

Annual Report 2015



The West African Research Association (WARA) is an independent 501(c)3 nonprofit organization headquartered at Boston University's African Studies Center. A consortium of some 50 US colleges and universities with interests in Africa, WARA's mission is to promote research on West Africa and its diasporic communities and to facilitate exchange between West African scholars and their counterparts in the region, in the US, and elsewhere.

WARA's overseas headquarters, the **West African Research Center (WARC)**, located in Dakar, Senegal, is a vibrant hub of academic and cultural activity, providing a range of resources to individual researchers working in the region and institutions wishing to conduct programs in West Africa for their faculty or students.



Sources of Revenue

ECA/CAORC

The US Dept. of State Educational and Cultural Affairs grant through the Council of American Overseas Research Centers funds WARA's fellowship program and supports operations in the US and West Africa

USDE

The US Dept. of Education Title VI grant administered through the Office of International and Foreign Language Education supports WARA's overseas operations

Memberships & Gifts

Membership dues from individual and institutional members are a significant source of revenue, as are gifts,

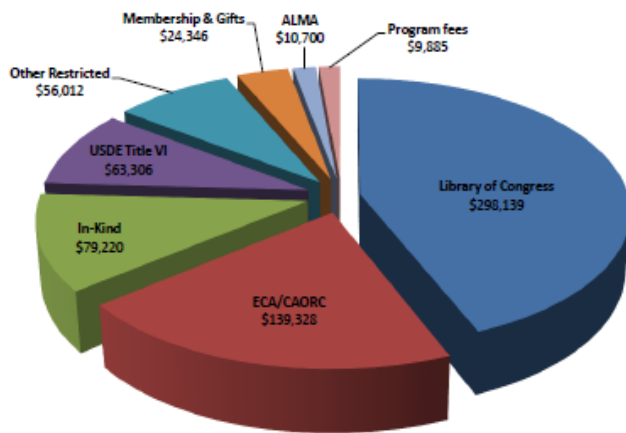
Program & Administrative Fees

Fees for the many projects and programs that WARA/WARC designs, coordinates, implements, and administers for member institutions and other partner groups.

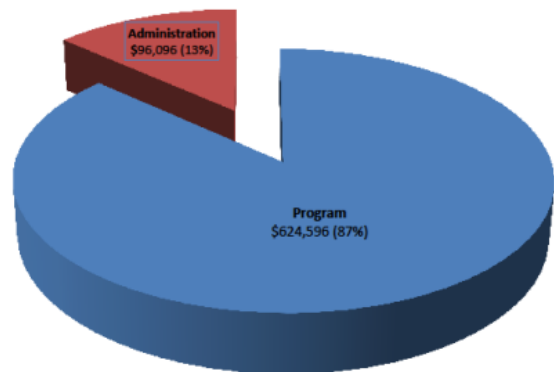
In-kind

The value of office space and services provided to WARA by the government of Senegal and Boston University

Revenue Sources



Expenditures



WEST AFRICAN RESEARCH CENTER

WARA's overseas office, the West African Research Center (WARC), in Dakar, Senegal, provides an institutional presence and lends continuity and stability to programs sponsored by postsecondary US institutions and serves as a point of scholarly contact and exchange.

Video Conferencing Center

WARC's new state-of-the-art conference center is an excellent venue for in-person or video-conferencing meetings. Ideal for small and large gatherings alike, the WARC conference center has interpreting booths as well as an onsite IT coordinator to assist you with your AV needs.

Research Library

The Mohammed Moustapha Kane Library and Documentation Center at WARC includes more than 8,000 titles, and includes access to online databases such as JSTOR, as well as the eGranary Digital Library. WARC's librarians provide invaluable assistance to US, West African, and international researchers.

Computer Lab

WARC is equipped with Wi-Fi throughout and has 17 work stations for researchers' use. The computer lab also has copy, printing, and fax machines available for scholars.

Seminar and Classrooms

WARC has several conference rooms equipped with TV, VCR, DVD players, and digital projectors. WARC's onsite technician is available to assist with equipment. Small classrooms are ideal for language classes, discussion and working groups.

Coordination of Study Abroad & Study Tours

WARC staff is experienced in the design and implementation of study tours for students, faculty, and others. These programs are customized to meet the needs of each group; tours may include lectures by West African scholars, artists, and activists; field trips historic sites; and opportunities for service learning.

Café

WARC's onsite café allows researchers to eat breakfast or lunch in a congenial environment. The WARC café serves a wide range of West African and Western specialties.



WEST AFRICAN COLLABORATIVE ACQUISITIONS PROJECT (WACAP)

Initiated in September 2014, WACAP offers WARA member institutions the opportunity for timely acquisition of current African imprints for their Africana collections. This cooperative acquisition project builds on our experience collecting for the Library of Congress. We hope to expand this project to other institutions.

RELIGION IN WEST AFRICA

Religion in West Africa: Cosmopolitanism, Faith Communities and the Social Fabric (formerly *Rethinking Islam in West Africa*) is a lecture series jointly sponsored by WARA and Boston University's African Studies Center. Initiated in 2010, the series features semi-annual lectures exploring the diversity of religious practice across West Africa and the diaspora.

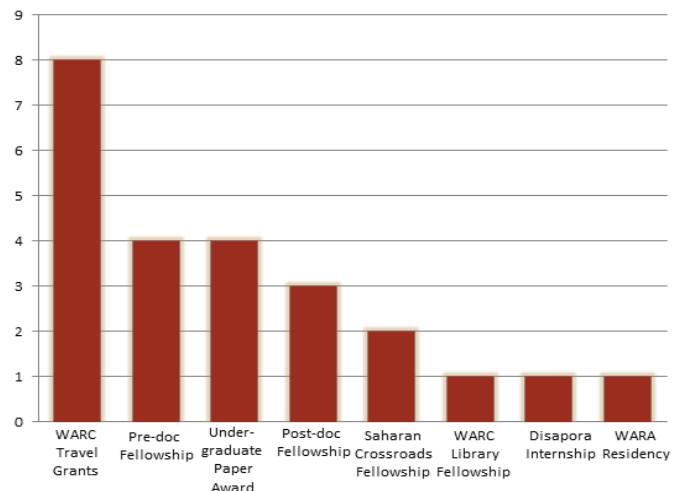


Adeyinka Odebode
2015 WARA Resident Scholar at UC Riverside

FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

WARA promotes scholarship and knowledge production on West Africa and the diaspora through our fellowship program. WARA offers fellowships for both US citizens and West African nationals through annual competitions for pre- and post-doctoral fellowships, a diaspora graduate internship, WARA Resident Fellowships, the WARC Library Fellowship, and WARC Travel Grants. The Saharan Crossroads Initiative also includes fellowships for researchers. In 2015, WARA awarded four Undergraduate Paper Awards. Over the past five years, WARA has supported the research of 98 scholars in a wide range of

FY 2015 WARA Fellowships



AFRICAN LANGUAGE MATERIALS ARCHIVE (ALMA)

A joint project of WARA and Title VI National Resource Centers for Africa, ALMA is a web-based electronic archive of original materials in 20 different African languages. A resource for teachers, language learners, and scholars, ALMA contains e-books and a wide range of multi-media materials. This ever-expanding archive can be accessed on the ALMA website.

<http://alma.matrix.msu.edu/>

WEST AFRICAN ACQUISITIONS PILOT PROJECT (LIBRARY OF CONGRESS)

Now in its sixth year, the West African Acquisitions Pilot Project collects published material and ephemera in eleven West African countries. A collaboration with the US Library of Congress and the Council for American Overseas Research Centers, WAAPP is headquartered at the West African Research Center in Dakar, Senegal. It is managed by professional librarians and senior archivists in each of the eleven target countries, including Benin, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, the Gambia, Guinea Conakry, Mali, Niger, Chad, Senegal, Sierra Leone, and Togo. The WAAPP is coordinated by Atoumane Mbaye, former Deputy Director of the Senegalese National Archives.

SAHARAN CROSSROADS INITIATIVE

Saharan Crossroads is a joint project of WARA and the American Institute for Maghrib Studies (AIMS), in collaboration with the Saharan Studies Association (SSA). Through conferences, publications, and support for research, Saharan Crossroads is strengthening the cultural, artistic, and historical links among the peoples living within and across the Sahara Desert. The most recent Saharan Crossroads Conference, *Views from the Desert Edge*, took place in June 2014 in Oran, Algeria. The next conference is planned for 2017 in Mauritania.

Future Challenges

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WARA and WARC have become the leading resources for the collaborative production and dissemination of knowledge on West Africa and the African Diaspora. Over the past five years, WARC has grown dramatically, as have the range and frequency of events it offers. WARC coordinates professional development and study tours for a growing number of WARA member institutions, and WARC's film screenings and book signings regularly draw large crowds. These increased activities mean increased costs for equipment, personnel, communications, and transportation. More than ever, **we need the support of our members and friends** to continue to build our capacity to support the scholarly community.

We are working to increase private philanthropic support for WARA and WARC programs by establishing partnerships with the private sector that will allow us to continue to provide the quality research services we are known for and to expand our fellowship and outreach programs.

WARC's video-conferencing center represents a significant contribution to the scholarly community as well as being part of a larger strategy for building our financial well-being. WARA is excited about building diverse new partnerships with private sector partners and we welcome and encourage all WARA members to join in this effort.

Your gifts, in addition to your membership support, send a strong message to others that you value the work of WARA.

WARA Institutional Members - 2015

The Africa Network	Kent State University	University of California Los Angeles
Allegheny College	Lafayette College	University of California at Riverside
American University	Lesley University	University of Chicago
Boston University	Michigan State University	University of Cincinnati
Brandeis University	Morgan State University	University of Florida
Bridgewater State University	New Jersey City University	University of Georgia
College of Wooster	New York University	University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
Colorado College	Northern Illinois University	University of Kansas
Dakar Institute of African Studies	Northwestern University Library	University of Minnesota
Florida International University	Ohio State University	University of North Carolina
Foundation for West Africa	Ohio University	at Chapel Hill
Fresno City College	Rutgers University	University of Wisconsin-Madison
Georgia State University	Saginaw Valley State University	Virginia State University
Harvard University	Santa Clara University	Wells College
Hobart and William Smith	Smithsonian Institution	Western Michigan University
Howard University	South Dakota State University	Willamette University
Indiana University	Spelman College	Yale University
Iowa State University	Texas A&M University	
Johns Hopkins University	Tufts University	
Kalamazoo College	University of California at Berkeley	