

**FOCUS ON RESEARCH AND TRAINING INSTITUTES
PLEINS FEUX SUR LES INSTITUTS DE RECHERCHE
ET DE FORMATION**

**THE INSTITUTE OF RESEARCH OF THE
UNIVERSITY OF LIBERIA (IRUL)**

Organization and Functions

The Institute of Research (IRUL) is an autonomous unit of the University of Liberia (independent of any particular college). It is governed by the Faculty Senate Committee on Research and Publication (FSCRП). However, Research Associates nominated by the different colleges/schools of the University assist the IRUL with its functions, serve as liaison and linkages between the IRUL and the colleges and, together with the Director and full-time research associates, serve as an advisory body for the planning and execution of policies.

ORGANIZATION

The FSCRП is the policy-making board for the IRUL while the IRUL serves as the executive arm of the FSCRП, handling the daily operational matters.

IRUL is managed by a Director with rank of Professor or Associate Professor. In December 1980, Dr. Amos SAWYER, Associate Professor of Political Science and Dean of Liberia College, was appointed the first (Acting) Director of the Institute.

Provision exists in the enabling document of IRUL for three full-time Research Associates with the rank of Professors and/or Associate Professors selected from different colleges/schools or scholars of comparable qualification. They are expected to participate in the research projects and activities of the Institute and undertake individual studies as might be deemed feasible by the Institute. In March 1981, Dr. Bertha Baker AZAYGO was appointed the first full-time Research Associate.

The seven Part-time Research Associates drawn from the various colleges/schools must have the rank of Professor, Associate Professor or Assistant Professor. They are appointed for a period of one year with option to seek renewal of appointment on a competitive basis.

FUNCTIONS

1. To identify, describe, publicize and make available to all information pertaining to, and the results of research taking place at the University.
2. To assist instructional personnel, research scholars and students with the formulation, conduct and publishing of research studies.
3. To organize seminars and Workshops for faculty and students.
4. To solicit and assist in the administration of funds from local, national and international sources for research.
5. To coordinate and publish, under covers of the University Journal, research at the University and encourage the colleges/schools to publish occasional papers and monographs.

6. To act as a repository and data collecting bank for research in Liberia.
7. To initiate and support research projects that are relevant to national or University needs.

ADDITIONAL FACILITATIVE FUNCTIONS

1. — General Facilitation

- a. Help and encourage Liberians abroad to do their masters and especially doctoral dissertation research on and in Liberia.
- b. Organize workshop relationships with the Liberian Research Association, all professional associations in and on Liberia, and other institutions, ministries, bureaus, etc. engage in research in and on Liberia, and, with them facilitate the work of foreign scholars doing research in Liberia; for example reading and listing research proposals, helping to obtain entry visas, and providing office space and field supervision, where possible, at a modest fee.
- c. Develop national research priorities during the second year of the establishment of the Institute and update some every year thereafter.
- d. Set up effective working relations with College Deans.
- e. Seek funds, research projects and materials and bring them to the attention of faculty members.
- f. Encourage faculty, on an individual basis, to engage in research.
- g. Seek to provide an atmosphere that is conducive to combining research with instruction.
- h. Develop and execute at least one significant research project every year.
- i. Conduct other research projects in conjunction with Research Associates and priorities.
- j. Co-opt personnel, as it deems necessary and within its financial limits, to help to conduct its own research.
- k. Collect oral traditions and compile private papers of historical significance.

2. — Nurture Operations of Faculty Research

- a. Contact faculty members to develop profiles on research interests and continue to update some.
- b. Provide each year an intensive seminar at different levels for faculty including the conceptual formulation of research, the administration, analysis and the writing up of the result.
- c. Help faculty to acquire computer skills to analyze their own data or develop greater sophistication in this area.
- d. Conduct regular seminars to update faculty research skills.
- e. Identify students in research methods courses, supplement their skills where necessary and use their service and involve them in ongoing research.

f. Conduct regular colloquia on ongoing research by inviting field researchers to present their materials and/or findings to faculty and students and wherever possible to encourage such researchers to share their skills with faculty and students.

g. Assist faculty and student researchers, in collaboration with the Director of Libraries and the Library Staff, with bibliographic and other materials and help ensure that the Library has adequate materials for research.

h. Serve as a resource and support center for faculty research.

ACTIVITIES UNDER THE INSTITUTE OF RESEARCH

Rural Transport and Market Conditions in Liberia

In collaboration with the Institute of Regional Science, University of Karlsruhe, Federal Republic of West Germany, the Institute of Research, University of Liberia is undertaking an interdisciplinary research on «Rural Transport and Market Conditions in Liberia». The study grew out of the desire of two Liberian postgraduate students at the University of Karlsruhe and two of their German Colleagues to undertake field research in Liberia. The objectives of the research are:

- (1) to analyze the present transportation and market situation in rural Liberia; and
- (2) to involve and formulate a method for the improvement of the transportation system which will facilitate the farmer-market interaction pattern.

A Study of Monrovia Markets

In an attempt to improve the market situation in Monrovia, the Monrovia City Corporation requested the Institute of Research, University of Liberia to undertake a pilot study of three markets within the city which are directly controlled by the Corporation.

The main objective of the study is to investigate the present organizational, managerial and financial structures of the markets and suggest ways of improving them. A secondary objective is to determine the need for additional markets and/or expansion of existing ones and the feasibility of consolidating all the other markets in the city under a single management.

PROFILE OF LIBERIAN WOMEN & DEVELOPMENT RESEARCH

This project, jointly sponsored by the Government of Liberia and the USAID/Liberia, is being undertaken by a full-time research team at the University of Liberia.

The main objective of this study is to investigate the ways in and conditions under which Liberia women participate in productive activities. In doing so, women's role in such critical areas of development as agriculture, marketing, education, etc. will be analyzed to a better understanding of the impact of development on their lives.

In addition to these special projects by the IRUL, the various faculties of the University are undertaking a number of studies specific to their disciplines, such as:

1. A study on Solar Energy utilization by the College of Science and Technology.
2. A study of the Ecology and Epidemiology of Leaf Scald Disease, of Rice Stalk and Cot Rot Diseases in Maize under Liberian conditions by the College of Agriculture and Forestry.
3. Problems connected with the Teaching of English in Secondary Schools of Liberia, by the College of Education.
4. Patterns of Migrant adjustment in Monrovia, by the Demographic Unit.
5. Liberia's Urban System 1980, by the Geography Department to list only a few.

COLLOQUIA

The Institute also conducts periodic colloquia by faculty members and outstanding scholars, as a means of stimulating professional exchange of views on important research issues relevant to national development. The papers presented are also used for publication in the University Journal, where pertinent.