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**The History and Collections of Adu Boahen Memorial
Library and Archives, Department of History, University
of Ghana, Legon, (1952-2023)**

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Abstract

Academic libraries play significant roles in storing, archiving, and disseminating knowledge. Despite this contribution, they are challenged by many factors such as collection management, preservation, staffing, and funding. This paper uses archival materials, oral interviews, and secondary sources to trace the history of Adu Boahen Memorial Library and Archives (AMLA) focusing on its collections, management, preservation, and digitization. Though the department of history, University of Ghana had a departmental library, its expansion to house Adu Boahen's private collections, including 2,500 books, and over 1,500 archival materials was an important milestone. This paper argues that these new private collections are of great importance due to their gamut of interesting and revealing data. It is concluded that materials in this repository became the third

largest in the history of the University of Ghana after the Balme Library and the Nketia Collections.

Keywords: *University Library Collections, Preservation, Archives, University of Ghana, Digitization.*

Introduction

The history of libraries in Ghana dates back to the colonial period when the first modern library was established in 1898 by the Basel Mission, a Christian missionary organization (Osei-Bonsu, 1988; Alemna, 1989). Located in the capital city of Accra, the library was primarily used by European settlers and educated Africans. In 1948, the Ghana Library Board was established mainly to promote literacy and education in the country (Ghana Library Board, 1975; Korsah, 1994). This board was also responsible for establishing many libraries across Ghana, including regional libraries in Cape Coast, Kumasi, and Tamale.

The establishment of the University of Ghana in 1948, plays a central role in the historical development of libraries in the country. The University of Ghana Library System (UGLS) was established four years later in 1952. Over the years, the UGLS has grown to become one of the largest and most comprehensive academic libraries in West Africa (Alemna, 1998). The UGLS has a collection of over 1 million books and periodicals and a vast collection of digital resources accessible to students and faculty members. Also important to the development of the UGLS was the building of the Balme Library, named after David Mowbray Balme, the first Vice-Chancellor of the University of Ghana (Alemna & Adanu, 2005; Dadzie & Van Der Walt, 2015; Nyantakyi-Baah, & Tetteh, 2019). The Balme Library was officially opened in 1965. It is one of the largest academic libraries in West Africa today. The library has a collection of over 400,000 books and periodicals, as well as several special collections, including rare books, manuscripts, and archives (Djokotoe-Plockey and Alemna, 2009).

The Ghana Library Board has since the 1960s, worked alongside the United States Information Service (USIS) to establish public libraries, particularly in Accra and other cities (Ghana Library Board, 1975). As expected, these libraries would promote education and democratic values and provide Ghanaians access to rich collections of books, newspapers, and other educational resources. Over the years, the UGLS has continued to expand its services and resources. The library has

established several branches on the University of Ghana's various campuses and developed digital initiatives to make its resources more accessible to students and faculty members (Alemna, 1995; Agyemang, 2017). Presently, the UGLS is recognized as one of the leading academic libraries in Africa and continues to play a critical role in supporting the educational mission of the University of Ghana.

To develop and modernize libraries in Ghana, the government in the 1990s, launched a series of initiatives to make them more accessible to the public (Ghana Library Authority, 2020). This effort began with the Ghana Library Board, which was restructured and renamed the Ghana Library Authority, while many new libraries were also established across the country. Presently, libraries in Ghana continue to play significant roles, especially in promoting literacy, education, and learning (Alemna & Antwi, 1990; Martey, 2000; Lamptey, 2010; Ahenkorah-Marfo & Borteye, 2010; Plockey, 2015; Cobblah & van der Walt, 2016; Amegashie & Ankamah, 2020).

Despite the efforts made by scholars, especially historians and library scientists in documenting the history, development, contributions, and challenges of libraries in Ghana, no work exists on the departmental library of the History Department, University of Ghana, Legon. On this basis, therefore, this paper sets out to provide a history of the departmental library, while emphasizing its collections (ranging from books, journals, periodicals, newspapers, monographs, and government publications to archival materials), as well as its role in the dissemination of knowledge within and outside the department. The choice of this library is not only informed by its long history that is not documented but also because of the gamut of its unknown interesting collections. Recently, the library was expanded due to the establishment of the Adu Boahen Memorial Library and Archives (henceforth, AMLA), which houses many 'virgin' archival materials that can be used for future research. The archival materials in this repository now became the third largest one in the history of the University of Ghana in addition to the Balme Library Collections and the Nketia Collections. Despite an effort made by Smith (2021) to write on AMLA, the paper is no more than a mere skeletal description of its collections with no regard to the pressing library issues at stake such as preservation, management, digitization, as well as its over-roll operations, especially within the University of Ghana's UGLS. Besides, instead of treating the incorporation of Adu Boahen's collections as an extension of the History Departmental Library that was established in 1952, the author studies it as an independent

development with no prior history even when it was merged with the departmental collections as one library.

This paper, therefore, documents this missing link by providing a detailed account of the establishment and evolution of AMLA from 1952 to 2023, highlighting key milestones, changes in structure, and significant events. The paper also focuses on the collections, growth and management of AMLA to examine the types and scope of collections housed within the library and archives including rare manuscripts, historical documents, and digital resources, and to assess how these collections have been managed, preserved, and made accessible over the years.

The paper also contributes as it explains the incorporation of technology in the management and accessibility of collections, including digitization efforts, online catalogues, and digital repositories at the University of Ghana, Legon. Besides, it identifies the ongoing challenges in collection preservation, accessibility, funding, and staffing. Thus, the paper further contributes to the institutional memory of the University of Ghana's Department of History, ensuring that the legacy of Adu Boahen and other notable figures is documented and celebrated.

Archives and Libraries: Definitions and Roles

As two important guardians of knowledge and memory, archives and libraries also play a central role in knowledge preservation and production (Nasidi and Ahmed, 2023). They also serve as important markers for cultural preservation and its dissemination. While the major goal of both institutions is to preserve information and make it accessible to people, they differ contrastively, especially in terms of their focus, methods, and the nature of the materials they house.

While explaining the nature of archives, Millar (2017) argues that they are primary sources, which are often unique and irreplaceable including documents, manuscripts, letters, memoirs, photographs, and digital records that document the activities of individuals, organizations, and governments. To buttress Millar's submission, Schwartz & Cook (2002) also observe that archives are central to historical research by providing primary sources that offer firsthand accounts of events and decisions from a time perspective.

The archives also ensure the authenticity and reliability of records. In this sense, Ketelaar (2001) posits that archives are the custodians of evidence as they maintain the integrity of records by safeguarding them

against either alterations or destruction. The archives function this way for accountability and transparency, particularly in governmental and corporate settings. They shape human collective memory and identity, which according to Schwartz and Cook (2002) provide unneutral spaces characterized by power and influence. These characteristics of archives according to the authors shape the narratives both remembered and marginalized. Schwartz and Cook (2002) maintain that archivists play an active role in constructing history because they can select what should or should not be preserved.

Unlike archival repositories, libraries collect, organize, and provide access to published materials such as books, journals, magazines, and digital media. Rubin (2016) observes that the primary mission of libraries is to support education, research, and personal development by making information accessible to the public. Libraries also promote literacy and lifelong learning by providing resources and services that support formal education at all levels and offer programs for continuing education and skill development (American Library Association, 2011).

Unlike private libraries, which have limited users Gorman (2015), argues that public libraries are important community hubs where people access information, technology, and cultural programs. The author maintains that in this digital age, libraries have transformed by adapting to new technologies that provide access to electronic resources and digital collections. Burke (2009), states that libraries have now embraced the Internet and digital databases to expand their reach and enhance their ability to serve users. He concludes that digital libraries and institutional repositories are important components of the modern library system.

It should be noted that both archives and libraries directly deal with the preservation and dissemination of information but differ in their methods and approaches to preserving different types of materials in their collections. While archives focus on the preservation of original records that have long-term value, especially unpublished materials that are unique to the institutions they represent, libraries primarily handle published works that are widely available and are often acquired through purchase or donation (Rubin, 2016; Millar, 2017).

In terms of organizational principles, archives and libraries differ substantially. While archival materials are normally organized according to provenance and original order, reflecting the context in which they were created, Libraries use different classification systems such as the Dewey Decimal System or the Library of Congress Classification to arrange materials by subject, facilitating easy access and retrieval for users

(Schellenberg, 1956; Rubin, 2016). Although different, archives and libraries collaborate to enhance access to information as many libraries also house special archival collections, which in most cases, blur the lines differentiating the roles of the two institutions. This collaboration is fully enhanced by online archives and digital libraries, providing access to important documents (Burke, 2009). Thus, as archives focus mainly on maintaining the authenticity and context of special records, libraries emphasize accessibility and the dissemination of published information. Both play crucial roles in supporting research, education, and public knowledge.

Methodology

This paper relies on two important sources; primary and secondary. The former includes extensive archival research in the Adu Boahen's collections, and oral interviews with constituted authorities conversant with the historical development, management, and preservation of the library such as librarians, archivists, and lecturers in the Department. This effort was also complemented with important secondary data dealing largely with the history of central university-based libraries, their collections, and management such as that of the University of Ghana, Legon, and Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology, as well as literature on the biography of the late Adu Boahen, whose library collections and archives are central to this paper.

Similarly, the researchers have also consulted the personal files of staff who served as Heads of the History Department from 1952-2023 to find important information about the historical development of the library under study. Besides, images of the library, its collections, and its facilities were also taken to complement the researchers' discussion on the importance of space, methods of preservation of the library materials, and the library facilities. The data obtained from the primary and secondary sources are also scrutinized, selected, corroborated, and interpreted to provide the analysis, discussions, and conclusion of this paper.

Adu Boahen

Albert Kwadwo Adu Boahen was born on May 24, 1932, in a town called Osiem, in the Eastern Region of Ghana (Ashong et al, 2020). Adu Boahen was a first-generation Ghanaian historian who played a

significant role in the decolonization of Africa and its epistemologies and made a bold step in re-writing Africa's history, which was highly stereotyped from a purely Afro-centric perspective. In an interview with him, Adu Boahen (1966) argues that:

Claridge, Ward, and Fage looked at the history of Ghana essentially from the outside and their main concern was the activities of Europeans in Ghana—why and when Europeans came in, what they did, and so on. My colleagues and I are now looking at it from the inside that is from the African standpoint.

Apart from teaching for decades as a professor at the Department of History, University of Ghana, Adu Boahen also served in various capacities ranging from serving as the Head of his Department (1962-1981), the establishment of the Historical Society of Ghana (HSG) in 1951, the setting up of a flagship historical journal called the *Transactions of the Historical Society of Ghana* to his active political role that impacted positively on the history of Ghana (Ashong et al, 2020). Immediately after the overthrow of the government of Kwame Nkrumah in a bloodless coup in 1966, Adu Boahen and his colleagues formed the Legon Society on National Affairs (LSNA), a forum meant to discuss socio-political and economic challenges confronting Ghana (AAB2/6/1/, 2022; AAB2/5/2/, 2022). Adu Boahen's spirit of activism can be traced back to his days at the School of Oriental and African Studies in London as a PhD candidate in African History. During that time, he was an active member of the 'Goats Club', which was a society concerned with the individual and collective interests of foreign students. It also aims to promote international friendship to fight all forms of racism (Smith, 2021).

For his enormous contribution to education, society, and national politics, Adu Boahen was honored with different awards. For instance, at a meeting of the Council of the University of Ghana on the 2nd of August, 1990, Adu Boahen was conferred with the prestigious title of Emeritus Professor of History (Working File, 2006). Besides, his book entitled *Mfantsipim and the Making of Ghana: A Centenary History, 1876–1976*, which was published in 1996, won the Noma Award for publishing in Africa in 1997, while in the April of 1999, he was awarded alongside other intellectuals, the UNESCO Avicenna Silver Medal, a medal named after the outstanding scientific thinker Abu Ali ibn Abdallah ibn Sina (Avicenna), in recognition of their outstanding contribution to the General History of Africa (AAB 19, 2022; AAB2/7/1/, 2022; Ogot, 2003). This was due to his exceptional role in a UNESCO History

project given to the Department of History in 1965 where he was a professor and the Head of Department (Kojo, 2022). The Department was selected for the project since ‘a private society (referring to the Historical Society of Ghana) would not handle the huge sums that the project demands’ (UG1/3/2/3/58, 1965).

Posthumously, he was also awarded the ‘Order of the Star of Ghana’ by the Ghanaian government in June 2006 (Working File, 2006). After a series of discussions between the Department of History, the University of Ghana, and his family, the two agreed to establish a memorial library in the honour of Adu Boahen and in fulfilling his will in which he commanded his family to hand over all his library collections to the department, as well as fund the construction and establishment of the library. This building project was actualized in 2022.

Adu Boahen Memorial Library and Archives

The Adu Boahen Memorial Library and Archives was named after the late Professor, Albert Adu Boahen. Though the library was established in 2020 and commissioned in 2021, its history can be traced back to 1952 when the History Departmental Library was set up four years after the establishment of the University of Ghana in 1948 (Kojo, 2022). The library then had collections of books, journals, and newspapers. Baku (2023) reveals that during that time, the library collections were arranged in such a way as to provide answers to intriguing questions revolving around African history, which has been the focus of the Department of History, Legon. *The Legon History Series*, which emerged mostly from newly completed research on Africa and Ghana, especially PhD theses, also fell into the departmental library collections. Besides, important publications of the Ghana Historical Society such as *Ghana Notes and Quarries* and *Teachers Journal* were added to the library collections.

Before 2020, the library was neither properly catalogued nor had a professional librarian. For many years, Mr. Samuel Agbeve, employed in 1974 as an Administrative Assistant by the Department of History, was responsible for maintaining the library, which included giving students books and repairing damaged ones. In 1986, however, Mr. Agbeve was nominated for the Balme Library In-Service Training for Library Assistants (Working File, 2007). This course was meant to provide intensive training in modern library operations and practices. In this sense, therefore, one would argue that the History Departmental Library of the University of Ghana never fully satisfied all the major

requirements that constitute a library such as the presence of a professional librarian, as well as the collection of a variety of resources that is well-organized by such professionals until a new library was set up in 2016. Library according to George (2010) is:

...a collection of resources in a variety of formats that is (1) organized by information professionals or other experts who (2) provide convenient physical, digital, bibliographic, or intellectual access and (3) offer targeted services and programs (4) with the mission of educating, informing, or entertaining a variety of audiences (5) and the goal of stimulating individual learning and advancing society as a whole.

In 2016, Prof. Emmanuel Debrah, who was then an acting head of the Department of History, for the first time, wrote a letter to the University Librarian at Balme requesting him to send professional librarians and other experts to come and assess the History Departmental collections and set up the library in line with global professional practice (Agyei Boadi, 2023). **The Balme Library, named after David Mowbray Balme, the first Principal of the University of Ghana, is the central library of the University of Ghana established in 1948. Following this effort by Debrah, the History Departmental Library became one of the various satellite libraries of the Balme Library located in schools, institutes, faculties, departments, and halls of residence of the university, forming the University of Ghana Library System (UGLS) (Dadzie, 2004; Dadzie and Mensah, 2022).**

Contrary to its hitherto card-catalogues, in 2017, the History Departmental Library was reasonably automated. This development made it easy for library users to access information with less difficulty (Agyei Boadi, 2023). Besides, SIERA software was also introduced to ease cataloguing the library collections. Other things the software does include acquisition and circulation. According to its developers, the SIERA software:

...provides real estate professionals with all the tools needed to manage, measure and report on the ESG performance of their assets in one, easy-to-use platform. SIERA's intelligent, investment-grade data management platform can help users identify where to focus efforts to comply with increasing regulations, report more accurately, and make informed investment decisions. Share data with ease, increase stakeholder engagement, and tell a more coherent narrative about how ESG is managed (SIERA, 2023).

To ensure efficiency and service delivery, the University of Ghana Library System (UGLS) organizes special training and workshops for all its librarians. This effort is also supported by the reshuffling and deployment of librarians every five (5) years.

With the expansion of the History Departmental Library, following the addition of the Adu Boahen collections and archives, the number of library materials increased, marking an important milestone in its history. Apart from the tremendous digitization programme and technological advancement taking place, a special building, well-furnished and fully air-conditioned was commissioned in 2021 and officially opened in 2023 (Fig. 1). According to Smith (2023) computers were also donated by the members of the Ghana Studies Association.

In a letter by Professor Emmanuel Ababio Ofosu-Mensah, the head of the History Department (2017-2021), University of Ghana to the Vice-Chancellor dated 2nd May 2018, he stated that the department had become the permanent custodian of the total content of the private collections of the late Professor Adu Boahen. It was also during his tenure as the HOD that the permission to build the new library extension that houses the Adu Boahen collections was given by the university authority, while the initiation of dialogues between the department and Adu Boahen's family was maintained by Dr. Victoria Allen Smith, a British scholar, who was a staff of the department (Smith, 2023; Mensah, 2023). Both the HoD and Dr. Smith were there during the sod cutting of the land earmarked for AMLA (1).



Figure 1: L-R: Adu Boahen's daughter, Cynara, HoD History, son-Prof. Kwabena Adu Boahen, University of Ghana Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Ebenezer Oduro Owusu, son- Charles Adu Boahen, Charles Kofinti, Founding Curator of AMLA and Dr. Victoria Smith at Sod Cutting.

The money for the construction of AMLA was provided by the Adu Boahen Foundation. Through Charles, Adu Boahen's son, a total sum of Gh¢ 787,683 was spent on the execution, completion, and maintenance of the AMLA project (Working File, 2020). The contract for this project was signed between the University of Ghana as the employer and Messrs. Pel Construction Ltd as the contractor. The project was executed by Mr. Frank Yeboah of Flinch Architects in 2021. The nature and number of the library collections and archives are discussed extensively in the next section of this paper.



Figure 2: The Frontal View of Adu Boahen Memorial Library and Archives (Source: Authors' Fieldwork).

Collections and Archives

The initial collections of the History Departmental Library, which included books, journals, monographs, etc. according to Agyei Boadi (2023) were 2,500 materials. With its expansion, the library has about 4,000 reading and archival materials (Agyei Boadi, 2023). These materials are safely kept, catalogued, and automated in the new building commissioned in 2021. The technological advancement of this library, which will be discussed in detail in the subsequent section of this paper plus the purchase of new library materials such as chairs, tables, air conditions, computers, moveable shelves (to create space to hold different academic events), and maximum security, marked an important

turning point not only in the history of the library per se, but also in the teaching of history in the Department (Fig. 1). Apart from the addition of more materials in the library, the presence of Adu Boahen's 'virgin' archival materials means a lot to future researches.



Figure 3: The Interior of the Adu Boahen Memorial Library and Archives (Source: Authors' Fieldwork, 2023)

The major sources of material acquisition for the library are based on buying, personal and institutional donations. In the case of the former, the Head of Department (HoD), lecturers, and students, who are mostly the users normally make a recommendation of the list of books they want to acquire based on the pedagogical demands of the time (Agyei Boadi, 2023). Through the HoD, this request would then be pushed to the chief librarian at the Balme Library who would order the materials' acquisition. This is because AMLA was made one of Balme's satellite libraries in the University.

The library also has over 1,500 virgin archival materials, which cut across different topics and themes. These materials are largely categorized into twenty (20) different topical contents (Table 1). The Adu Boahen's archival collection offers a unique insight into his life and work. Largely in paper form, the collection also includes some electronically recorded tapes, which are presently under cataloguing after

arranging play-back facilities. With the donation of Adu Boahen's collections and archives, Mr. Killian Kwame Onai, a senior archivist with about thirty-five (35) years of experience in such collections and their management, was posted by the Balme Library on the request of the History Department to come and help catalogue archival materials (Onai, 2023).

Table 1: A list of archival materials available in Adu Boahen Memorial Library and Collections

S/N	ARCHIVAL COLLECTIONS
1.	AAB1-Personal Correspondence of Professor Albert Kwadwo Adu Boahen
2.	AAB2-Manuscripts and Seminar Papers
3.	AAB3-Articles and Publications
4.	AAB4-Ashanti History
5.	AAB5-Sankofa Records
6.	AAB6-Ministry of Interior
7.	AAB7-Political Papers
8.	AAB8-Magazines
9.	AAB9-Lecture Notes-Academic Papers
10.	AAB10-Mfantsoinpin School
11.	AAB11-Lodge
12.	AAB12-CSIR-Council for Scientific and Industrial Research
13.	AAB13-University of Ghana-Matters
14.	AAB14-University of Cape Coast Documents
15.	AAB15-Official Government Papers and Correspondence
16.	AAB16-Schematics
17.	AAB17-Tributes/Personal Correspondence/Ministry Documents
18.	AAB18-Interviews/Audio Files
19.	AAB19-Awards
20.	AAB20-West African Examination Council Correspondence

Source: Authors' Fieldwork, 2023.

Apart from giving an insight into Adu Boahen's personal life, the archival collections in the library also provide vital information on the socio-political and economic history of Ghana. The archives cover the pre-colonial, colonial and post-colonial periods. For instance, the detailed information about the British colonial administration covers the period from 1900 to 1957 when Ghana attained its independence. The vast collection of the West African Magazine from 1968 to 1993 also provides

an array of primary data on different issues relating to the history of the West African sub-region, including Ghana. This is also coupled with many archival materials on party politics in Ghana. This is because the late Adu Boahen apart from pursuing an academic life, has also actively participated in national partisan politics and the democratization of Ghanaian society from the 1970s to the late 1990s.

Challenges

Despite the great efforts made by successive departmental administrations, the AMLA, like every other library in the world, suffers from some problems. For instance, one of the major disturbing issues bedevilling the library is that most of its materials are outdated with little or no effort made by constituted authorities to purchase the latest materials based on the changing nature of knowledge and its production (Agyei Boadi). It is also obvious that since the establishment of the library to the present, no serious effort has been made to preserve its holdings apart from the normal repairs and binding of materials. As a result of this problem, many materials were destroyed by termites and bookworms (Fig. 3).



Figure 4: One of the Library materials destroyed by termites and book worms (Source: Authors' fieldwork, 2023).

Before the transfer of Adu Boahen's collections to the new Departmental Library, they also suffered from some problems. These included; (1) a serious flood that nearly destroyed the collections and (2) some of the documents were, however, destroyed by termites and bookworms. The temperature to which such collections were subjected was another major problem that endangers them.

Similarly, for many years, many books were missing. This was largely due to book stealing by library users, as well as the refusal of some users to return borrowed books. These challenges also added to the decrease in the library collection. Besides, some library users were also fond of tearing out important pages from books rendering the material almost useless (Agyei Boadi). This problem is also coupled with a lack of adequate funding, which limits the ability of the Department to acquire new resources, maintain existing ones, and provide quality services to users. The fact that satellite libraries at the University of Ghana like AMLA must place a request to the central library before new materials are purchased also made the process cumbersome.

Apart from the students being forced to write one assignment or the other using library materials, changes in technological development, especially with the increasing popularity of e-books and online resources also reduce the number of library users. These e-materials are also provided by the Balme Library including off-campus access via its SAKAI Learning Management Systems (LMS), which is a free, community-driven, open-source educational software platform, earlier designed in 2005 under the Andrew Mellon Foundation project to support teaching, research, and collaboration (Dolphin, 2011). As such, many students and even lecturers resorted to utilizing online materials that are readily accessible at their fingertips.

Another major challenge curtailing the progress of the library is the issue of staffing. This is not only related to the hiring and retaining of qualified librarians but also due to the rotational policy of the University management to reshuffle staff every five (5) years. In this case, therefore, librarians that are conversant with the AMLA collections and operations are taken away and replaced with new ones who need to also gradually learn. Following the establishment of a special section for archival materials, the lack of a professional archivist to man it surely poses a serious operational challenge.

Prospects

The new building dedicated to AMLA is so spacious that it accommodates all the library materials (Fig.2). This also facilitates the implementation of good preservation measures. The provision of adequate physical space is a good step aimed at promoting materials preservation, as well as ensuring prudent library operations.

In the new library, the Department of History in collaboration with Adu Boahen's family introduced the use of Radio Frequency Identification (RFID), a magnetic sensor attached to books and other collections to address the challenges of book stealing in the library. RFID according to Angell and Kietzmann (2006) and Tony (2022) automatically uses electromagnetic fields to identify and track tags attached to objects. This system is made up of a tiny radio transponder, a radio receiver, and a transmitter, which enables it to alarm the librarians through an electromagnetic interrogation pulse from a nearby RFID reader device to the digital data transmitted with the help of an identifying inventory number going back to the reader (Controltek, 2014).

To ensure that the library collections are in good condition, air conditions were provided to keep the temperature at a preservation level. This provision was possible due to the provision of a generating plant to ensure an uninterrupted power supply and to allow the air conditioning system to work without hitches. It also creates a conducive atmosphere for library users to access materials, do their readings, and write without any discomfort as the weather in Accra, especially in the first quarter of the year is seriously humid. In case of a sudden power outage, this standby generator provides instant electric power to ensure effective library operations.

To address the challenges posed by termites and bookworms, countermeasures were also put in place. These include; fumigation, boxing of some materials, especially the archival collections, glass-shelving, air-conditioning, and filing (Fig. 4a and 4b). Through this process, the materials that are in good condition are protected, while the damaged ones were fixed and preserved.



Figure 4a: Boxed Archival Materials
(Source: Authors' fieldwork, 2023).



Figure 5b: Example of Filed documents
(Source: Authors' fieldwork, 2023).

Similarly, a special effort is being made by the Department of History to fully digitize the library. This project is not only restricted to archival materials that may be fragile but also monographs and other important collections. The intended project hopes to provide open access to such collections to ensure that researchers from all parts of the world benefit from AMLA's rich repository.

Conclusion

This paper provided a detailed analysis of the historical evolution of the Adu Boahen Memorial Library and Archives (AMLA) as a systematic, but gradual development of the History Departmental Library of the University of Ghana from 1952 to 2023. The paper revealed that the establishment of AMLA in 2021 and its official opening in 2023 marked an important milestone in the historical development of the department. This is because the current private collections of Adu Boahen under the custody of the department are of great importance due to gamut of interesting and revealing data that are not known to many researchers both within and outside the university. It is observed that the archival materials in this repository now became the third largest in the history of the University of Ghana following the Balme Library, as well as the Nketia Collections.

Despite the tremendous changes that have taken place in the library, especially in terms of preservation of archival materials and other collections, cataloguing, digitization, as well as the provision of enough space in the new AMLA building, which provides a conducive atmosphere for its users, this paper has identified a number of challenges affecting such development. Some of these problems include the lack of a professional archivist to man the collections, over-reliance on outdated sources due to underfunding to enable the acquisition of new materials, and the centralization of all library operations under the Balme Library, which slows communication and decision-making process at the departmental level.

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