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## History of the Building

The library was designed by architect R E Wright and funds were raised by a committee on which well-known figures such as Cecil John Rhodes, Dr L S Jameson and J B Currey served. The energetic ladies of early Kimberley organised a bazaar which realised £1 302.2.9. Bricks were donated by the Public Works Department. The joint tender of £2 000 of Westlake & Coles, and Smith & Bull was accepted for the construction of the building. This Victorian building was opened on 23 July 1887 as the Kimberley Public Library by Mr Justice P M Laurence. The total cost involved was £4 750. The property reverted to the Kimberley Municipality on 14 December 1959, on condition that it be used for library purposes only. The building was vacated in 1984 after the new Public Library was built in Chapel Street and was restored as an Africana Research Library. The inauguration took place on 30 March 1986 by the Mayor D A Liebenberg. The building was declared a National Monument in 1990.

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## Research Material

The Africana Library is not a lending library but specifically caters for researchers specialising in information pertaining to Kimberley, the Northern Cape and the Diamond Fields. The collection consists mainly of books, manuscripts (letters, diaries, etc), maps, photographs, magazines, newspapers and other ephemera

### The Collection

The Africana Library houses a noteworthy collection of Africana material, including:

1. Early Cape Printing from 1800-1837.
2. Books printed in most indigenous languages. Particularly outstanding is the Tswana collection dated back to 1826, including the Tswana Bible translated and printed by Robert Moffat at the Mission Station in Kuruman.
3. Manuscripts dating back to the 17<sup>th</sup> century.
4. Photographs of early Kimberley and the diamond fields from the 1870s.

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## Rules and Regulations

As most of our material is very old and the paper extremely brittle, access to sources is limited to genuine researchers only. Handling of research material takes place under strict control.

1. No bags, briefcases, coats, parcels, purses or similar belongings are allowed in the research area and must be left with the library staff. Valuable items will be kept in a safe if desired.
2. The research area is secured by a 24-hour surveillance camera. No person may leave this room or wander around the library without the permission of the librarian. No documents or other material may be removed from this area. Researchers may only move between the librarian's workroom and the research area.
3. Researchers must register and proof of identity is required. This registration is free of charge. The researcher must sign a list of procedures before access to documents is permitted.
4. Visitors to the building are requested not to handle or touch any books or newspapers without the permission of the staff. Unnecessary handling of material may cause serious damage. Visitors will be instructed in the correct handling of material.
5. Any misconduct; or abuse of rules and regulations may result in the person being asked to leave the library.

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## General information

### Hours for researchers

Weekdays only:

08h00 - 12h45

13h30 - 16h00

### Other information

Telephone: 053 8306247

Fax: 053 8331954

### **Africana Librarians:**

Kokkie Duminy

### **Postal address:**

P O Box 627

Kimberley

8300

e-mail: [afriplib@global.co.za](mailto:afriplib@global.co.za)

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# The Kimberley Africana Research Library

