

Explore our Film Library and audiovisual stacks

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The Central Reference Section consists of various collections which include the Art collection; Film library/Audiovisual stacks; Music collection; Audiovisual collection (CDs, DVDs, records, language courses and audiobooks); and SN.

In this series we will focus on the various collections to provide you with an insight into its purpose, functions and collections.

Film Library

We start off with the film library.

The purpose of the film library is to educate, preserve and provide films on loan to institutions, organisations and public libraries. The function of the Film Library is to afford users the opportunity to experience a unique and old-fashioned format using old-fashioned equipment, such as film projectors for viewing films.

The library has a unique core collection of 16mm and 35mm films, many of which are not available anywhere else in the world. In many instances we have the only copy on film in South Africa of titles that are not available on either video or DVD.

During the weeding process of the 16mm films it was discovered that two 9.5mm films are in stock. These films can only be viewed on a 9.5mm projector which is unfortunately not available in the Service. The film library possesses 17 projectors in working condition to view the 16mm films. Films can be requested by or through our public libraries.

An interesting fact is that ninety-five percent of the WCPLS 16mm films are not obtainable on DVD or on video. In the film library there is also a collection of donated films from the Film Society and BP Films which are not available on DVD or video format. With a good projector and a good quality 16mm film, many viewers might still prefer viewing the film version for its uniqueness. The CPLS stock, as well as films from BP and the Film Society, consist of 80-90% documentaries, fiction for children, and adult and experimental films.

Following is a list of films that are only obtainable on 16mm and 35mm format:

1. **Cheyenne autumn**
2. **La Marseillaise**
3. **Baltimore plan**
4. **Making and using puppets**
5. **The Company's Garden**
6. **The Cape Carnival**
7. **Luangwa safari**
8. **End of the dialogue**
9. **Visit to a Shangaan village**
10. **Nyasaland, land of the lake**
11. **Clifton – a day**
12. **Die lig vorentoe**
13. **The Castle**
14. **Spirit of man**
15. **Vissers van Kalkbaai**
16. **[Cape Town] - a preview for the visitor**

17. **Hollard Street story**

18. **Seasons in the sun**

19. **Gateway to Africa**

20. **South Africa cavalcade**

21. **Soweto, Johannesburg**

22. **Travelways in South Africa**

23. **A world in one country**

24. **Saturday Parade.**

Institutions such as universities and technicians, film production companies and the Iziko Museum make use of our collection of audiovisual materials (films, DVDs and videos) for educational and research purposes. Several requests are received from film directors from overseas countries for films that are not available anywhere else in the world - an indication of the value of our film stock in the film library.

Stock

BP Films: 835

Film Society films: 588

CPLS films: 687

Unbarcoded videos: 679

Videos: 5029

SN videos: 6819

SN DVDs: 1375

Circulation of films: 150 per quarter.

