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.
WARA PROGRAMS & SERVICES

The West African Research Association has a number of programs and collaborates with a range of institutions to support and enhance their West Africa programming. Below is a listing of our major programs and projects. A more detailed account can be found on the WARA website.

THE WEST AFRICAN RESEARCH CENTER IN DAKAR, SENEGAL

WARA’s overseas office, the West African Research Center (WARC), located near Université Cheikh Anta Diop, in the Fann Residence neighborhood of Dakar, Senegal. WARC 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 for scholars from throughout the region and beyond.

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 and faculty, providing customized programs to meet the needs of each group. Programs include lectures by West African scholars, artists, and activists; 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.
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 100 scholars in a wide range of disciplines. WARA’s Fellowship programs are supported by the Educational and Cultural Affairs Bureau of the US State Department and the US Department of Education’s Title VI Program.

**FY 2016 WARA FELLOWSHIPS**

- Saharan Crossroads Fellowship: 9
- WARC Travel Grants: 9
- Pre-doc Fellowship: 8
- Post-doc Fellowship: 3
- Diaspora Internship: 1
- WARA Residency: 1
- WARC Library Fellow: 1

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

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 WARC and collects materials in Benin, Burkina Faso, Côte d’Ivoire, the Gambia, Guinea Conakry, Mali, Niger, Chad, Senegal, Sierra Leone, and Togo.

**AFRICAN CONFLICT & PEACEBUILDING REVIEW**

Established in 2010 in partnership with Indiana University Press, ACPR has grown to be a most respected journal in its field. It’s focus on providing support and mentoring to African colleagues is a key part of its mission.

**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 text and multi-media materials in 20 different African languages. 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* 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.
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.