

2.6 Ghana

Libraries in Ghana in the Technological Age

Helena Asamoah-Hassan

Introduction

Today's information environment – including access to current and relevant information – cannot be complete without the use of information technology. Technology has come into the information provision business to assist in harnessing the great amount of information available, some authoritative and others irrelevant. Libraries now have to re-examine their role in society and redefine their activities so that provision of authoritative information to users through the most convenient, quick and easy access means information communication technologies (ICT) are given the utmost priority.

Ghana

The Republic of Ghana with Accra as its capital city lies on the western side of the African continent. Burkina Faso borders it to the north and north-west, Togo to the east, Cote d'Ivoire to the west and the Gulf of Guinea to the south. Its total land area is 238,533 square kilometers (92,098 sq. miles). It is a lowland country with a range of hills towards its eastern border, with the highest point reaching about 884 metres (2,900 feet) above sea level. It is a predominantly forest vegetation with an undulating savannah in the north.¹

The 2008 census estimate puts the country's population at 23,383,000² made up of people from about 50 ethnic groups. Its official language is English. About 70% of the population lives in the country's southern half. A great number of the people depend on farming cash and subsistence crops for their living.³

The economy of Ghana is supported by natural resources, gold, timber, and cocoa. Oil has recently been discovered on its shores and will be commercially productive towards the end of 2010. There are also manufacturing and industrial concerns mostly situated in the southern part of the country.

1 <http://www.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/232376> (accessed 2 January 2010).

2 <http://www.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/232376> (accessed 2 January 2010).

3 Moses K. Antwi, *Education, Society and Development in Ghana* (Accra: Unimax, 1992): 2.