

The Tanganyika Library Service and its Role in Adult Education*

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"... a public library should not just be a place where books can be borrowed. It must be a centre for much wider educational and cultural activity. A library should be one of the centres for adult education work of all kinds – varying from the promotion of the desire for literacy by story telling and discussion to the erudite lectures of visiting professors."

– From the speech by President Mwalimu Julius K. Nyerere at the opening of the Central Library, Dar es Salaam, December 9th, 1967.

The establishment of a nation-wide library system was one of the projects which were given a top priority from the time Tanganyika (as it was then called) became independent in 1961.

In 1960, Mr. Sidney Hockey was appointed by the British Council as Libraries Organiser for the governments of East Africa—Kenya, Uganda, Tanganyika and Zanzibar. His recommendations were that each territory should consider "the establishment of a central free public library service . . . which will integrate all existing public library services and eventually be responsible for the administration of such services for the whole country". The now famous Hockey Report thus became the *genesis* for the formation of the Tanganyika Library Service which later became independent of the East African Literature Bureau.

However it was not until November 1963 that the Tanganyika Library Services Board Act was adopted. The Act empowers the Board, which consists of ten members, "to promote, establish, equip, manage, maintain and develop libraries in Tanzania mainland." During the same year, Mr. E. M. Broome was appointed the first Director of the Tanganyika Library Service until October 1970.

Since its establishment the Board has been concerned with the distribution of books to every part of the country. This has been no small task. The Board is quite conscious of the many problems which have to be considered in planning and developing an efficient library service for *all* people. Tan-

* The library service does not cater for Zanzibar.

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