

Acting director of National Library on US programme

MR. John Aarons, acting director of the National Library of Jamaica, is currently participating in a USIS International Visitor (IV) Programme entitled "American Libraries" in the United States, scheduled for June 14-July 9.

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The programme, sponsored by the United States Information Service (USIS), will provide Mr. Aarons with first-hand information on a wide variety of American libraries and information management systems, while increasing his understanding of the role of American libraries and their involvement in educational, informational, cultural and recreational activities.

It will also provide an opportunity for him to address mutual concerns in librarianship and to foster institutional linkages between foreign and American libraries.

In 1969, Mr. Aarons received a B.A. degree from UWI, Mona, and in 1971 he obtained a Postgraduate Diploma in Archives Studies at the University of London. He returned to UWI, Mona, where he received a Postgraduate in Library Studies in 1976.

Between 1971 and 1975, Mr. Aarons was assistant government archivist at Jamaica Archives, where he examined, collected and listed records and assisted

researchers in using materials.

From 1980 to the present, he has been Deputy Director of the National Library of Jamaica with responsibility for developing a programme for the preservation and restoration of the Library's invaluable collection of materials, as well as a micrographics programme to film materials too fragile to be repaired.

Since January, 1992, he has been acting director and is responsible for the direction and

administration of that institution which is the focal point in the country's national information system. His duties include recommending policies to be pursued, establishing priorities for action, supervising a staff of 80, and representing the library at meetings and conferences at home and abroad.

Mr. Aarons is a member of the Jamaica Library Association, the Jamaican Historical Society and the Jamaican Georgian Society.