The African e-Journals Project has digitized full text of articles of eleven social science and humanities journals. This item is from the digital archive maintained by Michigan State University Library. Find more at: http://digital.lib.msu.edu/projects/africanjournals/

Available through a partnership with

Scroll down to read the article.
enty three entries are con-
tained in the book. Each of
the four sections has an Au-
thor Index which indicates
the name of the author fea-
tured, the number allocated
to the book(s) written by him.
See also references are made
where necessary to facilitate
easy reference in the book.
A full entry consists of the
following details where avail-
able:
Author, title, subtitle, vol-
ume or part edition, year of
publication, edition (if, other
than the first), the size of the
book (length and breadth in
cm) number of pages, ISBN,
series statement (including
the number of publication if
part of a series),
and language (if the text
is in other language other
than English).
The date of publication for
each entry is given as sup-
plied by the publisher or as
available in the source.
Prices of the materials are
not included in the publica-
tion because of inflation and
fluctuation in prices. Some
titles merely distributed by
reputable publishers are listed
along with the publications of
such publishers.
Publishers' names are ab-
abbreviated in some entries. The
full meaning of these abbrevia-
tions, as well as their ad-
dresses, are contained in the
publishers' directory.
Many of the entries by the
 apex publishers carry Interna-
tional Standard Book Numbers
(ISBN) issued by the Bibli-
ographic Section of the National
Library of Nigeria, Ijora,
Lagos. Those wishing to order
are advised not to use the
ISBN alone while ordering. An
author index to the work is con-
tained in pages 446-56. The
name of the author whether
single or jointly authored,
along with the number allo-
cated to the publications in the
serial numbering of entries is
given in the Author Index.
With the exception of a few
anomalies, (for example some
entries are made under editors
which negates the provisions of the Anglo-American Cata-
loguing Rules Second edition,
1978 now revised 3rd edi-
tion), the efforts of the NPA
is commendable. It is hoped
that the errors in the first
dition will be corrected in
subsequent editions and that
the publication will be revised
frequently.
The publication will no
doubt create a national and
International awareness of
what educational books and
data are actually available in
Nigeria and where they can
be procured.
Nigerian Books-in-Print
1996 like its counterparts
British Books-in-Print, Afri-
can Books-in-Print, etc. will
make a unique contribution
to the book trade in Nigeria
especially for the identifica-
tion and acquisition of mate-
rials. The work is valuable ac-
quisition for libraries and
book traders.
L. I. Ehigiator is a Senior Librarian
at Edo State University, Ekpoma,
Nigeria.

In Pursuit of Publishing

Wumi Raji

Hans M. Zell & Cecile Lomer.
PUBLISHING AND BOOK DEVELO-
PMENT IN SUB-SAHARAN
AFRICA: AN ANNOTATED BIBLI-
OGRAPHY, Hans Zell publishers,

WHEN a definitive history of Af-
rican publishing is written,
Hans M. Zell, one of the two au-
thors of the volume under re-
view will stand out. Directly, Hans Zell repre-
sents our reason for adapting In Pursuit of Pub-
lishing the title of the autobiography of the late
Alan Hill, initiator and facilitator of
Heinemann's African Writers Series (AWS) as
the heading for this review. Zell was the direc-
tor of the Ife University Press for much of the
Seventies. In that period, the press became the
model for University presses in Nigeria as well
as in Africa - in the light of its distinguished
scholarly publications and particularly then
once famous but now deceased annual book fair
it originated. In 1973, the press organised an
international conference on the theme, Publish-
ing in Africa - a Dialogue for the Seventies, an
event that pulled participants from all over
Africa and Europe and America. Zell later left
Ife to found his own publishing company in the
UK which is unambiguously focused on Africa
publishing and book development.

But Zell also functioned as the intellectual,
editing since 1975, The African Book Publish-
ing Record (ABPR) a bibliographic journal pro-
duced in cooperation with well over one thou-
sand publishers and research centres, learned
societies and professional bodies spread over the
continent. ABPR has listed titles in English,
French and indigenous languages as well as
publishing reviews, interviews and essays.
Beside, Zell has written, compiled and edited

Glendora Books Supplement
more than twenty books of mainly bibliograpy and directories on book development in Africa. Indeed the majority of materials listed in this fresh volume are built from his own personal archive which has now been donated to the recently commissioned resource centre of The African Publishing Network (APNET) in order to, in his own words, 'make it widely accessible for research and teaching'.

Publishing and Book Development in Sub-Saharan Africa is ambitious in conception as it is grand in execution. Containing 2,267 citations, the project represents a great improvement on Hans Zell's earlier work on the same subject, Publishing and Book Development in Africa: a Bibliography published along with a French edition under UNESCO's 'Studies on Books and Reading Series' in 1984. Despite the fact that the latter contains only 685 references, most of the entries in the former are also presented with brief and precise annotations. Additionally, the scope of the new volume is very wide in both depth and breadth covering not just the general and specialist aspects of book publishing (textbook publishing, children's literature, Christian publishing, journals and magazines, tertiary books and indigenous language publishing) but other segments intimately connected with the industry including sales and distribution, promotion, the retail market, copyright, reading habit, training programme, and national book development policies. Arranged in an alphabetical order, the bibliography concentrates on published materials - books and chapters in books, journal articles, earlier bibliographies and directories, reports, reviews and official government publications and gazettes.

A small proportion of unpublished materials such as theses and dissertations, conference papers and commissioned articles are also included. Ultimately, what makes this aspect the more salutary is the manner in which the authors have made sure to provide full information on the availability and accessibility to the works.

There are three major divisions to the volume with General, Comparative and Regional studies as one; Country Studies as two, and Studies by Topic or Subject as three. Also, a small but nonetheless important section commences the bibliography. It contains the citations on serials, bibliographies, directories, indexes, biographies and autobiographies as well as handbooks for writers and teaching guides and texts. Preceding this is an introduction by Hans Zell himself, a list of the periodicals cited in the work and a directory of book trade and other organisations interested in, or supporting, African book development and publishing.

As must be obvious from the description, the first major section is sub-divided into three rough groups. The first, sub-titled Comparative Studies, lists publications which examine issues on, and developments concerning, African publishing in relation with either the rest of the Third World or countries of Europe, Asia and America. Examples here include the Philip Altbach edited Publishing and Development in the Third World (155), a landmark publication on book publishing in Africa and Asia; Urvashi Butalia and Rita Menon's Making a Difference: Feminist Publishing in the South (169) which in the words of Zell and Cecile Lomer 'examines feminist publishing in the North, South and South-east Asia, Africa, Latin America and the Pacific'; Ivor Kemp's Books and Library Development for Developing Countries (182), a paper reporting the activities of the British Council, the World Bank and the Overseas Development Administration in the area of textbook development specifically in Nigeria, Tanzania and Indonesia; and UNESCO's Agreement on the Importation of Educational, Scientific and Cultural Materi-
als: a Guide to its Operation (199) published in 1958. The second sub-section focuses on General Studies on Africa and includes Mkwugo Okoye’s Books and National Development (325), a paper presented at the national conference of University Bookshop managers held in Nsukka, Nigeria in 1980 and eventually published in Pan-African Book World. Vol. 2, no. 1 1982; Gabriel Onibonoge’s deliberately provocative paper ‘Want! A Cultural Revolution, not a Dialogue on Publishing in Africa in the Seventies and After’ (335) included in Edwina Olusasannmi’s, Eva Melean and Hans Zell edited Publishing in Africa in the Seventies: Proceedings of an International Conference on Publishing and Book Development, held at the University of Ife, Ile-Ife, Nigeria, 16–20 December, 1973 (331); Helena Smith’s Land Without Books (351), which examines the state of the book in Africa; Alex Tetteh-Lartey’s Interview with David Martin and Louis Taussig about publishing and book marketing on the continent; and Scott Walter’s Manchester Conference on Textbook Provision and Library Development in Africa a Report published in the Bellagio Publishing Network Newsletter no. 1, 1992. The third and final sub-section divides Africa into regions: Africa, East on which there were nineteen citations; Africa, Francophone where most of the entries in French are concentrated; Africa, West; and finally Africa, Southern. As the title of the sub-section has indicated, the listings are focused on general issues affecting the book industry in each of the regions.

The second major division lists the forty-four countries of Africa, South of the Sahara in alphabetical order. Nigeria has the highest number of entries of one hundred and forty.

Directly, the high entry on Nigeria represents a reflection of both the size and population of the country as well as the degree of intellectual activity. Certainly, the country generates a lot of concern as it regards the book. With a history of virtual indifference to literacy by successive governments, Nigeria stands as a classic case of unbridled philistinism, an enormous, yet unharnessed book market and fount of authors. Expectedly, many of the entries on Nigeria are focused on the different dimensions of this problem. An interesting sampler is the debate on what Zell calls the ‘Nigerian-style book launches’ first generated by Odin Ofeimun in his column on the Nigerian Guardian, November, 1988. The article titled ‘Come to Our Book Launching’ (812), presents Nigerian book launches as a potentially viable ‘strategy for entrenching or at least instigating commitment to book culture’. The late Ken Saro-Wiwa, scandalised by Ofeimun’s replies in The Odd, the Odious and our very Odia (846) The Guardian January 5, 1989, dismissing his argument as a distortion of the intellectual essence of the book and a corresponding valorisation of wanton materialism. There then ensued a lively debate which was joined by other writers and commentators including Dimgba Igwe: ‘Writers’ War on Book Launching’ (824) ANA Review, 1989, Eddie Ayo Ojo Against Book Launching (817) The Guardian April 22, 1989 and Wale Are Olaitan, ‘Attending Ofeimun’s Book Launching’ (824) ANA Review 1989. A number of countries however record very low entries - Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Niger, Sao Tome, Seychelles, Swaziland and Sudan have just an entry recorded on each of them. It is difficult to ascertain the reason for this: whether for example, it is due to the low level of book development in the countries or that the authors could not lay hands on literature from these areas.

The third major division focuses on the specialist and other aspects of the industry earlier identified and constitutes over half of the total entries in the bibliography. There now are citations on all the factors identified in the introduction as representing major landmarks in the development of independent publishing in Africa. The first of the factors is the Noma Award. Twenty citations on this single development are taken including Niyi Osundare’s ‘The Possibilities of Hope’ (1986), the text of the speech he delivered while receiving the 1991 award in Harare, Zimbabwe. The other factors are the Zimbabwe International Book Fair (ZIBF) which pulled thirty-eight entries; the African Books Collective (ABC), twelve entries; the Bellagio Publishing Network, six entries; and the African Publishers’ Network (APNET), ten entries.

Publishing and Book Development in Africa is particularly difficult to fault, more so when the authors are so self-critical. They are aware that the literature on Francophone Africa is not comprehensive and that of German limited. They therefore request that omissions be brought to their notice in order to include them in subsequent editions.

Wumi Raji teaches literature in the Department of Modern European Languages, University of Ilorin, Nigeria.