeks, with much of the writing done in class. Each year there were about 15-25 participants and three teachers.

Book industry training/Education for publishing

Book marketing and promotion/African books in the international market place

Independent Publishers Guild **Interview with Stephanie Kitchen, Executive Director, of the African Books Collective (ABC).**

<https://directory.libsyn.com/episode/index/show/independentpublishersguild/id/29184648>
Podcast. (Release date 21 February 2024) 15.12mins.

An Independent Publishers Guild podcast about the story and work of the activities of the African Books Collective “in improving the profile and availability of books from across Africa.” Its Executive Director, Stephanie Kitchen, also talks about the visibility of African books, and about what more can be done “to get African voices heard on a global stage.”

Book marketing and promotion/African books in the global market place

Mercy Kirui’s Experience at the London Book Fair.

<https://www.ekitabu.com/news/mercy-kiruis-experience-at-the-london-book-fair>

(Posted 24 August 2024)

Mercy Kirui – who is Nairobi-based Kitabu’s senior manager in charge of content – recounts her experience at the recently held 2024 London Book Fair, and at participating in various panel discussions held during the Fair. For one to have a rewarding experience at an international book event of the stature of the London Book Fair, she says one needs to plan well in advance. “Armed with their objectives, participants need to plan for their trip months in advance: The exhibitors are listed on their website and the App. The exhibitor’s page has contacts and one can email to book appointments with the various exhibitors; without an appointment, you might find yourself doing no business at all.”

Book marketing and promotion/African books in the international market place

Book prizes and awards (Continent-wide only)

Note: ➔ regular, fully descriptive listings African literary book prizes and awards can be found in the Notes & News section of the quarterly *African Book Publishing Record* <https://www.degruyter.com/journal/key/abpr/html> as well as in James Murua's Writing Africa Blog at <https://www.writingafrica.com/>.

Brittle Paper 2024 African Literary Excellence Awards.

<https://brittlepaper.com/2024/12/2024-african-literary-excellence-awards/> (Posted 18 December 2024).

Since its inception in 2015, the Brittle Paper African Literary Person of the Year Awards has celebrated individuals who work behind the scenes to build and sustain African literary culture. "While most literary awards spotlight authors and their creative works, this initiative fills a key gap by honouring the community of individuals whose collective effort keeps the literary ecosystem thriving." The 2024 Brittle Paper African Literary Awards Honourees by Category are: African Literary Person of the Year, Publisher of the Year, Children's Literature Advocate of the Year, Social Media Influencer of the Year, and Platform of the Year.

Book prizes and awards

Coroneos, Hannah \$20,000 CANEX Prize for Publishing in Africa Announces Longlist.

<https://brittlepaper.com/2024/08/20000-canex-prize-for-publishing-in-africa-announces-longlist/> (Posted 26 August 2024)

The CANEX Prize <https://www.canex.africa/canex-book-factory>, an initiative by the African Export-Import Bank (Afreximbank) under its Creative Africa Nexus (CANEX), and launched in 2024 offers a grand prize of \$20,000 to the winner and \$2,000 to each finalist. It is open to published trade books by publishers based in Africa and published within the preceding year. The inaugural prize received 85 submissions from 45 publishers across 10 African countries, The entries, representing a variety of languages including English, Portuguese, Swahili, and French, "showcased the diversity and vibrancy of African literature."

Note: ➔ Nigeria's Cassava Republic Press <https://cassavarepublic.biz/> won the inaugural award for *Female Fear Factory: Unveiling Patriarchy's Culture of Violence* by Professor Pumla Dineo Gqola.

Book prizes and awards

Children's books publishing

Dave, Jagravi Book Dash Celebrates 10 Years of Bringing Storybooks to Young Children in South Africa and Beyond.

<https://brittlepaper.com/2024/10/book-dash-celebrates-10-years-of-bringing-storybooks-to-young-children-in-south-africa-and-beyond/> (Posted 03 October 2024)

"Book Dash, a social-impact South African publisher, is celebrating 10 years of dedication to their goal of ensuring every child owns at least 100 books by the age of five! Recognizing the significant benefits of early childhood literacy, Book Dash solicits create professionals who volunteer to create high-quality, open-access African picture books which are then distributed to preschool children and their families in South Africa and other regions with the help of local partners."

Children's book publishing

Elongue, Christian, and Scortia Quansah **The State of Literary Agencies in Africa: A Focus on Children's Books.**

<https://www.globalbookalliance.org/news-views/guest-blog-thestate-of-literary-agencies-in-africa> (Posted 04 September 2024)

Reviews the current state of African literary agencies with a focus on those specialising in children's books: exploring the obstacles and opportunities within this sector, identifying significant stakeholders, and providing actionable recommendations for the way forward, highlighting relevant initiatives by Muna Kalati <https://www.munakalati.org/>. The authors conclude that "the literary landscape in Africa is vibrant and diverse, reflecting the continent's rich cultural heritage and storytelling traditions. Despite the challenges, the resilience of African writers and literary agencies is genuinely admirable. However, the infrastructure supporting writers, particularly in children's literature, is still developing."

Children's book publishing

Muna Kalati Unveils New Brand Identity and Expanded Services to Strengthen Access to African Children's Literature.

<https://www.munakalati.org/press-statement-muna-kalati-unveils-new-brand-identity-and-expanded-services-to-strengthen-access-t> (Posted 24 September 2024)

Muna Kalati, a Ghana-based organisation dedicated to enhancing access to African children's books – and increasing the visibility of children's book professionals – announces its rebranding "as it evolves into an innovative EdTech platform."

Children's book publishing

Nyarko-Mensah, Sam Kwabena "Achieving a Sustained Competitive Advantage in the Children's Publishing Industry." *Ghana Book World* 11 (2023): 29-34.

<https://www.gbdc.gov.gh/ghana-book-world-issue-11-2023>

"Achieving and maintaining a competitive advantage in the children's publishing industry is key to the growth and promotion of children's literature in the current sphere of work. Critical efforts will have to be exerted into ensuring quality children's literature for the intended readership."

Children's book publishing

Williams, Mark Nigeria's Akada Children's Book Festival Set for October Amid Falling Literacy Standards in Schools. The Solution is Simple.

<https://thenewpublishingstandard.com/2024/09/15/nigerias-akada-childrens-book-festival-set-for-october-amid-falling-literacy-standards-in-schools-the-solution-is-simple/>

(Posted 15 September 2024)

"75% of Nigerian kids that cannot read simple sentences" the author claims. "Does anyone seriously think Nigeria got to be the economic powerhouse of Africa with an illiterate workforce? Convened by Nigerian author Olubunmi Aboderin Talabi the festival aims to inspire young readers and foster a lifelong love of reading, "and works on the principle that that can best be achieved by providing a platform for indigenous authors and promoting engagement with children's literature that reflects local cultures."

Children's book publishing

Christian publishing and mission presses in Africa

Africa Speaks **A Light in African Publishing: Honouring the Life of Daniel Bourdanne**. [In English and French]

<https://africaspeaks.global/a-light-in-african-publishing-honoring-the-life-of-daniel-bourdanne/> (Posted 21 September 2024)

A tribute and profile of the late Daniel Bourdanne (1959-2024) and his impact on French-speaking African Christian publishing. He served as the director of Presses Bibliques Africaines <https://pbaeditions.org/> (PBA) from 1995 to 2006, was also much involved in the launching of Africa Speaks, an informal network uniting global publishing professionals “with the goal of creating a sustainable and flourishing Christian publishing industry in Africa.”

Christian publishing and mission presses in Africa

Digital and e-book publishing

African Books Collective **The Transformative Potential of Ebooks in African Publishing**.

<https://www.readafricanbooks.com/.../the-transformative.../>

(Posted November 2024)

ABC launched its own ebook platform/digital library of books two years ago. With over 2,300 titles, and approximately 300 titles being added annually, “it is one of most significant digital resources of African-published books”. Here, it discusses the progress and successes of distributing African published ebooks. “There are economic gains from enabling publishers to take direct control of their ebook distribution, both for African publishers and libraries acquiring books from the continent. We suggest that digital libraries are the future of African publishing. They may eventually help improve the dissemination of books within the continent itself.”

Digital and e-book publishing

Elongué, Christian **African Initiatives Advancing Digital Publishing on the Continent**.

<https://www.globalbookalliance.org/news-views/guest-blog-initiatives-overcoming-challenges-in-the-digital-publishing-industry-in-africa> (Posted 10 May 2024)

From the Global Book Alliance, a helpful wrap-up of digital initiatives tackling infrastructure and funding challenges; initiatives that seek to overcome distribution, literacy and linguistic challenges; as well as initiatives to overcome piracy, intellectual rights barriers, and the level of skills gap.

Note: This is an updated/expanded version of the author’s earlier posting (27 February 2024) “What is the Current State of Digital Book Publishing in Africa?”

<https://cursus.edu/en/30196/what-is-the-current-state-of-digital-book-publishing-in-africa>

Digital and e-book publishing

Standing Conference of Library Materials from Africa (SCOLMA)

Publishing, Platforms, & African Literature in the Digital Age | SCOLMA 2024 Seminar Series #4

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pVLh91xn3qI> (Posted 07 November 2024)

You Tube video 41.19mins. [One in a series of five presentations]

“In the last decade social media, ebooks, and other digital platforms have been transforming how and where writers are read. This seminar explores the ways in which these changes have affected the production, circulation and collecting of literature from the African continent.”

Digital and e-book publishing

Journals and magazine publishing

Harris, Ashleigh **The Literary Metadata of African Little and Popular Magazines.**

ALMEDA Pamphlet 1, January 2024, 12 pp.

<https://uu.diva-portal.org/smash/get/diva2:1825058/FULLTEXT01.pdf>

Scholarship on little and popular magazines in Africa has been limited by major issues of access and availability of data. The ALMEDA (African Literary Metadata, based at Uppsala University) <https://almedaresearch.org/about-almeda/> project is primarily focused on creating and connecting documentation, to ensure the futurity of these ephemeral materials for the African literary archive. “What is archived is fragmented and uncoordinated, often lost in labyrinthine archival structures, or only collected in informal or undocumented collections. ... ALMEDA addresses the problem of visibility and accessibility of these materials through metadata ... Because of the costs involved, many African libraries and archives do not have the resources to digitize such materials.”

I would suggest”, the author says, “that the rhetoric around the required standards and resolutions for digitization are partly to blame for this drift of African cultural heritage to the global north. While the value of high-quality digitization is undeniable, African libraries would do well to proceed with affordable digitization, rather than having to purchase expensive machinery for this task. ... More importantly, in a time in which there are as many small digitization projects as there were small magazines, we need more than only local catalogues of these magazines, we also need to link up data about these digitization projects so that researchers can find these materials with ease.”

Journals and magazine publishing

Limb, Peter **“Nigerian Journals, Publishers, and Libraries: A Response to Hans Zell.”**

Africa Bibliography, Research and Documentation, volume 3, November 2024: 57-64.

<https://doi.org/10.1017/abd.2024.5> ¶

“An important and timely recent article by Hans Zell on Nigerian university presses prompts wider questions about the state of Nigerian scholarly publishing, how universities in general and journal publishers in particular adapt, and how libraries access scholarly outputs. This brief response to the article seeks to widen the discussion and encourage further research and action on the subject.”

In his conclusion the author states that “despite enormous problems and the decline of Nigerian university presses as such the vibrancy and massive output of Nigerian scholarly

journals continues, reflecting the lively and productive intellectual milieu as well as the adaptability and resilience of authors, editors, and their universities. Today the steady stream of new journals more often than not is published by university departments or faculties, rather than under the imprint of formal university presses. Many of these remain print-only yet, simultaneously, hundreds of others make it into (or out of) online platforms. In some ways this diversity is emblematic of Africa's most populous and diverse country. We should keep in mind the late Henry Chakava's optimistic vision of publishing for a new era, that should 'come out of local publishing houses' and with an ongoing need for 'the production of strong, influential journals'.

Journals and magazine publishing

Mills, David, Stephanie Kitchen, and Bouchra Sidi-Hida "**African Journal Publishing: Infrastructures, Visibility, Resilience.**" *Global Africa*, no 7, (September 2024): 50-60.

https://www.globalafricasciences.org/_files/ugd/1a3c4b_37674438d06547c6b9ac4b0c2430fd58.pdf [In English and French]

A special issue (freely accessible at the above link) of this bi-lingual journal which, among other contributions on the topic, includes a penetrating analysis (pp. 50-60) of the current state of African academic journals publishing and its many formidable challenges. In their concluding remarks 'Which Way Now?' the authors state: "Without sustained government or donor financial support, or investments from other sources, the dreams and hopes for Africa's university presses, libraries and independent publishers will come to little. Tempering ambition with realism, the first step is building resilient publishing infrastructures."

Journals and magazine publishing

Toluwase, Asubiaro, Sodiq Onaolapo, and David Mills "**Regional Disparities in Web of Science and Scopus Journal.**" *Scientometrics* (2024) 129:1469–1491.

<https://doi.org/10.1007/s11192-024-04948-x> ¶

A comprehensive analysis of the global landscape of journal coverage in the Web of Science and Scopus, compared with data from *Ulrich's Periodical Directory*. It offers "the first regional analysis of journal representation in these two indexes across all eight UNESCO world regions, compared to the total number of active Ulrich's directory academic journals in these regions ... The analysis also offers a quantitative breakdown of journal publication languages, highlighting how Scopus and Web of Science disproportionately index English language publications in all world regions. ... These indexes determine the reputations of academics, the impact of journals and the ranking of universities. Inclusion in these indices significantly impacts a journal's scholarly reputation. Despite the influential role of these two indexes in research evaluation, studies have repeatedly raised questions about their coverage."

It should be no surprise that the global landscape of journal publishing is shaped by history, empire and regional income inequalities, the authors say: "The dominant position of Europe and North America within this research economy is amplified by Web of Science and Scopus through the over-representation of those region's journals in the two indexes, at the expense of journals from other regions."

The authors recommend further research on the inequalities in Web of Science and Scopus, using data from editors, authors and publishers to better understand the scope and depth of

these dynamics. “Qualitative interview data could make it possible to apply other types of analysis, providing different perspectives and solutions. Regional journal coverage comparison between research indexing databases, apart from Web of Science and Scopus, could also include other databases such as Google Scholar, Open Alex, Dimensions and CrossRef.”

Journals and magazine publishing

Open access publishing

African Books Collective **African Journals Initiative.**

<https://www.readafricanbooks.com/.../african-journals.../>

Pluto Journals <https://www.plutojournals.com/> and African Books Collective <https://www.africanbookscollective.com/> have announced the launch of the ‘African Journals Initiative internationalising African social science and humanities journals, and working with a growing community of no-fee (‘diamond’) Open Access (OA) social science and humanities journals based in African universities. A three-year pilot programme, the new project is designed to enhance the profile and discoverability of African journals, increase journal usage and submissions, and mobilise financial support from academic libraries and consortia.

Open access publishing

EIFL.Net (Electronic Information for Libraries)

Landscape Study of No-fee Open Access Publishing in Africa

<https://www.eifl.net/news/landscape-study-no-fee-open-access-publishing-africa> (Posted 22 July 2024)

Eifl.net is the website for Electronic Information for Libraries (EIFL). This report examines quality and sustainability of Diamond open access (OA) publishing, and underlying needs and strategies to advance Diamond OA in Africa. “It provides an overview of open access (OA) journals in Africa that do not charge fees for either authors or readers (often referred to as Diamond OA journals).” “The report is based on survey responses from 199 journals, 21 institutional, national and continental platforms that host Diamond OA journals. It also includes 25 country reports with information about current funding and financial sustainability approaches and challenges, institutional in-kind support, incentives, collaborations among Diamond OA journals, needs, and strategies to advance Diamond OA in Africa.”

Open access publishing

EIFL.Net (Electronic Information for Libraries)

No-Fee Open Access Publishing in Africa Community of Practice.

https://www.eifl.net/news/no-fee-open-access-publishing-africa-community-practice?utm_source=EIFLall&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=newsletter132

(Posted 25 November 2024)

Reports about a new initiative to support editors and publishers of no-fee OA journals and books in Africa. “Over 140 African no-fee journal editors have already expressed their interest in participating in the Community of Practice to share experiences, discuss opportunities for collaborations and partnerships, and collectively advocate for no-fee OA publishing (often referred to as Diamond OA) on the continent and globally.” See also this earlier posting at

<https://www.eifl.net/news/17-grants-strengthen-no-fee-oa-publishing-africa>

Open access publishing

OASPA. Open Access Scholarly Publishing Association

Sustainable Open Access Book Publishing in East Africa. [Publishers Forum/Webinar]

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YaK9r0iFiXE> (Posted 24 October 2024)

A collaborative online session for publishers and academics from East Africa covering approaches towards more equitable and sustainable open access (OA) for scholarly books. “Publishers are key drivers, and OA publishing is highly contextualised, with unique experiences and challenges based on region, discipline, funding and other factors.” This webinar-style series of presentations explores impacts, experiences, revenue models and other topics pertaining to OA book publishing.”

Open access publishing

Publishing in African languages

Jagravi, Dave, and Ainehi Edoro **Tanzanian Publisher Mkuki na Nyota Is Championing Kiswahili Literature on the Global Stage.**

https://brittlepaper.com/2024/12/tanzanian-publisher-mkuki-na-nyota-is-championing-kiswahili-literature-on-the-global-stage/?fbclid=IwZXh0bgNhZW0CMATAAR32hnwxtENkMd6LprYDzEQgCBDsYIOezg6oacAweuwTBhjPZGx7Bymsd1c_aem_ezwxAQGrqm9mpRu4IXRwHA (Posted 28 November)

Brittle Paper’s 2024 Publisher of the Year was named as the Tanzania-based publishing house Mkuki na Nyota <https://mkukinanyota.com/> founded by Walter Bgoya, who also served as its Managing Editor until handing the reins over to his son Mkuki Bgoya following his recent retirement. With this award, the citation says, “we celebrate Mkuki na Nyota’s commitment to making space for African language literature to thrive. ... At a time when many indigenous languages struggle to compete in a global media landscape dominated by English, Mkuki na Nyota has made a deliberate commitment to Kiswahili literature. Over the past decade, they have consistently released 30–40 titles annually, with one record-breaking year seeing the publication of 60 books. Their catalogue spans fiction, non-fiction, and children’s literature.”

Publishing in African languages

- Mlekwa, Zandisiwe **A History of Indigenous Language Publishing in South Africa.** (Wits Publishing Studies, posted 23 October 2023. [Linked In])

<https://www.linkedin.com/pulse/history-indigenous-language-publishing-south-africa/>

This article forms part of a three-part series dealing with indigenous language publishing as presented in the Wits Honours and MA Coursework programs in 2023. “As we are reaching 30 years into democracy South Africa still faces challenges with the legacy of colonialism and apartheid. After the 1994 democratic elections, the government drafted a new Constitution which recognised the damage colonialism and apartheid had done to indigenous languages and acknowledged the need to take key steps to redress the past. The running themes were based on achieving equality in the languages during the age of the ‘rainbow nation’ and social cohesion. Unfortunately, the language parity we strove for is yet to be achieved. South Africa is still suffering with language issues evident in the publishing industry. With over 11

indigenous languages, South Africa still suffers from an undersupply of indigenous language reading material.”

Publishing in African languages

Reading culture and reading promotion

Ngalame, Elias **HE Should Help to Build a Culture of Reading, [and] Publishing.**

<https://www.universityworldnews.com/post.php?story=20240521123108972> (Posted 23 May 2024)

A *University World News* interview with veteran Cameroonian publisher Mwalimu George Ngwane “on how academics can drive a publishing culture in the university milieu in Africa and help make libraries more relevant to the higher education system on the continent.” In answering questions regarding infrastructure needed to improve a reading and publishing culture in higher education in Africa, Ngwane says “three pillars of any robust university, which include a printing press, a library and a bookshop. These three elements are, by themselves, the bedrock of a reading culture. Universities and higher education authorities in Africa should ensure they invest in these three elements for quality teaching and learning. ... Authors or publishers should be invited periodically to the campus to deliver motivational talks. This helps the students to have mentors and alter egos who are attached to the written word. ... Without lecturers holding their forte as mentors to their students, their own students will continue to hold musicians and footballers as their alter egos”, and adds, “the first professional initiative needed in the book sector is the setting up of associations. I am still to discover the existence of a vibrant readers’ club, writers’ association, publishers’ association, librarians’ club, book council, and so on, in Cameroon.”

Reading culture and reading promotion

Nsiah, Isaac Owusu “**Developing and Encouraging the Reading Culture in Africa: The Case of Ghana.**” *Library Philosophy and Practice* 809 (May 2024): 1-24.

<https://digitalcommons.unl.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=15510&context=libphilprac>

Also at

https://www.academia.edu/120034843/Developing_and_Encouraging_the_Reading_Culture_in_Africa_The_Developing_and_Encouraging_the_Reading_Culture_in_Africa_The_Case_of_Ghana_Case_of_Ghana

There is increasing apathy towards the habit of reading in Africa, and Ghana is not an exception, the author says. “Existing scholarships have provided a considerable account of such an abysmal reading culture in Africa. What have been the factors that have caused the nature of this appalling situation? What are some of the measures to help promote the culture of reading? This paper problematizes the culture of reading in Africa with an emphasis on Ghana. It challenges the dominant narrative on Africa being considered an oral and necessarily chatting society devoid of the culture of reading.” The author also argues that social media has a part to play in the poor reading culture in Ghana.

Reading culture and reading promotion

● Ofosu-Asamoah, Daniel “**Reading Should be Made Interesting, Not Punishing.**” *Ghana Book World* 11 (2023): 35-39.

<https://www.gbdc.gov.gh/ghana-book-world-issue-11-2023>

Reading plays a major role when it comes to the subject of literacy, the author argues “and it is no secret that notwithstanding the importance of reading, stakeholders in the promotion of reading as well as the general public have always complained of low interest in reading. The question is: if reading, which is cardinal to the subject of literacy, is so important, why do the records indicate low patronage in respect of the number of people who read? ... The truth of the matter is that as a society we have not found a way to make reading interesting. ... There is the need to make reading interesting, thus helping to create a society that reads because of the importance and pleasure of reading.”

Reading culture and reading promotion

Scholarly and STM publishing

Chirisa, Nomsa, and Mpho Ngoepe **Publish or Perish? Innovative Models for Scholarly Publishing in Zimbabwe.** *Information Development Online First*, 2024: 1-13.

<https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/10.1177/02666669241289916> [Open Access/Free pdf download] (Posted 17 October 2024)

“Innovative publishing models have emerged to meet the demands of the ‘publish or perish’ philosophy prevalent in academic and scholarly circles.” This new paper “examines the publishing models implemented in the publishing of scholarly works by scholarly publishers in Zimbabwe. Qualitative data were collected through the Delphi Technique design, with publishing experts over three rounds of interviews, and triangulated with data from document analysis. The key findings indicate open access, self-publishing, and collaborative publishing as effective market models for university presses. However, Zimbabwean universities are still lagging behind, as few have established university presses.”

Scholarly and STM publishing

Kitchen, Stephanie, David Mills, and Mame-Penda Ba **Afrostructuring – Why we Need an African Future for African Research Publishing.**

<https://blogs.lse.ac.uk/.../afrostructuring-why-we-need.../> (Posted 31 October 2024)

The authors argue that for African research to have local and global influence requires a focus on ‘Afrostructuring’, the creation and maintenance of African scholarly publishing infrastructures that derive from and serve the needs of African researchers. It reports that, in 2024, “the article processing charge (APC) to publish a scientific paper open access in the journal *Nature* is an astounding £8,990/\$12,290. ... “Is this the price of prestige? Or a reflection of the pressures on Springer Nature to maximise its profits and appeal to shareholders? ... Africa’s governments and research funders will ultimately determine the direction of the continent’s research publishing systems. ‘Afrostructuring’ tempers ambition with realism, and recognises that the first step needs to be endogenous support for Africa’s publishing infrastructures.”

Scholarly and STM publishing

Klipp, Veronica **Scholarly Publishing in South Africa: Influencing Global Debates.**

<https://www.linkedin.com/pulse/scholarly-publishing-south-africa-influencing-4pkof/> (Posted 25 July 2024)

Scholarly publishing in South Africa is more than 100 years old. This is a useful overview, and an appreciation of the complexities at play within the scholarly publishing environment in South Africa and, in particular, university presses. “Research completed in 2015 showed that, of the 15 active university presses on the continent, five were based in South Africa” Today University Presses “contribute to the abundance and variety of cultural expression at a time of continuing consolidation in the commercial publishing industry.” The author, Veronica Klipp, has been the Publisher at Wits University Press since 2002.

Scholarly and STM publishing

Klipp, Veronica **Varieties of University Press Business Models: Wits University Press, Scholarly Publishing in South Africa, and the Global Knowledge Economy.**

<https://networks.h-net.org/group/discussions/20046394/varieties-university-press-business-models-wits-university-press> (Posted 10 September 2024)

Also at

<https://www.witspress.co.za/page/article-detail/discussion-varieties-of-university-press-business-models-wits-university-press-scholarly-publishing-in-south-africa-and/>

Veronica Klipp has been the Publisher at Wits University Press <https://witspress.co.za/> since 2002. She writes that it is “probably true that in most of the global South, scholarly publication by international presses is still regarded as a proxy for quality. Internationalisation is the name of the academic game – most notably for journals but increasingly also for books. This affects areas such as consortial licensing of content by libraries that prioritises large academic publishers, in the process often excluding small publishers. Of particular concern are new proposals to automatically approve output subsidies for internationally published books while local publishers still need to supply proof of peer review in spite of ‘best practice’ guidelines, approved by the Academy of Sciences of South Africa, that all university presses adhere to! This kind of thinking entrenches the stamp of prestige that international presses represent. It is a challenge faced not only by presses in South Africa, but many others outside the Northern metropolises. The prices of imported books are extremely high for the South African academy, and probably unaffordable in many other regions on the continent with even weaker currencies. Access, even to local research, becomes increasingly difficult, disadvantaging local academics and perpetuating North/South divides.”

Thinking about the global industry in these political terms “allows Wits Press to formulate its mission more clearly. Publishing in or from the South aims to provide access to local content. It does not follow the dominant knowledge circuit of ‘researching south – publishing north – exporting to the south’ but advocates for adding editorial value based on local knowledge and selling books or rights to the North. It means benefitting financially from the research in order to enable more research – including research that may not always find a northern publishing home – to be published in a kind of virtuous cycle. Sales and usage networks then ensure that citations credit local publishers.”

Scholarly and STM publishing

LASPAD Research Laboratory at Baston Berger University of Saint-Louis, Senegal

Understanding the Scientific Publishing Ecosystem4. [in Africa]

<https://laspad.org/en/research/research-areas/edition-publication/understanding-the-scientific-publishing-ecosystem/> [Current status of project/publication not known]

This research project is undertaking an in-depth continent-wide study of the state of scholarly publishing and dissemination in Africa. “The study will profile, document and investigate the history, work and challenges facing university presses, independent publishers, and all other online platforms used by researchers in Africa. ... The research is motivated by the need for intervention to develop, strengthen and promote scholarly publishing across the African continent, given the collapse of knowledge infrastructure since the early eighties, as well as the urgency for African academic institutions to develop the necessary tools for equitable and meaningful participation in the knowledge economy that underpins AI.”

Scholarly and STM publishing

Nutta, Sarah, and Isabel Hofmeyer, eds. **Publishing from the South. A Century of Wits University Press.** Johannesburg: Wits University Press, 2024. 364 pp.

<https://www.witspress.co.za/page/detail/Publishing-from-the-South/?K=9781776149247>

Featuring contributions from scholars, publishers as well as authors this multi-voiced volume “offers a deep dive into the history, sociology and politics of the oldest South African university press. It explores the strategies deployed to professionalise global South knowledge making and supports the scholarly missions of their universities.” The book showcases the history and achievements of the Press in 16 chapters: “from documenting its evolution through book covers and giving credence to some of the leading black intellectuals and writers of the early 20th century and the success of their works in spite of their authors’ racial marginalisation, to the role of women both in publishing and in the spaces afforded to women’s writing on the Press’s list.”

See also excerpts at <https://johannesburgreviewofbooks.com/2024/12/19/one-hundred-years-of-book-covers-read-an-excerpt-from-publishing-from-the-south-a-century-of-wits-university-press/> (Free access)

Scholarly and STM publishing

Obanda, Johanssen, and Baraka Manjale Ngussa **Scholarly Publishing in Africa. Overcoming Barriers and Creating Opportunities.**

<https://doi.org/10.60763/africarxiv/1628> (Posted 31 October 2024)

or <https://africarxiv.ubuntunet.net/items/2de28a9c-0725-436d-b82b-f83c56748ec4/full>

Not examined (download failed).

Scholarly and STM publishing

Women in African Publishing

Cabrita, Joel “**Imprint Africa: Conversations with African Women Publishers.**” In *African Small Publishers Catalogue* edited by Colleen Higgs, with Cassandra Scheepers and Jessie Cooper. Cape Town: Modjaji Books, 2024: 105-115. ¶

A two-part article that maps an early twenty-first century history of the remarkable women who have pioneered the publishing history in Africa. “These luminaries have modelled resistance to the forces excluding African writers from the publishing industry, both on the continent and beyond.” The above is followed by a series of interviews, “Five Writers and Publishers Discuss the Continent’s Boundless Literary Landscape. Ed Nawotka Talks to Sulaiman Adebawale, Colleen Higgs, Jessica Powers, Sandra Tamele, and Rachel Zadok.”

Women in African publishing

de Villiers, Phillippa Yaa **Margaret Busby: How a Pioneering Ghanaian Publisher Put African Women's Writing on the Map.**

<https://theconversation.com/margaret-busby-how-a-pioneering-ghanaian-publisher-put-african-womens-writing-on-the-map-227000> (Posted 28 April 2024)

Phillippa Yaa de Villiers, poet and lecturer in creative writing at the University of the Witwatersrand in South Africa, offers a portrait of Ghanaian-born publisher Margaret Busby, author the groundbreaking volume of writing by women of African descent *Daughters of Africa* published in 1992. It was followed by an expanded second edition *New Daughters of Africa* in 2019. Margaret Busby became the first Black female publisher in the UK at 20 when she co-founded Allison and Busby <https://www.allisonandbusby.com/> in 1967. The company was first to publish a number of significant writers during her two-decade tenure. Meantime Busby has continued to nurture new generations of writers, academics, editors, publishers and critics.

Women in African publishing

Imprint Africa: Conversations with African Women Publishers. ¶

Cape Town: Modjaji Books [Forthcoming November 2024? Not examined]

https://modjajibooks.co.za/titles/?mgi_723=238581/imprint-africa

Distributed outside Africa by African Books Collective.

A collection of interviews that chronicles the work of a new network of female intellectuals and activists “who have transformed African publishing across the twenty-first century. The rise of woman-led literary initiatives across the last two decades has led to major literary-publishing shifts. Bringing together voices from the African diaspora and the African continent; these conversations speak in vital ways to the successes and challenges of this ongoing and transformative literary movement.” The book includes a foreword by Margaret Busby, and interviews with nine African women publishers/literary activists: Ellah Wakatama (Caine Prize), Bibi Bakare-Yusuf (Cassava Republic Press), Zukiswa Wanner (Paivapo), Ainehi Edoro (Brittle Paper), Louise Umutohi (Huza Press), Lola Shoneyin (Ake Arts and Book Festival), Colleen Higgs (Modjaji Books), Goretta Kyomuhendo (African Writers' Trust), and Thabiso Mahlape (Blackbird Books).

Note: See also record by Cabrita, Joel “**Imprint Africa: Conversations with African Women Publishers**” above.

Women in African publishing

Katjavivi, Jane **Undisciplined Heart. A Memoir.** Windhoek: University of Namibia Press, 2024. 382 pp. (distributed outside Africa by African Books Collective Ltd) ¶

<https://www.africanbookscollective.com/books/undisciplined-heart-1Africa> [Note: This is a reissue of a book first published by Modjaji Books in 2010.]

See also <https://modjajibooks.co.za/topics/jane-katjavivi/>

The late Jane Katjavivi (1952-2022) was an English-born Namibian writer, publisher, editor, and book development activist. She was the founder of New Namibia Books in 1990, which published an extensive range of Namibian literature, autobiography, academic books, school textbooks as well as children's books. She was also the founding Publisher of the University of Namibia (UNAM) Press, from 2011 to 2016, and was Chairperson of the Association of Namibian Publishers and the Namibia Book Development Council. Additionally, she also set up and ran a bookshop in Windhoek specializing in Namibiana and books on Africa.

Women in African publishing

Le Roux, Elizabeth **“Best Left to Men’: Women and Publishing Histories in Africa.”** In *Gender and the Book Trades*, Library of the Written Word, volume 128, edited by Elise Wason and Jessica Farrell-Jobst. Leiden: Brill, 2024: 67-86.

<https://brill.com/edcollchap/book/9789004701656/BP000013.xml> ¶

Very little research has thus far examined the depiction of women publishers in African countries, the author says in this thought-provoking study. Asenath Bole Odaga, founder of Lake Publishers in Kenya in 1983, once described her struggle as a woman in publishing. She was confronted by male colleagues who suggested that publishing was ‘best left to men’. “She recalled in an interview that they suggested it might be more appropriate if she were to set up a restaurant instead of a publishing house—a more acceptable space for a woman, being associated with food rather than ideas. ... Contrast this depiction with that of a different African publisher: the South African publisher Jonathan Ball, who started an eponymous publishing house in the 1970s and died in April 2021. In obituaries, he is described as ‘larger than life’, a ‘shrewd businessman’ and ‘a bon vivant publisher in the classic mould, whose favourite pastime was holding court at a well-appointed table. “

However, very little research thus far has examined the depiction of women publishers in African countries. “Part of the reason is that publishing is relatively recent in most parts of Africa. There thus remains a gap when it comes to describing the historical role of women publishers in Africa, and my own research to date has shown that it is difficult even to identify such publishers, let alone write them back into the publishing history of this region. This raises questions of method and historiography: How do we identify women’s involvement in the African book trades? What sources can be tapped for the data, beyond interviews and personal recollections?”

In her conclusion the author says: “The case studies of women as magazine editors, scholarly publishers and oppositional publishers outlined here reveal a rich, and largely unexplored, area of publishing history. What, then, does it mean to say that publishing is ‘best left to men’? Even as the industry has become increasingly staffed by women, publishing has been constructed as a masculine enterprise. Differences in how men and women are framed as publishers suggest that women are accepted in support roles, but that the role of the eccentric, innovative, bon vivant publisher is seen as the preserve of men. Women might be worker bees, but men are visionaries and leaders.”

Women in African publishing

Powers, Jessica **#Reading Africa.** In *African Small Publishers Catalogue* edited by Colleen Higgs, with Cassandra Scheepers and Jessie Cooper. Cape Town: Modjaji Books, 2024: 123-126. ¶

Jessica Power’s Catalyst Press, <https://www.catalystpress.org/meet-the-team> launched in 2017, is based in both North America and South Africa. Catalyst Press started Reading Africa Week <https://www.catalystpress.org/readingafricaweek> in 2017 as an annual celebration of African literature. “What this means is that marketing ‘African literature’ to our southern readership is easy, but we face challenges in North America. For example, what is African literature? And how do you get Americans to read it?”

Women in African publishing

Country-specific studies

Cameroon

Djamfa, Priscille Ngongang “**Technological Innovation and Development of the Publishing Industry: The Challenging Digital Transformation of Publishing Houses in Cameroon.**” *Open Journal of Applied Sciences* 14, no. 4: 1863-1885.

<https://www.scirp.org/journal/paperinformation?paperid=134806>

or

https://www.scirp.org/pdf/ojapps2024147_172312609.pdf

In Cameroon, the book sector is still predominantly focused on school textbooks, a legacy from the colonial period. “This study investigates the impact of technological innovation on Cameroonian publishing by examining the processes of content selection, legitimization, and dissemination in the digital age.” The author’s findings “indicate that a strategic shift towards embracing digital tools and improving infrastructure could significantly enhance the efficiency and reach of Cameroonian publishing houses. ... The industry can leverage digital technologies to foster a more inclusive, dynamic, and resilient publishing environment.”

Cameroon

Kitchen, Stephanie **Cameroonian Book Publishing as ‘Defiant Scholarship’.**

https://www.readafricanbooks.com/opinion/cameroonian-book-publishing-as-defiant-scholarship/?fbclid=IwZXh0bgNhZW0CMTAAAR2AJ2wnfQCUzVE4z-l8JwJRgJQPTs2SpSb1EjRovnrZTAoF8SjhQTNKL0o_aem_k3noXiTNEdj1k-gn8WIkA

A presentation by Stephanie Kitchen, Executive Director of African Books Collective, held at a British Academy Writing Workshop on ‘Defiant Scholarship in Africa’ held in July 2024, discussing ‘Book Publishing and Publishing Collectives in Africa’. With profiles of the activities of a number of prominent Cameroonian publishers.

The representation of Cameroonian publishers and books in ABC is a success story, Kitchen says, “perhaps owing to regional conditions: the educational systems and universities; the multilingualism that drives diversity and productivity; and the research and activism of notable scholars beyond Cameroon in the diaspora, including in Europe and North America, and through international networks, such as in Japan. Cameroon is making an outsized contribution to publishing in the continent, building on its intellectual history.” Moreover, “Cameroonian book publishing has fitted well with the ABC model. The individuals noted and their networks have driven various publishing projects. The Cameroonian book publishers discussed here have to greater and lesser extents depended on ABC to survive and thrive; but they have equally advanced their own publishing capabilities.”

Cameroon

World Bank Group **Turning Pages, Transforming Lives: Cameroon’s Textbook Revolution.**

<https://www.worldbank.org/en/results/2024/02/01/turning-pages-transforming-lives-cameroon-textbook-revolution> (Posted 05 February 20-24)

“Decade-long engagement between the Government of Cameroon and the World Bank has improved textbook availability and affordability for over 4 million children nationwide. Since

2014, a combination of interventions has helped to reduce the high cost of textbooks by over 50 percent, quadrupling the availability and number of textbooks in public schools. The student-to-textbook ratio has significantly improved, from 12 students for every book, to a standard package of three essential textbooks (French, English, and Mathematics) for every two students. The goal is to attain a ratio of three books per student by 2026. A landmark national textbook policy supported by the World Bank established the free provision of textbooks to all public schools. It also improved the equity and transparency in book selection and procurement.”

Cameroon

Ghana

- Asante, Mavis “**Factors that Influence the Purchasing Decision of Textbooks.**” *Ghana Book World* 11 (2023): 5-10.

<https://www.gbdc.gov.gh/ghana-book-world-issue-11-2023>

Textbooks, like any other products, requires research into the patterns of customer purchasing decisions in order to serve as a guide for current and future marketing activities. “This is due to the role of textbooks in enhancing academic experiences and performance of students. Due to the evolving educational ecosystem, the factors which influence the choices involved in the acquisition of textbooks continue to evolve. This impacts on the decision-making process.” The paper sets out the factors that affect the purchasing decision by students in tertiary education in Ghana when purchasing textbooks.

Ghana

- Asuinura, Ernesticia Lartey “**A New Dawn Beckons for the Ghana Book Development Council Bill, 2023: A Case of ‘Third time lucky’?**” *Ghana Book World* 11 (2023): 24-28.

<https://www.gbdc.gov.gh/ghana-book-world-issue-11-2023>

The Ghana Book Development Council Bill, 2023 (GBDC Bill, 2023) has formally begun its journey to becoming an Act of Parliament. This is the third time the Bill has travelled this process, after two previous unsuccessful attempts in 2016 and 2018 respectively. “The journey to the Ghana Book Development Council Bill, 2023 (GBDC Bill, 2023) has not been without hiccups. The processes to the Bill were initiated more than a decade ago but became stalled along the way.” The author – who is the Director of the Ghana Book Development Council – asks “will the ‘third time lucky’ saying work for the Bill this time? ... Will the saying prove true by the time the tenure of the current session of Parliament ends on 6th January 2025? Time will tell.”

Ghana

Ghana Book Development Council

Ghana Book World, latest issue, no. 12, 2024

<https://www.gbdc.gov.gh/ghana-book-world-issue-12-2024> [Page not accessible as at 24/01/25]

As always, this is another interesting and informative issue. It covers topics such as copyright and remedies against copyright infringement; Emily Fiagbedzi’s keynote address at the launch of the 21st Ghana International Book Fair; a report about a nationwide survey undertaken to ascertain the extent to which books on the Ghanaian market conform to

minimum acceptable standards; as well as a paper on the activities, pursuits and challenges of the Ghana Association of Writers.

Ghana

- Osei, Sarah, and Riche-Mike Wellington “**Reading is Giving a Boost in Accra, Ghana.**”

Ghana Book World 11 (2023): 1-4.

<https://www.gbdc.gov.gh/ghana-book-world-issue-11-2023> [Page not accessible as at 24/01/25]

An Accra World Book Capital, 2023 initiative targets marginalised groups in Ghana that have high levels of illiteracy, including women, youth, street children, and those with disabilities. The year-long programme provides institutional support for lifelong learning and stimulates the culture of reading and creativity “and is positively impacting Ghanaian society towards achieving the national goal of becoming a learning nation. ... Indigenous African culture and the rich Ghanaian heritage are gradually losing value among young people, leading to cultural assimilation with other cultures. In that context, there is the need to support the creative and arts industry to preserve and promote the rich Ghanaian traditional cultures amid the intense acculturation environment. This will help to safeguard the Ghanaian and African identity.”

Ghana

Williams, Mark **Ghana – Govt Fails to Pay its Publishing Bills. Publishers Need to Embrace a Wider Reading Model.**

(Posted 20 December 2023)

<https://thenewpublishingstandard.com/2023/12/20/ghana-govt-fails-to-pay-its-publishing-bills-publishers-need-to-embrace-a-wider-reading-model/>

“The 47th AGM of the Ghana Publishers Association has been dominated by financial worries that centre on the failure of the Education Ministry to pay the outstanding 80% it owes to publishers for school textbooks this year. Reports indicate that, despite an initial payment of 20 percent made in August 2023, the Ministry has yet to hand over the remaining 80 percent of the total amount owed.”

Ghana

Kenya

Kitchen, Stephanie **Henry Chakava in Memoriam.**

https://www.readafricanbooks.com/media/website_posts/178/Henry-Chakava..pdf

An obituary and tribute of the late legendary Henry Chakava, a founder of African Books Collective, and his many achievements in promoting African publishing initiatives, and laying the foundation of independence for African publishing and the book trade.

Note: Among many other obituaries and tributes of “the godfather of African publishing” see also:

Henry Chakava (1946 – 2024): The Publisher who Pricked the People into Consciousness

<https://africanarguments.org/.../henry-chakava-the.../>

by Tanzanian publisher Walter Bgoya

<https://africaspeaks.global/a-giant-of-african-publishing-has-fallen/>

East African Educational Publishers, Kenya

<https://obituarykenya.co.ke/henry-miyinzi-chakava-hsc-mbs/>

Executive Office of the President (Instagram)

<https://www.instagram.com/p/C4QNj-CN8hl/>

Nation Africa

Ngũgĩ wa Thiong’o: Henry Chakava - My Friend, Student and Saviour

<https://nation.africa/kenya/news/ng%C5%A9g%C4%A9-wa-thiong-o-henry-chakava-my-friend-student-and-saviour-4552952>

Kenya

Williams, Mark **Kenya Publishers Association Urges Action Against Counterfeit Textbooks.**

<https://thenewpublishingstandard.com/2024/12/23/kenya-publishers-association-urges-action-against-counterfeit-textbooks/> (Posted 23 December 2024)

The proliferation of counterfeit items, including kamusi [meaning, in Swahili] dictionaries, readers, textbooks, and set books, significantly harms the publishing industry and the broader economy. This illegal activity has led to serious financial losses for publishers, as well as amounting tax evasion, and economic sabotage. “The Kenya Publishers Association (KPA) has raised alarms over the growing issue of counterfeit textbooks in the country. In a letter to Inspector General of Police Douglas Kanja, KPA council members highlighted the widespread distribution of counterfeit books, particularly in regions such as Nairobi, Kisii, Thika, Nakuru, and Murang’a. These counterfeit products are depriving legitimate publishers and authors of their rightful earnings.”

Kenya

Zell, Hans M. **Henry Chakava: An Annotated Bibliography.** *Africa Bibliography, Research and Documentation* volume 3 (2024): 65-79. <https://doi.org/10.1017/abd.2024.8> ¶

Pre-print version (freely accessible) at

https://www.academia.edu/116706715/Henry_Chakava_An_Annotated_Bibliography_of_his_Writings

Henry Miyinzi Chakava (26 April 1946 – 8 March 2024), often described as “the godfather of book publishing in Africa”, started his early career at the Kenyan branch of Heinemann Educational Books, later to become the indigenously-owned East African Educational Publishers in Nairobi. He was Kenya's first African book editor in 1972, at a time when there were few books, or educational materials, published in African languages, and devoted much his life to preserving and elevating the region's languages. He was also a courageous and highly enterprising publisher who has made a massive and lasting contribution to indigenous publishing and the book trade in Africa. He was a member of the jury of the Noma Award for Publishing in Africa which ran from 1980 to 2009, an annual prize for African writers and scholars who published their work in Africa. He was also a founder member of African Books Collective (ABC), the African owned, worldwide marketing and distribution outlet for books from Africa.

Henry Chakava has written extensively, perceptively, and eloquently on many topics as they relate to publishing and the book world in Africa, as is reflected in this annotated bibliography, which is presented chronologically with the most recent papers first, a total of

35 records covering the period from 1977 to 2021. Also included are a number of profiles, interviews, and obituaries.

Kenya

Nigeria

Akanbi, Abdulganiyu Abdulrahman **How a Student-Founded Book Club Has Boosted African Literature.**

<https://www.universityworldnews.com/post.php...> (Posted 12 September 2024)

“A student-founded book club in Nigeria has been a champion for African literature and a culture of reading, in particular by reminding young people, including university students, about reading for entertainment and pleasure. The Book O’Clock club has also been playing its part in enhancing the literacy levels of school learners.”

Nigeria

Jagravi, Dave and Ainehi Egoro **Othuke Ominiabo is Transforming Independent Publishing in Africa.**

<https://brittlepaper.com/2024/12/othuke-omniabo-is-transforming-independent-publishing-in-africa/> (Posted 18 December 2024)

Brittle Paper has named its Literary Person of the Year Award to Othuke Ominiabo, founder of the Nigerian publishing house Masobe Books <https://masobebooks.com/ng/>. The citation says “Ominiabo is redefining independent publishing in Africa. Unlike many publishing businesses on the continent – particularly in Nigeria – Masobe Books has had a steady growth while turning a profit and recording notable success in book sales.”

See also: <https://masobebooks.com/ng/about-us/>

Nigeria

Nwabueze, Chinenye **Book Publishing in Nigeria: An Overview.**

<https://universitybooksng.com/book-publishing-in-nigeria-an-overview/> (Posted 10 October 2024)

A brief overview of the current state of book publishing in Nigeria, together with a listing of what the author considers to be the “Top 10 book publishing companies in Nigeria”.

Nigeria

• Oluwagbemiga, Dare Temidire, Adebanke Oyeladun Blujinmi, and Emmanuel Chukwunonye **Book Publishing Research in Nigeria: 1960-2023.**

Global Journal of Education, Humanities and Management Sciences 4, no. 2: August 2022: 139-161.
https://www.researchgate.net/publication/380785216_Book_Publishing_Research_in_Nigeria_1960-2023

Organized by topic, this rather odd bibliography-cum-literature review states that it covers “scholarly journal articles, books, projects, and reports in Nigerian [sic], listing 81 items. Each piece of work has an annotation that highlights its conclusions, methodologies, research topics, and suggestions. The 81 materials are arranged alphabetically by the writer's last name. A few of the materials are essays authored by qualified media professionals rather than formal academic research projects. Systematic analysis was used in collecting the data.”

Nigeria

Raymond, Iboro **History of Book Publishing in Nigeria.**

<https://favouritebookspublishing.com/history-of-book-publishing-in-nigeria/> (Posted 22 August 2024)

A broad account of the history of book publishing in Nigeria from its earliest days in the mid-19th century through to the present day, as well as setting out “the key differences between traditional book publishing and self-publishing.”

Nigeria

• USAID/Global Book Alliance **Supply Chain Analysis Nigeria. Addendum Report Market Analysis Book Survey and Focus Group Discussion Report.**

https://pdf.usaid.gov/pdf_docs/PA00ZS18.pdf

Washington, DC: Global Book Alliance Secretariat c/o Center for Education U.S. Agency for International Development, December 2022. 52 pp.

This Nigeria SCA Addendum “presents Market Analysis Book Survey (MABS) and Market Analysis Focus Group Discussion (MAFGD) reports that probe deeper into the status of essential reading books in the Nigeria education system. The purpose of the addendum reports was to explore the availability, affordance, and quality of reading textbooks and non-textbook supplementary readers for early grade literacy. The aim was to conduct a more in-depth and nuanced analysis using the market shaping approach that is at the heart of Global Book Alliance in Action Supply Chain Analysis (GBAIA-SCA).” Includes GBA Recommendations: Market Analysis Focus Group Discussion, short term, medium term, and long term, and Summary of Recommendations by Market Analysis Phases, and GBA Recommendations: Market Analysis Book Survey.

Nigeria

Rwanda

Global Book Alliance/Save the Children **Growing the Local Book Industry. The Experience of a Publishing Collaborative in Rwanda.**

<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5cb1f6beaadd34703fcc968c/t/5ff89664e644fc3d02ba30cd/1610126948138/Growing+the+Local+Book+Industry.pdf> (Posted 26 February 2024)

“In Rwanda, Save the Children collaborated with education ministries, publishing industry stakeholders, schools, book sellers and libraries in order to strengthen existing systems and increase output and availability of quality local language children’s books.”

Rwanda

South Africa

Charkin, Richard **‘Where the Lion Feeds’.**

<https://publishingperspectives.com/2024/07/richard-charkin-where-the-lion-feeds/> (Posted 03 July 2024)

While at a sales conference of Jonathan Ball Publishers, Richard Charkin – a former president of both the International Publishers Association and the UK Publishers Association, and

former executive director of Bloomsbury Publishing – sizes up features of the South African book market, which he describes as “an educational book market double the size of the trade.” His recommendations for publishers are these: “South Africa is a very important brick in the world publishing wall, not to be underestimated. Ignore all the negative predictions, this is a vibrant country with a vibrant future. Ignore the politics, it will sort itself out in time. With the Rand being weak, South Africa is among some of the best possible places for a great vacation—coupled with business, of course.”

South Africa

International Publishers Association

South Africa: IAF, IFRRO, IPA and STM Urge Policy Makers to Vote against Copyright Amendment Bill.

<https://internationalpublishers.org/south-africa-iaf-ifrro-ipa-and-stm-urge-policy-makers-to-vote-against-copyright-amendment-bill/> (Posted 28 February 2024)

“This Bill has been opposed consistently by national and international voices from the book sector. ... Writers and the whole publishing and book industry stand united against an ill-constructed Bill that can jeopardize South African literary diversity and educational content production.”

South Africa

Le Roux, Beth Peter Randall: A Pioneering Publisher who Established the Radical Ravan Press in South Africa.

https://theconversation.com/peter-randall-a-pioneering-publisher-who-established-the-radical-ravan-press-in-south-africa-233170?fbclid=IwZXh0bgNhZW0CMTAAAR0X_myvMXdXyhu5INnad3Sw-hECQWsf5zpUOYcAdKXkMQnhkERB3t9TDfA_aem_EN1bpqjvYOQCVbIZUOZu-A

(Posted 27 June 2024)

An obituary of Peter Randall, pioneering South African activist publisher and educator, who passed away on 5 June 2024 in Johannesburg. He was the co-founder of Ravan Press which published books critical of the racist apartheid state. “Randall sought to actively make a difference – as an educator, a writer, a publisher and even a candidate in the 1974 elections. He saw books and learning as a platform for opening minds and bringing about social change. He would be banned by the apartheid state in 1977. ... The security police and other agents of the state were extremely aggressive in their treatment of Ravan Press: authors and staff were harassed and monitored; books were confiscated; and their offices were raided and then firebombed. Randall’s phone calls were bugged, his house monitored and his passport confiscated. ... In October 1977, Randall received a banning order, along with his fellow Ravan founders, on charges relating to the Suppression of Communism Act. At least 40 black leaders were detained in the same month, and 18 organisations were declared unlawful. Ravan would continue under the leadership of Mike Kirkwood, and later Glenn Moss and Monica Seeber.”

South Africa

Le Roux, Elizabeth, Savannah Harvett, and Lezli Edgar Harvett, eds. **South African Book Publishing Industry Survey 2002-23**. Cape Town: Publishers' Association of South Africa. 2024. 37 pp.

<https://publishsa.co.za/wp-content/uploads/2024/04/Publishing-Industry-Survey-2022-2023-1.pdf>

Part of an annual series of comprehensive book publishing industry surveys that provide highly detailed information on the growth and development of the South African publishing industry." The data collected annually are invaluable for understanding the publishing industry in South Africa, especially as transformational shifts take place across the key publishing sectors. The total number of active publishers in South Africa is unknown, but is thought to be between 150 and 200. The data is collected from a survey of South African publishers, focusing on their turnover and production patterns from the previous financial year, as well as ownership and employment. ... The industry is heavily dominated by a small group of very large publishers, who together represent more than 80% of all production and revenue. These 15 publishers, who all participated in the survey, represent a large number of imprints and operate in all sectors."

South Africa

National Reading Barometer South Africa **National Reading Survey Finds Report**.

<https://www.readingbarometersa.org/survey> [2024]

The National Reading Survey is a nationally representative survey of 4,250 South African adults aged 16 and above, conducted in late 2022 and early 2023. It describes the reading practices, preferences and contexts of adults in South Africa, both in terms of reading for themselves and reading with children in their household. This includes an analysis of how much people read, access to and preferences regarding reading materials, attitudes/motivations related to reading, reading with children, library use, digital reading, and reading language preferences. It reports that in 2022/23 the South African publishing industry generated around R3.5 billion in revenue, and that this means that the total revenue generated within South Africa, from locally produced books, has recovered to pre-pandemic levels.

South Africa

Tomaselli, Keyan G., and Hetta Pieterse **Copyright Amendment Bill 'Bad News' for South Africa**.

https://www.universityworldnews.com/post.php?story=20240207111202900&utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=AFNL0436

(Posted 08 February 2024)

"The South African government is forging ahead with plans to pass the Copyright Amendment Bill (CAB) despite its legal flaws and contradictions, seemingly oblivious to the ongoing public debate on its provisions that has been raging for year."

South Africa

Writing Africa **Authors, Organisations Protest South Africa's Copyright Amendment Bill**.

<https://www.writingafrica.com/authors-organisations-protest-south-africas-copyright-amendment-bill/> (Posted 28 February 2024)

South Africa's new Copyright Amendment Bill has been lambasted by authors and other artists both in the country and further afield. "There are rumblings in South Africa about the Copyright Amendment Bill, the first comprehensive effort to modernise South Africa's copyright law in half a century. It is an opportunity to bring the copyright system into the modern age and ensure creators' rights are effectively protected well into the future. The bill is set to come to the floor of South Africa's parliament on February 29. While the new bill is important, there have been protests from the creative community who consider the Bill to be flawed. They believe that it will weaken copyright, which is the very foundation of creators' economic sustenance with serious economic consequences for those who make a living in the creative industries, and will endanger the next generation of creators."

South Africa

Zimbabwe

Muronzi, Chris **WhatsApp Novelists Use Messaging App to Write and Sell Books in Zimbabwe.**

https://www.aljazeera.com/features/2024/8/31/whatsapp-novelists-use-messaging-app-to-write-and-sell-books-in-zimbabwe?fbclid=IwY2xjawFCgltleHRuA2FlbQIxMQABHZOD1emj0V1hzPksNvlvBUqWcSM9OCQBVzPKovNhxyjeAUxK42BJep29FA_aem_G1EKDfw96A9H1bLfNjDDag (Posted 31 August 2024)

Emerging authors and eager readers are finding it more accessible and affordable ways "to get their literary fix", and Zimbabwean writer Kingston Dhewa writes his novels on a smartphone. "His first novel was well received and he earned enough money to pay rent and buy food for his family. He charged each reader \$2 for the whole book. Since then, Dhewa has written and published 43 novels via WhatsApp groups, stories that range from 35 to 45 chapters long." Some 5 million of Zimbabwe's 16 million people reportedly use WhatsApp. "While some people write in English, Dhewa chose the local Shona language after he was inspired by other Shona authors. His books have a traditional, pre-colonial setting, and generally explore life and themes related to African rural life."

Zimbabwe

Mushakavanhu, Tinashe **Weaver Press is Closing – How One Small, Brave Zimbabwean Publisher Made a Difference.**

<https://theconversation.com/weaver-press-is-closing-how-one-small-brave-zimbabwean-publisher-made-a-difference-220955> (Posted 22 January 2024)

A profile and fitting tribute of Weaver Press in Zimbabwe, a publishing house started small in 1998 and remained small, co-managed by its two full time employees, the husband and wife team of Murray McCartney and Irene Staunton. As it was celebrating its 25th anniversary in 2024, it revealed that it would effectively be closing. In its 25 years of existence, it provided a platform that helped establish a whole new generation of Zimbabwean writers. "Their work became a mainstay of critical responses to authoritarianism in the country and many would go on to establish international reputations. Weaver Press continued to build literary networks and readers even in a culture of censorship. In a country with a low book-buying culture due to a hyper-inflationary economy, Weaver Press has always functioned more as a non-profit organisation than a commercial publishing company. They offset their publishing costs

through freelance editing and typesetting. A commitment to good literature was what propelled their work.”

Zimbabwe

Nyoni, Philani A. **Goodbye and Hello: Zimbabwean Publishing Future and Past.**

<https://www.litnet.co.za/goodbye-and-hello-zimbabwean-publishing-future-and-past/?fbclid=IwAR2t6vySGzYsjeoj2ar-zx7n1UdNhhisMsY0F6KhRp73LOg2GZ-fYfNaHWg>

(Posted 29 February 2024)

A tribute to the past publishing activities by AmaBooks and Weaver Press in Zimbabwe, sadly now both now longer trading; while some other prominent publishers, like Mambo Press, the Zimbabwe Publishing House, and Baobab Books, ceased operations several years ago, leaving a dearth of outlets for both creative writing and scholarly books.

Zimbabwe