

# Mr. Kenneth Ingram

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**Mr. Kenneth Ingram**, was a former Campus and University Librarian. Ingram was a librarian, administrator, historian, bibliographer, and scholar who significantly contributed to Jamaican and Caribbean scholarship. During his 31-year tenure at the UWI, he served on several major university committees and devoted his time to the academic and administrative needs of the University Libraries.

His career in librarianship began in 1941 when he joined the Institute of Jamaica, where he later served on the National Library of Jamaica's Board of Management. The British Council offered him one of the first British Council Scholarships in Jamaica when he worked in the West India Reference Library for three years. In 1944, he joined the Manchester Public Library as a student staff member and studied for his Associateship in the Library Association at the Manchester College of Technology, Department of Librarianship. With his ALA qualification in 1945, he became the first Jamaican to qualify as a professional Librarian, and when he returned home in 1947, he was appointed supervisor of the West India Reference Library. He held this position until 1950 when he accepted a job at the then-University College of the West Indies.

He worked at the University Library for the next 31 years. He was promoted to Deputy Librarian in 1955 and University Librarian in 1971. The Mona West Indies and Special Collections Section was established during Mr. Ingram's tenure. A purpose-built facility to house the section was eventually achieved in 1988 through continued lobbying by Ingram. He received the Gold Musgrave Medal of the Institute of Jamaica for "distinguished eminence" in librarianship and

historical scholarship and the Officer of the Order of Distinction from the Government of Jamaica (O.D.). Ingram received the Doctor of Letters, honoris causa, from the University of the West Indies in 2002. He retired as University Librarian in 1981.

As a founding member and the first Secretary of the Jamaica Library Association, Mr. Ingram served from 1950 to 1953. He served in various positions within the professional association, including President in 1956 and 1972. ACURIL (Association of Caribbean Universities, Research and Institutional Libraries) elected him President in 1976 due to his involvement in regional library activities. During the 1990s, he edited the Jamaican Historical Society's bulletin. By way of the Jamaica Library Association, he participated in the plans for the UWI Mona Campus to start a Department of Library and Information Studies. Several years after retiring, he taught bibliography and reference courses in the department.

Mr. Ingram established himself as a superb bibliographer. He devoted the majority of his life to locating, recording, and obtaining for Jamaica copies of primary source materials on Jamaica's history held in overseas repositories. In addition, he has compiled essential guides for researchers and others interested in the region's history. K.E. Ingram was a poet whose work appeared in *Focus*, *Caribbean Quarterly*, and other publications. In 2001, the Book Industry Association of Jamaica awarded him the best academic book prize for his book *Manuscript Sources for the History of the West Indies with special reference to Jamaica and supplementary sources in the West Indies, North America, and the United Kingdom*. It includes transcripts of selected relevant works and a significant body of over 2,000 sources for studying West Indian history. Some of his other significant works are:

- Jamaica (vol. 45 in the World of Bibliography series). Clio Press, 1984.

- Sources of West Indian Studies: a Supplementary list with particular reference manuscript sources. Inter-Documentation Company, 1983.
- Manuscripts relating to Commonwealth Caribbean Countries in United States and Canadian repositories. Caribbean Universities Press, 1975.
- Sources of Jamaica History 1838 - 1955: a bibliography survey with particular reference to manuscript sources. Inter-Documentation Company, 1976 (2 Vols.).
- Libraries and the challenge of change: papers of the International Library Conference held in Kingston, Jamaica 24 -29 April 1972. edited by K.E. Ingram and Albertina Jefferson. Mansell 1975.
- The Q.C. and the Middleman: including a reprint of the Report of the cases Ingram vs Lowry Edinburgh: Pentland Press, 1997.