Ukhamba: The Implications of Amateur Domestic Genealogical Research for African Socio-historical Analysis

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Ukhamba: The Implications of Amateur Domestic Genealogical Research for African Socio-historical Analysis”

Dr. Nikitah Okembe-RA Imani
Professor and Chair
Department of Black Studies
University of Nebraska-Omaha
Tanya Evans: “Secrets and Lies: The Radical Potential of Family History”

Social and Cultural Historian
- Academic
- “Official Record”-Government Documents, Archives
- Researcher
- Patriarchal and Male

Family historian
- Hobbyist
- “Unofficial” Record- Personal Diaries, Journals, Oral Narratives, Personal Effects and Autographs
- Detective
- Egalitarian and Female
## Effect of “New Media” Technologies

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Democratization of Data</th>
<th>Democratization of Methodology</th>
<th>Democratization of Utility</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>More people collecting data</td>
<td>More people with formal education.</td>
<td>More people find data useful.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>More varieties of data</td>
<td>More people with the capability of using technology</td>
<td>More people respond to data or find they need to develop the capability to respond to data or at least to data-driven implications and policies.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>More people having access to data</td>
<td>More people having access to technology</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Net Result: Breakdown in the “Wall” between the social/cultural and the familial.

(1) Shared Material

(2) Shared Cultural and Social Institutions of Activity
Inmates use Family History centers to find family trees

By Ben Winslow, Deseret News
Published: Monday, March 23 2009 1:22 a.m. MDT

Summary

In a cramped room in a Utah State Prison medium-security unit, inmates sit hunched over computers, trying to decipher the aged writings of people long dead.

UTAH STATE PRISON — In a cramped room here in the Wasatch medium-security unit, inmates sit hunched over computers, trying to decipher the aged writings of people long dead.

Some scroll through reels of microfilm, searching for a name that can help unlock the secrets of the past.

They are among hundreds of inmates doing genealogical work in
Two Views of “Family Histories”

Conservative and conservative

- Nostalgic for an ideal type of “family”
- Desire for social status
- Stabilizing element in times of social instability, disruption, and transformation

Radical

- Deconstruction of social status
- Deconstruction of the idea of stability in class relationships and power relations
- Undermines narratives about historical change and continuity
# The Identity Paper Tchaiko Kwanyana

## Goals

- Increase literacy-technological/linguistic/cultural
- Increase self-respect, individual and communal
- Empowerment

## Elements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Part I family</th>
<th>Part II Group</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| - autobiograph 
- uniqueness |
| Family celebrations 
- foods |
| Heroines/heroes 
- proverbs |
| Folk personalities |
| Folk tales myths and legends |
| Proverbs themes nonfiction |
| Historical fiction film essays |

## Elements 2

| Part III Shift as a result of forced migration or immigration |
| Part IV reflection |
| conclusions and projections |
| Strengths and weaknesses |
| Part V appendix |
| Family trees maps photographs |
The Identity Paper Tchaiko Kwanyana

Specs

3 hours of public radio a week

3 days a month 2 hours in computer lab with parents or other extended family members throughout

Students in English...respondents in any tongue
UKHAMBA (CLAYPOT)

Goals
- Bridge “digital divide”
- Bridge “linguistic divide”
- Restoring a sense of community
- Preservation of Afrikan familial source materials

Methodology
- Solicitation of families that agree to participate in the project
- Provision of software and materials for the community to engage the task
- Provision of opportunities for sharing of information on a larger scale and for preservation of the materials as well