

SWAHILI AND THE INTERNET

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Everybody knows the Internet by now, most of us have had a glimpse into it or use it frequently. Without doubt it offers many possibilities, like sending long documents within a very short time and without any material carrier from one computer to another or to many others. The World Wide Web (WWW) is an important means of finding information on nearly everything, the web sites are often designed attractively and many offer multi-medial information at the same time. Yet, after a time of euphoria about the possibilities people became aware that the web is very vast and one can spend hours and hours looking for something, without finding it. Roger Pfister with his "Internet for Africanists and others interests in Africa (see the review in this issue), was a first and most useful attempt to help everybody interested in African studies to find information faster.

But, what is on the Internet that is related to Swahili? This page will try to inform you on some important or recently found sites (finding by chance is something quite usual with the Internet). All hints to where more sites can be found are most welcome and will be introduced and reviewed in upcoming issues. Please contact: E.Schmitt@em.uni-frankfurt.de

This time I will introduce the Kamusi Project and web sites at German-speaking universities with Swahili studies.

a) Kamusi Project

The most outstanding site for Swahili studies is the Kamusi Project hosted by Yale University. It is to be found at the URL <http://www.yale.edu/swahili/swahili.htm>

On this homepage the Kamusi Project is introduced as a "collaborative work by people all over the world". It offers technical help for those who arrived through the Gopher, introduces the supporters, technical, equipment and funding, and the contents of the following pages. These pages are

- About the Kamusi Project
- Participants in the Kamusi Project
- Copyright notice
- Features of the Kamusi Project
- Swahili Resources
- Swahili Song Lyrics
- African Links on the Net
- Language Links on the Net
- Project plans and Pipedreams

They offer discussion groups, an Swahili-English and English-Swahili dictionary through Gopher. The dictionaries are available as ASCII files. The different addresses of the general editor, Martin Benjamin are shown at the end of the homepage.

Under the topic "Swahili resources" are filed Swahili teaching resources, Swahili dictionary resources, Swahili literature resources, Swahili language resources, Swahili cultural

resources. The latter three contain only very scarce information. The teaching resources list textbooks in English. In the dictionary resources the editors ask especially for German dictionaries. Quite a number of dictionaries in other languages are already included.

"Swahili Song Lyrics" file four Swahili songs which are most popular in the Western world but not very typical for Swahili culture: *Malaika*, *Majengo*, *Harambee* and *Jambo*. Not only the lyrics are given, but as well a translation and the history of the song. The addresses of the people who provided the information are given.

The "African Links on the Net" give quite a number of Africa related links, but unfortunately many links do no longer work. Many www addresses change frequently without the one offering a link becoming aware of this.

The Swahili Dictionary Online, which will be designed as "a multimedia dictionary with pictures, sounds, and hotlinks all over the Web" (homepage) is still under construction. ("We welcome your pictures and your hotlink suggestions.")

Everybody is invited to participate in the project and contribute to it.

b) Swahili Studies at German-speaking Universities

Bayreuth: Lehrstuhl Afrikanistik

URL: <http://www.uni-bayreuth.de/departments/linglit>

The program of the current and the coming semester for each institute of the department of linguistics and literature, the requirements for the Master's degree and the addresses and phone of the staff can be found through hotlinks.

Berlin: Institut für Asien- und Afrika-Wissenschaften, Humboldt-Universität

URL: <http://www.hu-berlin.de:9000/08/08as11.htm>

This address gives the program of the current semester.

<http://www.hu-berlin.de:9000/sg/sgprojek.htm#Maendeleo>

Gives a summary of a Swahili project of the Institut für Asien- und Afrika-Wissenschaften.

Through the homepage of the Humboldt-Universität (<http://www.hu-berlin.de/>) there is access to the faculties. The Institut für Asien- und Afrika-Wissenschaften belongs to the Philosophische Fakultät III, but has no link yet.

Frankfurt: Professur für Afrikanische Sprachwissenschaften

URL: <http://www.rz.uni-frankfurt.de/titus/fb11ss96kvv.html#Afrik>

This site contains the program of the current semester.

<http://www.rz.uni-frankfurt.de/presse/brosch/fb1105.htm>

Here you find fields of interest of Hermann Jungraithmayer and Rainer Vossen.

The homepage of Fachbereich 11 (<http://www.rz.uni-frankfurt.de/presse/brosch/fb11.htm>) gives some general information on the studies and degrees.

Hamburg: Institut für Afrikanistik und Äthiopistik

URL: <http://www.uni-hamburg.de/~afrika/welcome.html>

The homepage is offered in German or in English. Links provide general information and details of the studies and the degrees; the history of the institute is summarized; the staffs' addresses, phone and e-mail are to be found easily; the publications are listed; the library is introduced, hotlinks to Africa complete the contents. The link of the "Fachschaft", that is the students has not been active yet.

Köln: Institut für Afrikanistik

URL: <http://www.uni-koeln.de/phil-fak/>

The philosophical faculty has a homepage with links to the associated institutes. The Institut für Afrikanistik is still without a link.

Leipzig: Institut für Sprach- und Übersetzungswissenschaft

URL: <http://www.uni-leipzig.de/fak/gesch.htm>

Afrikanistik has no homepage. Names and addresses of the professors can be found on the homepage of the Fakultät für Geschichte, Kunst- und Orientalwissenschaften. The curriculum for the degrees can be downloaded in WordPerfect format from <http://www.uni-leipzig.de/uni/>.

Mainz: Institut für Ethnologie und Afrika-Studien

URL: <http://www.uni-mainz.de/~ifeas>

The curriculum is offered in full text (German) the commented program of the current and the coming semester is available; the staffs' addresses, phone and e-mail are to be found easily.

Wien: Institut für Afrikanistik, Universität Wien

URL: <http://www.univie.ac.at/afrikanistik/>

This is the homepage of the institute. They offer links to general information on African studies, the staff (but address, phone and e-mail are only available through <http://www.univie.ac.at/UNI-Daten/cgi-bin/inst.cgi>), where a link to the institute's WWW-server is available too.

The current semester program, the curriculum, the special fields of research and the languages taught are linked.