



HABARI

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[ASC Leiden Receives 3000 Books from KIT Amsterdam](#)

Following its closure at the end of 2013, the 450,000 books that made up the library of the KIT (Royal Institute of the Tropics) in Amsterdam have been transferred to other libraries. The staff at KIT Amsterdam desperately tried to find a new home for the whole collection in the second half of 2013 and largely succeeded in doing so. The 31 staff in the KIT Library & Collection Department all lost their jobs as of 31 December. Read [more](#).

[Blog Research Masters](#)

This time it is up to Tanja Hendriks to share her experiences of the Research Masters. In her blog called 'Inventing ourselves as Africanists' she poses several questions about the challenges of becoming (and being) an Africanist; what do they do and what place do they have in (African and non-African) societies? And how do we 'do' action, instead of just thinking about it? Read the blog [here](#).

[Opening 'Look at you' Exhibition](#)

The new ASC exhibition is called 'Look at you' and is a duo-project by Frouwkje Smit and Karine Versluis. It focuses on the themes of prejudices, construction of others and representations in the media. How do we look at the African continent, and how do they look at us? Which images are presented to us in the media, at school, and by development organizations? What are the elements that construct our collective memory? Read more about the exhibition [here](#). The opening of the exhibition, on 11 February, was accompanied by lectures and a debate. The exhibition can be seen in the corridors of the third floor, from 30 January until 25 April 2014.



Figuur 2 Mirjam de Bruijn (r) as moderator



Figuur 1 Frouwkje Smit talking to visitors

[Changing World of a Pastoralist](#)

Some reflections by Dr. [Moses Mwangi](#)

I am not a pastoralist but have close to three decades lived among them, working in the field of water sciences to sustain their core livelihood – livestock. The period has allowed building some understanding of the people in both social and economic terms. This has helped in unpacking a definition of pastoralism given while studying water for the arid lands. It was then put forth that pastoralism was 'a stage in the development of civilization between hunting and agriculture, a way of

life dependent on the herding of livestock, specifically, ungulates.’ At the time I did not think much of the definition.

Read more [here](#).

[A Struggle for Peace Conference Utrecht](#)

‘A Struggle for Peace Conference Utrecht’ took place on 8 February and was organized by the Student Organization for International Affairs Utrecht. This recurring conference is on international relations, democracy and world economics and offers debates, workshops and seminars. Two of our Research Masters Students were there to represent the ASC with a bookstand. Many thanks to David Drengk and Njeri Mwaura!



Figuur 3 David and Njeri at the ASC bookstand

200,000 Downloads of ASC Publications in 2013!

By [Jos Damen](#)

The African Studies Centre advocates Open Access publishing and most of the ASC researchers' publications are accessible online via [Leiden University's repository](#).

The statistics for 2013 again show a dramatic increase in the use of the Africana repository: from 65,665 downloads in 2011 and 118,824 in 2012 to **199,709** downloads of articles and/or books in 2013.

Nearly 25% of these downloads were by users in the US (48,671) but African countries account for a good number of the downloads of the ASC's scientific output too. There were 5376 downloads in Ethiopia in 2013, 3984 in South Africa, 3106 in Kenya, 2592 in Cameroon, 1993 in Nigeria and 1665 in Uganda alone. ASC publications are being read everywhere – one was even downloaded in Sao Tome and Principe. Not surprisingly, most visitors find the African Studies Centre's repository via Google (40%) although Google Scholar and other search engines are also used.

China-Africa relations, microfinance and publications on Ethiopia and Mali were the most viewed subjects in 2013. Jan Abbink's publications were very popular too and were downloaded a total of 17,848 times. And with 3728 downloads in 2013, 'Microfinance, Rural Livelihoods, and Women's Empowerment in Uganda' by Alfred Lakwo was the ASC publication most frequently accessed via the repository. The ASC is well aware of the fact that quantity and quality are entirely different entities but is nevertheless glad that its Open Access policy is proving popular and that its research is being widely read all over the world.

Click [here](#) for more information about the African Studies Centre's repository.

'Wikipedian in special Residence' Hans Muller



Figuur 4 Thank you Hans!

Hans Muller left the ASC after two months of hard work. He was part of the [Wikipedians in Special Residence Project](#), aimed at 'enabling the host organization [ASC] and its members to continue a productive relationship with the encyclopedia [Wikipedia]'. Hans organized writing courses and taught many of us the ins and outs of Wikipedia.

He wrote a word of goodbye, exclusively for Habari. Read it [here](#).

[ASC in the media](#)

[News archive](#)

[New ASC Publications](#)

[New acquisitions of the ASC Library – February 2014](#)

[New community Members](#)

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