

GRACIAN CHIMWAZA

*Concerning the Information Training and Outreach Centre for Africa
(ITOCA)*

Illustrative Photographs

An Oral History Interview at Cornell's Mann Library

by Royal D. Colle

July 2013

The Essential Electronic Agricultural Library (TEEAL)

TEEAL is a digital library (www.TEEAL.org) that has revolutionized agricultural research in the developing world ranging from Asia and Africa to Latin America. The Albert R. Mann Library at Cornell developed the library in 1999, working with important publishers and with funding from such organizations as USAID, the World Bank, UNESCO, and the Rockefeller Foundation. TEEAL provides digital access to more than 200 peer-reviewed international journals from some 60 major publishers. TEEAL has spread throughout Africa largely through the efforts of the Information Training and Outreach Centre for Africa (ITOCA) which has served as a marketing and support agency for Mann in Africa. Emeritus Professor Royal Colle interviewed Gracian Chimwaza, ITOCA's executive director, during the 2013 World Congress of the International Association of Agricultural Information Specialists, which was hosted by Mann Library. In this interview Chimwaza discusses the positive impact of TEEAL on researchers, faculty and students, the significance of new information technology in fostering the adoption of TEEAL in African countries, and the on-going relationship of Mann with ITOCA and the African community of agricultural scholars. Throughout the interview, the library is referred to as "TEEAL" which is the acronym for The Essential Electronic Agricultural Library.





The Librarian, Resource Person and Electronic Library Staff of Ambrose Alli University in Nigeria's Ekpoma, Edo State in November 2012 preparing for a TEEAL workshop.



Dr. A. A. Osifo of Crop Sciences registering at the workshop at Ambrose Alli University. This 2-day workshop was initiated through the Systems Librarian Tony Obaseki and was designed to provide training for TEEAL and related databases such as AGORA and HINARI to approximately 179 academic staff members, including those within the Faculty of Agriculture and Natural Sciences.



A TEEAL workshop held at the University of Eastern Africa, Baraton (UEAB) at their Eldoret Extension Centre. The event, held in June 2013 was to provide faculty members of the university with the TEEAL database and to elaborate on the accessibility and importance of the resource for the campus. The workshop was also open to students of the university demonstrating to them that this is an accessible tool.



ITOCA staff member Mercy Moyo teaching a single-day workshop at Mutare Polytechnic College in Zimbabwe (February 2013). The workshop was attended by library and faculty members from Mutare Polytechnic, Mutare Teachers College, Marymount Teachers College, the Forestry Industrial Training Institute and Africa University. Workshop facilitators designed the workshop as a participatory event, allowing those in attendance to access the TEEAL database to gain experience searching the database collection, including viewing full-text articles.