

EDITORIAL

This is the first issue of *African research and documentation* produced under the sole management of the Standing Conference on Library Materials on Africa. When the African Studies Association of the United Kingdom indicated that they wished to bring their involvement in the joint publishing venture to an end, the SCOLMA committee and annual general meeting gave strong backing to the continuation of a journal which we believe has been found to be valuable and is one of the few journals in its field. At this stage we see *African research and documentation's* future in terms of continuity and expansion. We propose to continue features that we think are valued. In the field of documentation we shall include accounts of archives and libraries specialising in African studies, work on special types of material such as maps and theses and information on publishing ventures and the African book trade. We hope also to continue reports of work and research in progress in African studies and notices and accounts of conferences. In terms of expansion we hope the journal will be written less in Britain. The next issue will consist mainly of articles written in Africa. Another of our publications, the *SCOLMA directory of libraries and special collections on Africa* will in its forthcoming edition expand its coverage to include as much information as we have been able to collect on libraries and archives in Western Europe. We hope the journal will reflect this wider interest and growing trend for co-operation among European Africanists. We plan to include in a forthcoming issue an account of the state of African studies and collections in the United States. As the changes in management mean that for the first time we have direct contact with all our subscribers worldwide, we hope that there will be a two way flow of information between them and us.

Jolyon Hall
Chairman of SCOLMA