

International and national surveys and questionnaires can give worthwhile insight to the conservation needs of national archives. In addition they give us quantitative and qualitative data on the state of conservation, a prerequisite for drawing up any preservation programme (Idsala, 1995). To quote Cunha from his *Methods of evaluation to determine the preservation needs in libraries and archives* 'every library and archive must determine its own preservation needs from which to develop its own conservation programme.' This work provides the framework for undertaking the survey. It provides sample forms that are very useful for recording survey data. It does not, however, address in great detail the setting of priorities, and is perhaps overcautious in some recommendations (Cunha, 1988).

In 1978 UNESCO conducted a conservation facility survey in the Middle East. In all the Arab states only 3 countries maintained a conservation department (Egypt, Sudan and Libya). This may be taken as an indication that the development of technical services in archives in the Arab states is very rudimentary, an impression consistent with the known general state of development of archives in those countries (Kathalia, 1978).

In Nigeria 42 libraries answered another early questionnaire in 1980-1982. The case of library conservation in Nigeria, the most populous African country, may be considered typical for a developing country as well as for a tropical country. The incorporation of insecticides in the process of paper production, and the design of library buildings for conservation in the tropics were among the interesting topics discussed. The author also expressed the need for greater research into conservation problems unique to Nigeria and the tropics. (Alegbeleye, 1988). Other African surveys on preservation are *Adikwu, 1987; Janssen et al., 1991; Khayundi, 1988 and 1995; Kremp, 1993; Kukubo, 1995; Mazikana, 1995; Mbaye, 1995; Musembi, 1999; Sonnet-Azize, 1995; Weilbrenner et al., 1988*. In the Annex of the Proceedings of the Pan-African Conference in Nairobi 1993, twenty-eight countries reported on the state of preservation of their library and archival materials (Arnoult et al., 1995). The latest survey on African preservation was organised by the JICPA (Joint IFLA-ICA Committee for Preservation in Africa) and published in 2001 (Coates, 2001).

In an overall UNESCO survey of all national libraries and archives, professional organisations and research institutes, one of the questions concerned main research needs in preservation and conservation in the future. Of the 69 respondents 10% came from less developed countries, and stressed the need for simpler, more accessible solutions, equipment and materials, trained staff, and literature oriented to the needs of tropical countries (Clements et al., 1989).

The National Diet Library (NDL) conducted a *Library Preservation Needs Survey of National Libraries in Asia* in 1992. The aim of the survey was to ascertain and evaluate preservation issues and needs in the Asia region. More than 100 items were surveyed in a wide range of areas. The questionnaire was sent to 20 libraries in East and Southwest Asia responsible for collecting and preserving materials at the national level. Twelve libraries, including the NDL, responded. Some of the survey findings are of particular interest: only a few countries had a national policy for preservation of library materials, or had started a nationally coordinated cooperative preservation programme, 6 libraries responded that they were making efforts to raise national preservation awareness, 3 libraries had conducted a microfilming programme, 2 libraries considered emergency preparedness very important, and many libraries requested support, information and training from the NDL and the PAC Regional Centre (Kaihara, 1993).

In 1995 the former Commission on Preservation and Access published an inventory of preservation needs of Latin American libraries and in the same year Baker published a Latin American overview of current trends in conservation (Baker, 1995; Hazen, 1995).

An impressive stocktaking questionnaire on archival development was sent to most members of the ICA (International Council on Archives) in 1993 (Roper, 1996b). About half the 123 respondents came from developing countries. It became clear that factors like economic forces, political events and natural disasters, outside the control of national and international archival organisations, have often been of major significance in their impact on archival development. In many developing countries the combination of these adverse forces has limited growth and in some cases has even resulted in a deterioration of the archival situation compared to the results of earlier surveys (Laar, 1985; d'Orleans, 1985; Tanodi, 1985; Mazikana, 1992). In terms of conservation archives continue to be housed in buildings which are inadequate both in their storage capacity and in their suitability; equipment is inadequate and insufficient, often obsolescent, if not obsolete; maintenance and the supply of the materials to operate it are erratic. Nevertheless, the majority of the respondents highlighted the positive rather than the negative influences on archival development in their countries.

Rhys-Lewis even noticed a growing interest in archive and library conservation in developing countries in 1999. At the same time he points out that the role of conservation as a specialism within European archive

services took approximately 50 years. This development did not always happen as a result of careful strategic planning. He contends that the developing countries could benefit from the European experience, in the shaping of effective preservation strategies (Rhys-Lewis, 1999). Two years earlier he listed the preservation and conservation needs and problems of the upper regions of Southeast Asia, a region where war and civil strife have caused further destruction and have left libraries and repositories destitute of the financial and personnel resources needed to bring about change (Dean, 1997).