

# Annual Report 2014



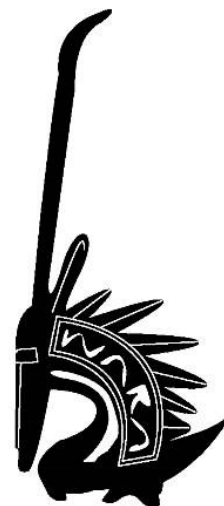
*Opening panel for the exhibit at WARC, "Two Generations of Women, One Mission"*

*(l to r) Mmes Alya Meroueh Jaffar, Anette Mbaye D'Erneville, Aminata Mbengue Ndiaye, and Penda Mbow*

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 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 support to both individual researchers working in the region and institutions wishing to conduct professional development seminars for faculty or study tours for students.

# West African Research Association



# West African Research Association

## SOURCES OF REVENUE

### ECA/CAORC

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

### Library of Congress

The West African Acquisitions Pilot Project is headquartered at WARC

**WACAP (West African Collaborative Acquisitions Project)** is a collaborative acquisitions project

**ALMA (African Language Materials Archive)** is a collaborative project of WARA and Title VI Resource Centers

### Unrestricted

Memberships, gifts, and program and administrative fees

### In-kind

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

## PROGRAMS & SERVICES

### 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.

#### Research Library

The Mohammed Moustapha Kane Library and Documentation Center at WARC includes over 5,000 titles, in addition to journals and periodicals and access to online databases such as JSTOR. WARC's librarians provide invaluable assistance to US, West African, and international researchers.

#### Computer Lab

WARC is equipped with Wi-Fi throughout and has 15 work stations for researchers' use. The computer lab also has copy, printing, and fax machines available for scholars.

#### Video Conferencing Center

WARC's new state-of-the-art conference center is an excellent venue for in-person or video-conferencing meetings.

#### Seminar and Classrooms

WARC has several conference rooms with TV, VCR, DVD player, digital projector, and an onsite technician. Small classrooms are ideal for language classes and other small groups.

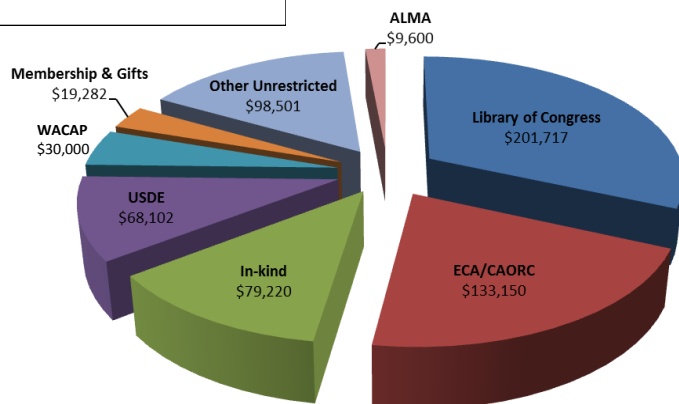
#### Coordination of Study Abroad & Study Tours

WARC organizes and coordinates study tours for students, faculty, and other groups. WARC customizes programs to meet the needs of each group; tours may include lectures by West African scholars, artists, and activists; outings and field trips to key sites; and opportunities for service learning.

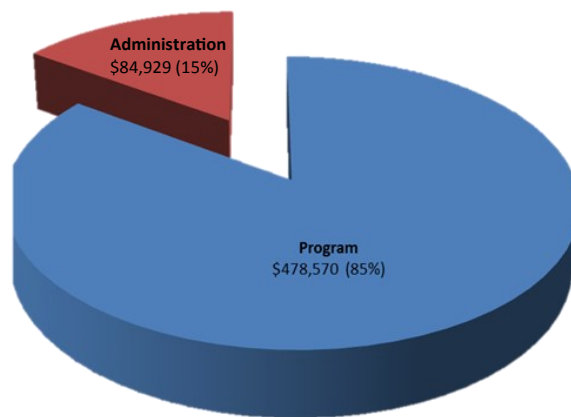
#### Café

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.

## REVENUE SOURCES



## EXPENDITURES



WARA would like to thank the Boston Foundation for its generous support, whose financial support makes the work possible.

# West African Research Association

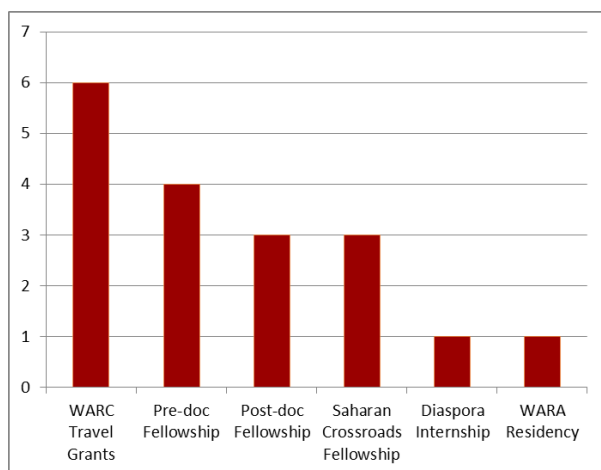


*Third International Saharan Crossroads Conference  
Oran, Algeria, June 2014*

## 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. Over the past five years, WARA has supported the research of 98 scholars in a wide range of disciplines.

### FY 2014 WARA FELLOWSHIPS



## 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. Proceedings from that conference will be available in 2015.

## WEST AFRICAN ACQUISITIONS PILOT PROJECT (LIBRARY OF CONGRESS)

Now in its fifth 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.

## 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.

## 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/>

## 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.

generous sponsorship, and extends its gratitude to our donors,  
wonderful work of our members possible.



# Future Challenges

WARC's new Conference Center



## WARA Board of Directors

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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 ensure our ability to maintain the quality services and programming for which WARC has become known.

Because of continuing cutbacks in federal government funding, **we must increase private philanthropic support for both WARA and WARC.** We are working to establish 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 (see above) 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.**

## Institutional Members

Africa Network  
Allegheny College  
American University  
Boston University  
Brandeis University  
Bridgewater State University  
College of Wooster  
Colorado College  
Council for International Educational Exchange  
DePauw University  
Earlham College  
Florida International University  
Foundation for West Africa  
Fresno City College  
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Howard University  
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Iowa State University  
Johns Hopkins University  
Kalamazoo College  
Kent State University  
Lafayette College  
Lesley University  
Michigan State University  
Morgan State University  
New York University  
Northern Illinois University  
Northwestern University Library  
Ohio University  
Pace University  
Pennsylvania State University  
Rutgers University  
Saginaw Valley State University  
Santa Clara University  
Smithsonian Institution  
Spelman College

South Dakota State University  
Southern University and A&M College  
Temple University  
Texas A&M University  
Tufts University  
University of California at Berkeley  
University of California at Los Angeles  
University of Chicago  
University of Florida  
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign  
University of Kansas  
University of Minnesota  
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill  
University of Wisconsin-Madison  
Virginia State University  
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