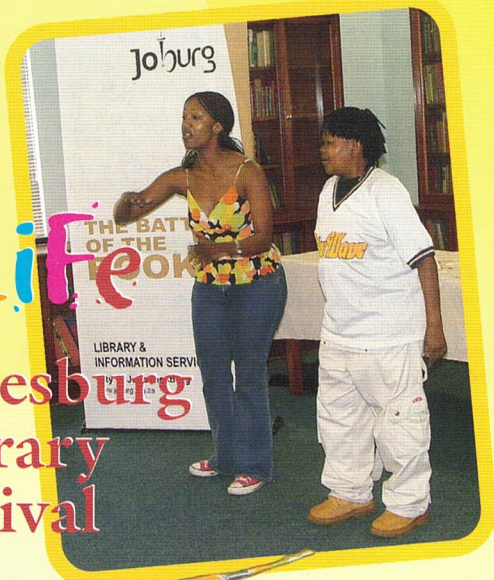
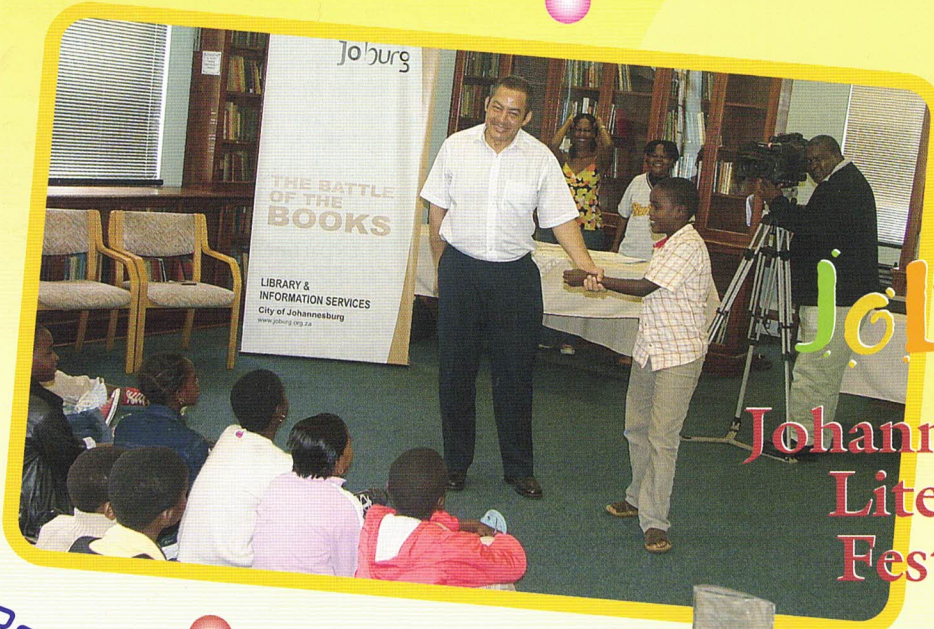


LIASA *-in-touch*

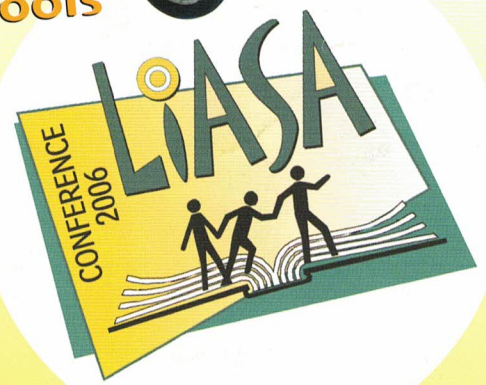


JoLiFe
Johannesburg
Literary
Festival

Psyched for Science winner



Book donations
from US schools



ISSN 1562-7608



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CICD Update

A warm welcome to the new CICD Project Coordinator, Mr Solomon Dude, who commenced duty on 26 June 2006.

Solomon is 42 years old and was born and raised in Grahamstown, Eastern Cape Province. He attended school in Grahamstown where he completed matric in 1984, and received an American Field Service (AFS) award to attend post-matric schooling as a foreign exchange student at Washington High School, Washington (USA). He then returned to the US and enrolled at Kirkwood Community College where in 1988 he received a two-year Associate of Arts degree in liberal arts. Subsequent to this, he transferred to the University of Iowa, Iowa City-Iowa (USA), where he pursued and completed a four-year Bachelor's degree in Political Science.

Upon his graduation in 1990 he started working in the state of Iowa, where he occupied several supervisory and management positions. In 1999, he returned to South Africa and occupied a management position, working as a restaurant manager within McDonald's SA. His most recent position was at the SA-USA Fulbright Commission in Pretoria, where he occupied the position of Programme Officer, managing and administering the US exchange programmes. He was in charge of five programmes that facilitated for all American Fulbright grant-holders coming to South Africa as lecturers/researchers. His responsibilities also included the management of projects for the US Department of Education. He found the three years that he had spent at the SA-USA Fulbright Commission both challenging and rewarding. He enjoyed working in an academic environment at Fulbright and looks forward to his new position as the CICD Project Coordinator at LIASA.

The project is active again. We wish Solomon the best of luck with the project.

Announcements

1. **Bongi Ncube** has been appointed as the new Administrative Assistant and commenced duty on 8 August 2006. Bongi should be contacted about all the tasks that were previously performed by Ina van Straten before. Her contact details are Tel: (012) 337-6124 and email: bongi@liasa.org.za. We wish to welcome Bongi and trust that she will have a long and fruitful relationship with LIASA.
2. **Ina van Straten** has been appointed Membership and Listserv Administrator as from 1 August 2006. Her contact details are still the same. We wish to congratulate Ina on her appointment in this position.
3. The National Office regrets the non-receipt of the June issue of the **LIASA-in-Touch** by some members. The problem has been addressed with the mailing company and we trust that it won't happen again. Please advise us if you were one of the members who did not receive the June copy.
4. Voting papers for the **National Elections** will be mailed by 21 August. Ballot papers should be submitted to the National Secretary, Ms Karlien de Klerk. Her contact details appear on the ballot paper. The ballot paper will also be available on the LIASA website. Audited Financial Statements, the Agenda for the AGM and the amended Constitution will be included in the mailing. The audited statements should be studied and questions addressed at the AGM on 28 September. Please advise the office immediately should you not receive these documents.
5. A final report on the **Raffle 2005** will be submitted to members early in September. Branch Chairs are urged to finalise ticket sales in their branches and submit a report to the National Office as soon as possible in order to speed up the process.

Now that the National Office has a full complement of staff again we will be able to provide full support to our Executive Committee, Representative Council and the entire Membership of LIASA.

Adelaide Vilakazi

EDITORS NOTES

Dear Readers,

This issue once again illustrates that LIASA is a vibrant and growing organisation sector. The widely reported LiSLIG activities in different branches illustrates that LIASA provides a home for library staff in ALL types of libraries. Other articles range from conference reports to providing a voice for Genealogists.

I hope that reading through these pages will not only convince you to remain LIASA members, as you are encouraged to do in the Membership Campaign, but also inform you about the diverse interests and issues that SA library workers deal with every day.

Nohra Moerat

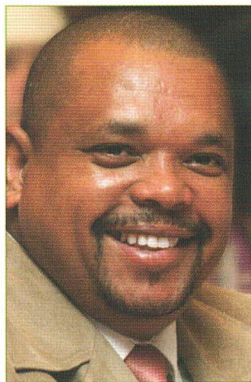
From the President...

This is the last edition of the LIASA in Touch for the term 2004 – 2006 which is also the end of term for the current Representative Council. Since my last column LIASA has witnessed the following developments:

- The appointment of Mr Solomon Dude as the new Programme Coordinator for the Centre for Information Career Development (CICD)
- SCECSAL XVII in Dar Es Salaam, Tanzania with the theme “Librarianship as a bridge to an Information and Knowledge Society in Eastern, Central and Southern Africa”. I was privileged to represent LIASA at this important gathering of African library and information leaders.
- The distribution of the Final Announcement for WLIC 2007
- A very successful International Book Fair in Cape Town
- The attendance of an international seminar in Finland by Mr John Tsebe and Mrs Lucille Webster
- A Consultative Seminar on copyright hosted by the Department of Arts and Culture (DAC) and the National Council of Library and Information Services (NCLIS).

Looking back at the period since my election as President, I have only praise for those who supported and helped to build LIASA during this time. As with every Presidency we also had our fair share of difficulties but I have no regrets about taking up the challenge to serve the Association in this capacity. The successes of my term include:

- The consistent high quality of the LIASA-in-Touch and SAJLIS, thanks to Ms Nohra Moerat and Professor Dennis Ocholla. These publications together with the listserv LIASAOnline and the website increased the Association’s visibility and communication



with our members and partners

- Most of the Branches and Interest Groups are operational and most significant is the revival of the Northern Cape branch

- Membership (new members and renewals) is on the increase. This can be ascribed to the migration back to the old membership system and the special offer to renew membership for 2006.

- The hosting of very successful South African Library Weeks both in 2005 and 2006

- Progress made in respect of hosting IFLA/WLIC 2007

These successes are a result of the combined efforts by many LIASA members and partners and I want to salute them for their invaluable contributions.

My term as President has been rewarding both personally and professionally and I particularly treasure the challenges we faced since they granted me the opportunity to learn and grow. Finally I want to thank all who worked, supported and provided leadership in building LIASA over this period and call on them to continue to do so as we elect a new leadership to take us toward the 10th Anniversary of LIASA, IFLA/WLIC 2007 and beyond.

I now call on all LIASA members to contribute positively and actively to taking the Association into its new decade of achieving its vision of providing “dynamic leadership in transforming, developing and sustaining library and information services for all the people in South Africa”. All members have a responsibility in ensuring that the new Representative Council builds on the foundations that have been laid and ensuring that the Association grows from strength to strength in the future.

Since LIASA’s inception in 1997, it has become a force in the international, national and local library and information sectors.

Some achievements on an international level are:

- Its membership and active participation on a leadership level in IFLA, SCECSAL and COMLA.
- The successful hosting of SCECSAL in 2002.
- The successful bid to host IFLA/WLIC in 2007
- Active participation in the World Summit on the Information Society

On a national level there are the following highlights among others:

- A 3 year grant from the Carnegie Corporation to establish the LIASA National Office
- The South African Library Leadership Programme
- The establishment of the CICD project
- The inception and implementation of SA Library Week since 2001
- An accredited research journal for the profession (SAJLIS)
- The continuous publication of LIASA-in-Touch, the mouthpiece of the Association
- A permanent position on NCLIS and the Print Industries Cluster Council (PICC)
- The establishment of several Awards and Travel Grants

All the above programmes are extended to local level by the very active Branches and Interest Groups, and thereby to the benefit of each and every member.

Now it is once again the opportunity of the Membership to decide on the next term and determine the shape of things to come.

I urge you to become active members, not just by always renewing your membership and recruiting new members, but by actively deciding who will take the Association into the next term of office and beyond, into the next decade.

Use your vote, based on the track records and manifestos of the candidates standing for office, to decide on YOUR future and that of the profession in South Africa.

I wish you well!

Tommy Matthee

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SOUTH AFRICAN LIBRARY & INFORMATION (SALI) Trust

Grants for research and development projects 2007

The SALI Trust, established after the dissolution of the South African Institute for Librarianship and Information Science (SAILIS), has the following objectives:

- To promote the common interest of persons carrying on the profession or occupation of librarianship and information work within the Republic of South Africa; and in doing so
- To develop librarianship and information studies in order that library and information services of a high standard may be rendered by all persons active in the Library and Information Sector in the Republic of South Africa.

In line with these objectives the Trust annually offers at least one grant each (maximum R40,000) in the fields of (1) research and of (2) development in librarianship and information work in South Africa, for projects which, according to the Trustees, will best contribute to the realisation of the above objectives. The Trust reserves the right not to make any grants from the applications received.

Applications should clearly state:

- the objective of the project, including the expected end result and the effect it could have on the South African library and information profession or service
- full biographical details of the applicant, the person responsible for the project and others to be involved, including the nature of their work and their employers
- the proposed methodology/activities
- the envisaged programme/time-frame for completion
- a detailed budget, with an indication of funding received or applied for from other sources. (Please note that the Trust will not make grants available to pay grantees for their time, or for the payment of salaries, nor for the purchase of computers or other equipment)

NB: Failure to adequately provide the above information could lead to disqualification.

Applications, preferably in electronic form (e-mail or disk), should reach the Administrator of the Trust by 16 October 2006 at the following address: willemsej@vodamail.co.za or otherwise at PO Box 299, Stilbaai, 6674

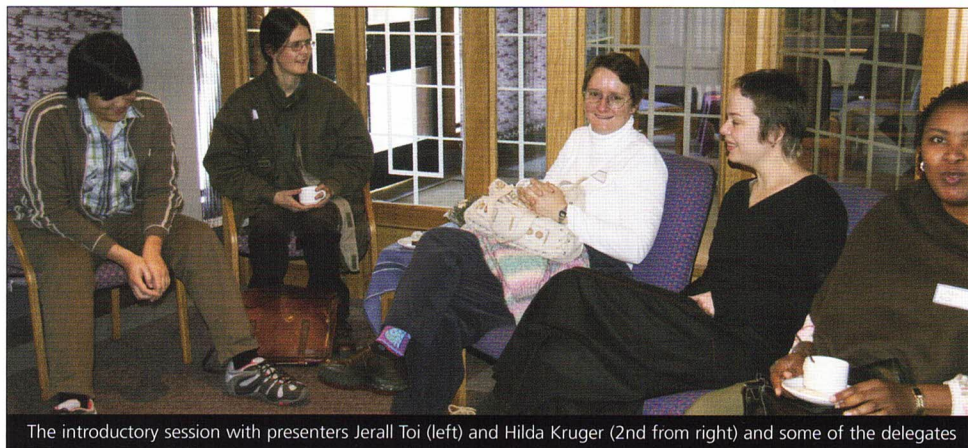
Eastern Cape runs its first training session in Port Elizabeth

Internet Information & Retrieval Tools & Techniques Course held at the Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University (8-9 June)

The newly formed LIASA Special Libraries Interest Group, at one of its first meetings, requested suggestions as to the role members would like the group to play. Training was one of the priorities and so our secretary began to explore the various options that were available to us. Feedback for one of these courses was very positive and on the basis of this, we decided to approach Dr Ben Fouche, of Knowledge Leadership Associates, and Ms Hilda Kruger, of Centre for Knowledge Dynamics and Decision-Making, and go ahead with the organisation of this particular course. We are most grateful to them for agreeing to bring this course to Port Elizabeth for us, as we are to Miss Marjory Eales Chief Librarian at the NMMU who made the venue available and Ms Elna Burger also of the NMMU, who helped to set up the networking and software requirements for the presenters. The following is a report written by Marike Beyers and Lynne Grant, delegates who attended from NELM in Grahamstown.

The Course

So you thought you knew everything there was to know about Internet Searching? You thought that Google was the next best thing to online catalogues? Think again. On 8 and 9 June we attended a course at NMMU in Port Elizabeth presented by Knowledge Leadership Associates. Aply led by Hilda Kruger with the assistance of Jerall Toi, we found ourselves in a whole new world of online searching. We were introduced to web browsers, search engines, metasearch engines, subject directories, social bookmarking, personal web archiving, do-it-yourself search



The introductory session with presenters Jerall Toi (left) and Hilda Kruger (2nd from right) and some of the delegates

engines, utilities such as toolbars and open access institutional repositories, as well as the living web – alerts, blogs, wikis and newsfeeds.

Most of us use Internet Explorer and Google exclusively. But what about browsers such as Firefox? Or metasearch engines such as Clusty, which allows you to search multiple search engines at the same time. This means that you will have better coverage of all the information that is out there. Then there are subject directories such as the Open Directory Project which helps you to expand or refine your search. And the advantages of social bookmarking: instead of storing your favourites on your hard drive, store them on the web in My Del.icio.us. By giving colleagues access to information on the sites that you search regularly, you are eliminating duplication of precious time and resources. And even better - you can give them keywords! Archiving software such as Google Notebook allows you to tag and save web pages, so you can find them again, even if the website changes. You can keyword them and indicate the source. Google Desktop allows you to save the information on your computer on Google space and to search it with Google.

Creating your own search engine is not as complicated as programming - but you can select your trustworthy sites in subject groups and

create searches focused on these with Rollyo "Roll Your Own". Among all the information on the Internet, changing all the time, one can never know everything, but one can learn to keep your eyes open for tools that help one in this world of information.

Some useful addresses:

- Web Browsers: Firefox (<http://www.mozilla.com/firefox>)
- Meta Search Engines: Clusty (<http://clusty.com/>)
- Roll Your Own Search Engines: Rollyo "Roll Your Own" (<http://rollyo.com/index.html>)
- Search Toolbars: Groowe (<http://www.groowe.com>)
- Subject Directories: Open Directory Project (<http://www.dmoz.org>)
- Social Bookmarking: My Del.icio.us (<http://del.icio.us>)
- Personal Archiving Software: Google Notebook (<http://www.google.com/notebook>)

For more information on the course, contact Ben Fouché at Knowledge Leadership Associates - bf@knowlead.co.za We found the course extremely worthwhile, and so will you.

*Marike Beyers & Lynne Grant
(NELM, Grahamstown)*

LiSLIG FREE STATE

On 9 May 2006 the Free State branch of LiSLIG met at the Small Grain Institute in Bethlehem for its quarterly meeting.

Every time there is a LiSLIG meeting the librarian at the Institute, Ms Juliëtte Kilian, had to travel to Bloemfontein to attend, but this time it was the other way round – 6 LiSLIG members from Bloemfontein had left Bloemfontein early on the Tuesday morning and spent a wonderful day at her library.

Ms Kilian showed us around her library and then told us about the services she provides and the users she has. She is the only staff member at the library and her main duties are information management, financial management, marketing and communication, administration work in the library and participation in the activities of the Institute.

Her users are not all in the same building or even town as she is and she therefore makes



Left to right: Ernène Verster (Secretary), Marlene Geldenhuys, Abraham Sekete, Juliëtte Kilian, Eulanda Thantsa (Vice-Chair) and Erna Mostert (Chairperson)
[Dorothy Russell was absent when photo was taken]

much use of electronic communication when providing requested information and Current Awareness Service.

They use / subscribe to some databases, e.g CAB, AGRICOLA, SWETSWISE and SCIRUS and have special collections like SGI

publications, Wheat publications and a history scrap book.

In 2000 Ms Kilian had taken part in the Cochran Fellowship Programme and had visited the National Agricultural Library in the USA. During our meeting she shared some of her experiences with us. She had received in-service training on retrieval and dissemination of information, exposure to databases, guidance in constructing a cost-effective information centre and had visited many other impressive libraries, like the Library of Congress.

After the meeting was over, we were treated on a lovely lunch and then she showed us around the Small Grain Institute.

It was definitely worthwhile to travel to Bethlehem (luckily the cold front hadn't arrived yet!) to see and hear a colleague experiencing the same joys and sorrows we all have in our own special libraries ...

Erna Mostert, Chairperson

Library Automation and Management Software for the Future...

Libwin Library Systems CC are the sole owners, developers, marketers and supporters of **Libwin** - a South African library automation and management software system used in over 430 school, college, corporate and specialised libraries world-wide.

Originally developed in 1994 for Roedean Junior School, after sufficient research was done to conclude that, at the time, there were no commercially available systems which met all three of Roedean's requirements - that the system made use of current technology (at that stage Microsoft® Windows® 3.1), had all the necessary features, and most importantly, was cost-effective.

Over ten years, and more than 430 implementations later, **Libwin** is the most widely used South African library automation and management software system.

Fairly unique to the library automation and management system industry, **Libwin** and its related products is running successfully across the spectrum of library types - from small pre-school libraries, to large specialised libraries, and most any library in between. Furthermore, Libwin Library Systems is one of very few companies in South Africa whose sole business is that of library automation and management software and related products. This simply means that you have the knowledge that your library system and the support thereof is not a sideline to other products or businesses, nor a part-time hobby.

As a totally integrated library automation system, **Libwin** provides all the facilities to effectively automate (including cataloguing and circulation - loans, returns and renewals) as well as manage (reporting, online stock-taking, orders management and journal subscription management) your library.

All screens in **Libwin** are designed to adhere to a standardized graphical user interface approach, which ensures that the librarian can enjoy an easy-to-use and intuitive system.

ActiveConnect, our web-based online public access catalogue (OPAC) portal product, ensures that the library has an effective means to communicate with its end-users, and most importantly, to allow them to quickly and effectively retrieve the information that they are looking for.

Importantly, the acquisition of a library automation and management system need not be an unaffordable one. With **Libwin**, all schools receive a **50% DISCOUNT**, and college / FET / tertiary institutions receive a **25% DISCOUNT** on the retail price of software and the annual support & enhancement contract fee.

Some of the **over 430** sites who have made the decision to automate using **Libwin** as their solution include -

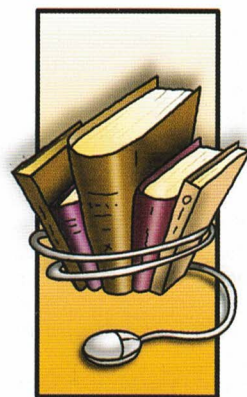
- Pretoria Boys High
- Kingsmead College / Junior
- St Andrews College & DSG (Grahamstown)
- Herzlia Schools (x 3)
- A H Meisies Skool
- Cement & Concrete Inst
- De Beers - Namibia
- JHB Housing Corporation
- Oranjemund Private School (Namibia)
- Chabad House
- Hatch Africa
- Special Investigating Unit
- National Business Initiative
- SAPPI (x 2)
- Roedean Senior School
- Roedean Junior School
- St Annes College
- Michaelhouse
- Cowan House Prep
- Pretoria Girls High
- Glenrand MIB
- Ann Latsky Nursing College
- Oceanographic Research Inst
- S G Lourens Nursing College
- Simba School (Zambia)
- Eskom Info Centre - Pretoria
- Grintek Communication Sys
- Hospice Assoc of Wits
- Cheang & Ariff Laywers (Malaysia)
- Spoomaker & Partners Inc



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Acquisitions Conference, 2006

The 4th South African Library Acquisitions Conference was held at the CSIR on the 16th and 17th May this year. Over 100 delegates from around the country arrived to learn more about this specialist field.

The committee worked hard to pull off a worthwhile event with speakers from around the country presenting papers including "Electronic Ordering in a Business/Corporate Library" by Geraldine Cilliers from Rand Merchant Bank's Infozone; "Questions & Answers about the 13-Digit ISBN" by Tienie de Klerk from the NLSA and "What's Selling and What's Not - Format Selection for Academic & Special Libraries" from Carol van Zijl, Access vs ownership.

Red Pepper literally turned out in full force for this Acquisitions Boot Camp.

The Peppers had the added hair-raising experience of presenting their own paper at the conference. "What do those booksellers get up to behind the scenes?" proved a hit with General Pepper (Phillipa), Sergeant Pepper (Emily) and their very own Citizen Information Specialist (Olivia) laying out the battle plans of booksellers.

If you'd like to understand the bookselling business better, you're welcome to request your very own copy of the Pepper Presentation at this e-mail books@redpepperbooks.co.za.

As usual the Peppers were ready to challenge the delegates to test their game skills and this year it was "Shoot the Target with the Bright Orange Gun". Some stepped confidently up to take the challenge and others... But with chocolates and mystery Pepper prizes up for grabs just about everyone took a shot!

Traditionally, first day of conference you would have a keynote speaker to set the scene, but at Acquisition Boot Camp, a video, "Who moved my Cheese" was viewed. The video was in line with the ever changing business of acquisitions which, amongst other things, include print to digital; from ownership to access... Few of the exhibitors took part in the programme by demonstrating their products and services

Prizes

It was the best of time, the most energetic and most prize giving LACIG conference ever hosted.

The grand Pepper Prize winner of the competition was Nozuko Matiwane from Walter Sisulu University and we hope that she enjoyed her goodies!

Another prize from Booktalk & Hargraves, a CD was won by Nelly Kaunda from University of Johannesburg.



The conference in session in the CSIR Auditorium with Lindi Nhlapo (on stage left in green) in charge

The following delegates who have attended all four biennial Southern Africa Library Acquisitions Conferences, received a mug sponsored by African Digital Library, under the auspices of UNISA Library

- | | |
|----------------------------|------------|
| ▶ Benita Snyman | NLSA |
| ▶ Ria Stoker | NLSA |
| ▶ Jenny Swanepoel | UNISA |
| ▶ Digby Sales | UCT |
| ▶ Linda Cartwright | Rhodes |
| ▶ Christine Mosert | TUT |
| ▶ Lizette Wessels | UNISA |
| ▶ Lungile Thangene | UJ |
| ▶ Annette Liebenberg | UJ |
| ▶ Johann Steyn | UNISA |
| ▶ Judy Marshall | Wits |
| ▶ Elize van der Westhuizen | JPL |
| ▶ Santjie van Aswegen | SASOL |
| ▶ Sandra Kok | UNISA |
| ▶ Dr. Carol van Zyl | Researcher |

The first ten delegates to pay their conference fee also received the African Digital Library mugs. The top three's mugs were "fun filled"



Drumming the cocktail party away

with goodies. The gesture of these delegates gave encouragement to the LACIG Committee that, we definitely continuing with organizing the conference.

- | | |
|---------------------------|-----------------------|
| ▶ E.J. van der Westhuizen | Monash SA Univ. |
| ▶ Daleen Swanepoel | Univ. of Stellenbosch |
| ▶ N Moore | Univ. of Stellenbosch |
| ▶ Elizabeth de Wet | Rhodes University |
| ▶ Linda Cartwright | Rhodes University |
| ▶ Minah Kedirileng | NW University |
| ▶ Daniel Mlangisi | NW University |
| ▶ Annalize Breedt | SASOL Infonet |
| ▶ Erika du Toit | SASOL Infonet |
| ▶ Santjie van Aswegen | SASOL Infonet |

Randomly, more prizes were given throughout the sessions which included T-shirts, scented candles, ornament... Another prize was given to a person from outside the borders of South Africa. Last but not least, a prize was given to a delegate who clad stylishly in a beret for the two days of conference.

There was a cocktail party with a difference on the Tuesday with delegates invited to join a drumming circle. And they jumped in with great enthusiasm! Some, of course had more rhythm than others, but we all learnt to (literally) bang our own drums!

SA is hosting IFLA 2007 and IFLA has a very active acquisitions group. Due to lack of formal LACIG branches in most regions, a debate has been waging if it is necessary to keep the interest group going or to disband, pass over to LIASA National what is available. With all the energy that existed throughout conference, delegates were convinced that LACIG should continue to exist and revive its newsletter, the Acquisition in Touch.

As conference closed on Wednesday, 17 July at 15h00, delegates indicated that they can't wait for the next SALAC. Everyone showed appreciation for the smooth running of the conference

LACIG Committee



Susan Claassen & Celeste Botha from Vaal University of Technology chat with Carol van Zijl



Desiree, Sharlaine, Emily, Phillipa (General Pepper!) & June

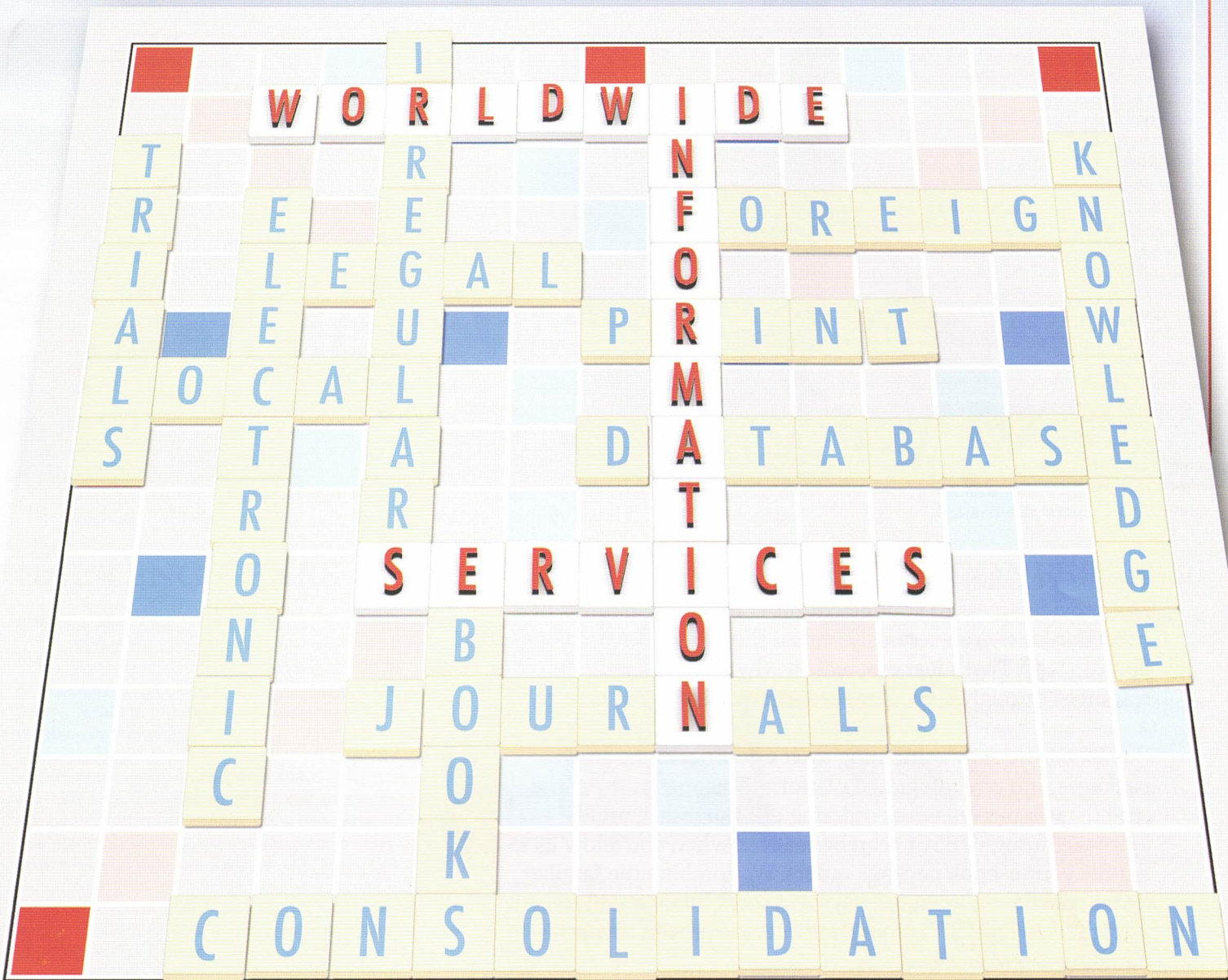
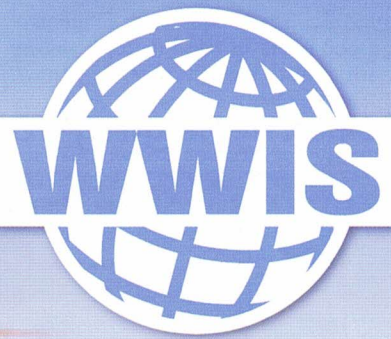


Committee Members Claudine Rahube, Rina du Toit & Sandra Kok



Benita Snyman from the NLSA stands and takes aim

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LIASA GAUTENG NORTH NEWS

The LIASA Gauteng North Branch held their second Branch meeting for 2006 on the 20 June on the topic: LIASA/Libraries: strengthening partnerships with the disabled. The meeting was held at the South African National Council for the Blind (SANCB) in Pretoria, with the focus on library services for the blind and partially sighted.

The branch chairperson, Robert Moropa, welcomed attendees and reminded them that librarians should be aware and sensitive to the information needs of the disabled.

Joan de Beer, Deputy National Librarian and Board Member of the South African Library for the Blind (SALB), gave a presentation entitled: The South African Library for the Blind: at your service. Mrs de Beer stressed the fact that a world of valuable and useful information is not accessible to the blind and partially sighted. She summarised the history of SALB and outlined their objectives and functions as follows:

- to build a balanced and appropriate collection of South African and other documents for use by blind and print-handicapped readers in South Africa
- to record the collection and provide a bibliographic services
- to provide access to documents on a national and international level
- to provide library and information services on a national basis
- to co-ordinate and preserve the national audio and Braille literary heritage
- to produce documents in special mediums and formats
- to develop standards for such production
- to do research on production methods and technology in the appropriate fields
- to acquire, manufacture and disseminate the necessary technology required to read, replay or reproduce the different media

Mrs de Beer concluded by highlighting some of the future challenges that SALB faces: rapid technological development; copyright issues regarding the creation of Braille documents; problems with postal services and the lack of proper financial support for the blind and partially sighted.

The meeting was subsequently addressed by Mr André Manders, Access Consultant of SANCB who gave the audience a glimpse into the world of the blind and the barriers they have to overcome: their inability to move around; transport problems; limited occupational choices and financial constraints to keep up with technological developments and access to printed information.

Mrs Korky Levanon, Public Relations Officer of SANCB, gave an interesting talk on the visually impaired. She explained the different types of low vision, i.e. tunnel vision, distorted or patchy vision, night blindness, etc. To make full use of any residual vision, the visually impaired should be assisted with correct illumination (lighting), correct contrast and size (large print, magnifiers), low vision devices (hand held, illuminated, digital CCTV readers) and non-optical devices (reading stands, typo scope and computer accessibility).

Attendees were finally taken on a guided of SANCB facilities. The Goldfields Resource Centre have a wide range of assistive devices for the blind and partially sighted, ranging from small, inexpensive items like liquid level indicators and self-threading needles, to electronic talking scales. The Optima College is a Further Education and Training institute for the blind and partially sighted. It offers vocational

training in the computer and call centre fields to people from all walks of life in South Africa and Southern Africa. The JAWS for Windows program, Zoom Text screen magnifier and Merlin Color CCTV were demonstrated. JAWS for Windows is a powerful software program that reads information from a computer display and speaks it through a speech synthesizer to improve the productivity level of visually impaired employees and students. JAWS offers both audible and visual flexibility. The Zoom Text screen magnifier enlarges and enhances the computer screen with a powerful set of reading tools for e-mail, documents and web pages. The Merlin Color CCTV is a voice activated video magnifier designed for students and working professionals with low vision, to assist in reading, writing and crafting. Some academic libraries in Pretoria are already making use of these devices.

The Branch Executive Committee would like to thank the personnel of SANCB for their hospitality, as well as Kirston Hoets from Booktalk Specialists in Spoken Word Audio for a display of catalogues and book jackets of best-selling audio books distributed by the company.

The meeting was indeed an eye-opener to the needs of the blind and partially sighted.

Branch members can look forward to a meeting in August at the US Embassy, where the renowned American library management expert Robert Stueart will be the guest speaker on: Trends and issues in preparing librarians and related information and knowledge professionals for the future. Winners of the Website Competition and the newly elected Branch Executive Committee will be announced at the Annual General Meeting to be held on the 1st of September.

*Roselle Jansen van Vuuren, PRO
Martha de Waal, PRO Assistant*

GAUTENG GEARS UP FOR THE 9TH ANNUAL LIASA CONFERENCE

The 9th Annual LIASA Conference that will take place at the Saint George Hotel, Tshwane, from 25 – 29 September 2006 promises to be an event that will live up to the theme: Libraries: partners in learning, nation building and development.

Apart from a Conference programme packed with interesting papers and workshops, delegates can also look forward to the social functions, exhibition and most definitely the highlight of this year's conference, the announcement of the SABINET/LIASA Librarian of the Year. This competition took on a new form this year and it is with excitement that we await the results. 2006 is also an election year and it is of the utmost importance that members attend the AGM.

Members are encouraged to visit the LIASA website (www.liasa.org.za) and make use of the online registration facility. The website also contains information about the programme and the social functions.

LIASA is looking forward to welcoming YOU at the conference.

Programme highlights:

- Dr Ali Mcharazo, Prof Alemna and Ms Jacinta Were have been invited to participate this year.
- Dr Mcharazo hails from Tanzania and was the host of a very successful SCECSAL XXVII in July. He is Chief and Senior Librarian as well as Head, ICT Section of the Library



Department, Muhimbili University College of Health Sciences in Dar es Salaam. He is also the chairman of the Tanzania Library Association (TLA).

- Prof Anaba Alemna, a respected academic, is University Librarian, University of Ghana and member of various Boards and Editorial Boards of professional journals.
 - Ms Jacinta Were is currently the Ag. Deputy University Librarian (Technical Services) at the University of Nairobi Library. She is a member of the IFLA Governing Board and Chair of the IFLA Professional Committee.
- We are also privileged to have Klaus-Peter Böttger, Director of Public Library Mülheim an der Ruhr in Germany as a speaker. The Goethe Institute is generously sponsoring his attendance of the LIASA conference.

There are also a number of very exciting pre-conference workshops and CICD Training

sessions to look forward to. More details on these can be found on the website.

VENUE AND REGISTRATION

At the time of going to print, approximately 300 delegates had registered and we are confident of having a bumper attendance this year.

The St George Hotel is an excellent conference venue, with enough breakaway rooms, function rooms and exhibition area to boot. The surroundings are very pleasant and it is easily reached from the Airport, Johannesburg and Pretoria.

The conference will be during Ramadan for our Muslim members. The St George and other accommodation establishments have agreed to provide special meals before sunrise to Muslim delegates in their rooms. Please indicate your special requirement upon making your reservations.

Further updates and information will be made available via the Listserv and the website.

Make sure you don't miss this great annual event to network and share with fellow professionals.

The Representative Council is determined to make this a successful conference and is taking special care to address the various problems that occurred last year. Join us in making this the best LIASA Conference ever.

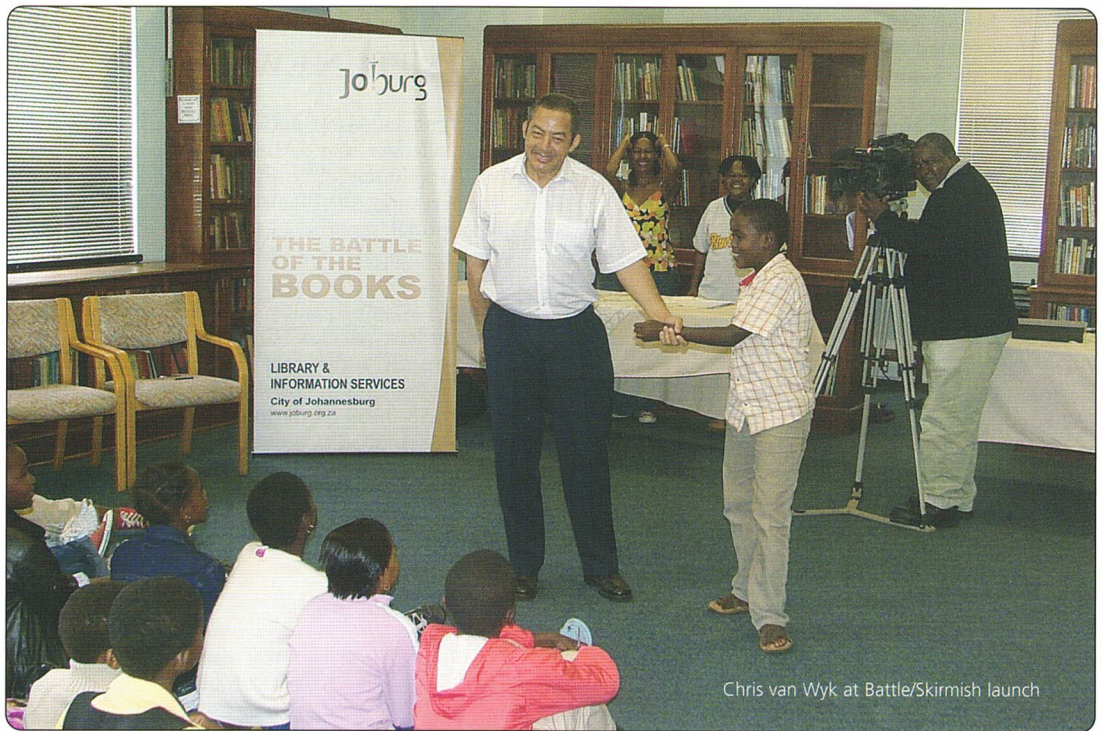
*Conference Coordinating
Committee for Rep Council*

Johannesburg Literary Festival

March 2006 saw the launch of the inaugural Johannesburg Literary Festival. Timed to fall into SA Library Week, it aims to become one of the main events on the calendar of the city in the quest to position the City of Johannesburg as a major role player in the grand dream of Africa's renewal. It seeks to celebrate and appraise children's literature, literature in indigenous languages, literary icons of the past and present as well as the importance of public libraries towards making literature more accessible to the community at large and as gateways towards reading, writing and learning.

It kicked off with a gala dinner in the Johannesburg City Hall on the evening of 17 March. The overall mood and feel was celebratory and enhanced by the light-hearted, yet in-depth, speeches delivered by all the presenters: Prof Mbulelo Mzamane who gave the keynote address, Councillor Nkele Ntingane who rendered the opening address and Councillor Caron Kgomo who made the closing remarks.

Among the eminent writers and scholars present were author and activist, Miriam Tlali; Nobel Laureate and novelist, Nadine Gordimer; pre-eminent scholar, author and teacher, Prof. Es'kia Mphahlele; scholar and author, Prof. Bernard Magubane; foremost poet laureate, Dr. Don Mattera and academic and author, Prof.



Chris van Wyk at Battle/Skirmish launch

Mbulelo Mzamane.

The next day, 18 March saw a packed programme of activities in and around the Johannesburg Public Library. Learners and the general public were treated to a feast of literary and cultural activity. The MC, Lebo Mashile, interacted with her audience and created excitement around the art and culture of reading and writing.

The Battle of the Books and the Story Skirmish, the City's two reading development programmes for primary school children, were officially launched; Soul Buddy's Shaughn Reinnecke and Boitumelo Maretaele presented the event with great energy and Chris van Wyk gave the keynote speech. Participation by the children included the spirited acting out of two titles on the Story

Skirmish reading list.

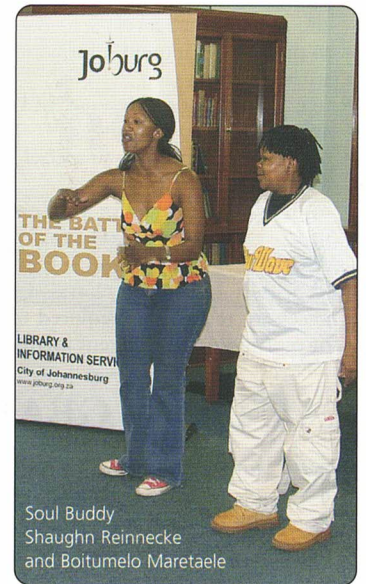
Miriam Tlali in a session entitled Dialogue with Youth provided an inspiring insight into her life and work.

Interactive poetry sessions were conducted by poets Tina Mnumzana, Kojo Baffoe, Marie Beytel, Gcina Mkhize, Masoja Msiza, Flo Mokale and Don Mattera.

To round everything off Denim provided toe tapping music to get everyone into the party mood.

This first festival was enjoyable and inspiring. It is planned to be an annual event which should go from strength to strength and put Johannesburg firmly on the literary map.

Sue McMurray, Manager LIS Development Projects



Soul Buddy Shaughn Reinnecke and Boitumelo Maretaele

The City of Cape Town Library Services at the Cape Town Book Fair

From 17-20 June 2006, the Cape Town International Convention Centre played host to the first ever Cape Town Book Fair. To say that it was a resounding success would be an understatement and bodes well for books and reading in whatever format they may appear in future. From the day before setting up the stands to the final minute of the final day, there was an air of excitement hanging over the proceedings, whether it was people hoping to buy books, asking questions, listening to interesting talks, attending book launches, publishers selling (or potentially selling) books, the Convention Centre was certainly the place to be.

After an initial meeting with the Director of the Book Fair about possible linkages, it was decided that we would have a stand at the Book Fair. Armed with promotional material supplied by the Provincial Library services as well as the City of Cape Town's Library Services we boldly went in amongst booksellers and publishers to offer members of the public another view of



Nazeem Hardy, Jacinta Avontuur and Ilze Swart of City Libraries

books, i.e. the borrowing of books and reading matter from the local public library. In that sense we were very different from most of the stands at the Fair in that we were not offering anything that could be bought but instead we were giving back by alerting people to all that could be had from their local public library.

I was not always sure about how successful this venture would be but after the 4 days I would have to conclude that it was worth the effort. Very often as librarians we do get caught up in our own

publicity and the greater good that we do for the broader public out there, but these events afford us the opportunity to meet our public, be they avid users, lapsed users, non-users or just the bold and the curious. Events like these also confirm to us that libraries are normally seen as being important but also bring home the fact that much has to be done to alert and engage the public about our services and the role that we play and potentially could play in our communities.

Our stand was invariably praised as being simple and attractive with a single message and clearly set out. Many librarians visiting the Fair also seemed glad that libraries and their services were being advertised at such a high profile event. Hopefully next year will be bigger and better because it certainly was worth the effort to participate and who knows, we might see more public library departments making the trip and broadcasting their services.

P.S. Among all this positive advertising we also did some business with publishers who were quite eager to sell us their wares.

*Nazeem Hardy
Marketing & Research Librarian, CCT-LIS*

FREE STATE

The Free State branch of LiSLIG met on 2 March 2006 at NALN (Nasionale Afrikaanse Letterkunde Museum) in Bloemfontein for its quarterly meeting.

The Chairperson, Ms Erna Mostert, had arranged with Ms Marlene Geldenhuys, one of the librarians of NALN, to tell the LiSLIG members about the "Information services at NALN", as part of the branch's aim to learn more about the services of the different special libraries in the province.

Background

NALN was founded in 1973 by Prof PJ Nienaber. It is a collection and research center for Afrikaans literature in the broadest sense of the word. A similar institution for Sotho literature is presently being developed with NALN as the facilitator.

Collection used to provide an information service: The collection consists mainly of books on Afrikaans literature and language, as well as Afrikaans literature and a few specialist collections, e.g. Vrijstatia and Genealogy. The private book collections of authors like ID du Plessis and Koos Prinsloo are also held. Not only are different editions of books kept, but also different printings to enable researchers to do an edition history of a title.

The manuscript collection consists of book manuscripts of publishing companies and of individual writers. It is useful when writing biographies of authors or when researching the edition history of a book. Nowadays many authors write their books on computer and often only the final copy of a book is received. The corrections made during the writing process are now lost for research purposes.

NALN has an extensive photographic collection of Afrikaans authors which not only includes portraits but also other photographic documentation of them.

The audiovisual material includes valuable documentaries on Afrikaans authors on film and

video; sound cassettes featuring conversations with authors; gramophone records with writers reading from their own work; old Afrikaans movies on film; contemporary Afrikaans movies on video; sound spools and sound cassettes of a few Afrikaans language variants (for research by linguists); gramophone records, cassettes and CDs of Afrikaans music. All of these are available for people doing research on Afrikaans.

Articles from a selection of Afrikaans popular and academic magazines and newspapers are photocopied and indexed for use in their clippings service. These provide valuable information on authors, reviews of books and background information on a variety of topics. This information is sent electronically to NISC (National Inquiry Services Centre) who publishes it on a CD under South African Studies.

Research section

This section receives requests from across South Africa from universities (students & lecturers), schools (teachers & learners), authors and other book lovers. Information on authors, book reviews, reviews of prescribed works like short stories and poems form the bulk of the information supplied. Specialised research is also dealt with, some requiring material from special collections like the manuscript and audiovisual materials.

NALN's human research scientist and educational officer use this section to obtain information when they prepare for reading circles or educational programmes. When they do research for temporary or permanent displays of authors and their work, they often utilise all material (visual and audio) that's available.

The library's current awareness service of new books and magazine articles aims to keep them up to date with relevant information in their subject field.

It was an eye opener to listen to Ms Geldenhuys and Ms Leana Lategan and see all the services that are offered and where everything started. This museum has definitely a great role to play in our country!

*Ms Erna Mostert
Chairperson*

What every librarian should know about Knowledge Management

New things, whether they are projects, products, or even new staff members, generally require lots of time and money before they can achieve "best practice" status. That's generally because people have to learn on the job as they go along, experimenting by trial and error. After a while, when people have fully learned the process, it takes them less time and less money to achieve the same result.

But, what if new things could start out at the same high-quality level, without taking so much time and costing so much money at the beginning? This is the question Ian Corbett, of Knoco, posed in his provocative introduction to a presentation co-hosted by the Western Cape branches of the Special Libraries Interest Group and the Information and Communication Technology in Libraries Interest Group, "What Every Librarian Should Know About Knowledge Management But Might Be Afraid To Ask".

Enter the Knowledge Management professional. As Corbett explained, knowledge managers can help an organisation reduce the time and cost at the beginning of a project by facilitating the flow of information between people who know, and those who need to know.

Gretchen Smith, of UCT's Department of Information and Library Studies, added that it's not only about connecting the right people together, but a knowledge manager also has to create a methodology which allows people to absorb shared information as knowledge. This includes creating a collaborative environment, with plenty of face to face interaction, which she argues is much more effective than virtual meetings.

But, beware of settling comfortably into a pattern when that best practice has been achieved, Ben Fouche, of Knowledge Leadership Associates, warns. He emphasised that part of a knowledge manager's job is to periodically disrupt the pattern of best practice in order to stimulate creativity, and the tension that forces improvement.

In that vein, Fouche challenged the title of the programme; "Why would librarians be afraid to ask about Knowledge Management?" he wondered. Indeed! However, we should be afraid of not somehow incorporating knowledge management into our own organizations in whatever way we can. As Ian Corbett asked: "What is the cost of not doing it?"

Amy Bell Mulaudzi, LiSLIG Western Cape

KZN branch meeting & AGM

On 9 June 2006 the KZN Branch of the Special Libraries Interest Group held its Annual General Meeting at The Art Gallery, Steve Biko Campus, Durban University of Technology. The guest speaker at the meeting was Mr. Louis van Loon, founder of the Buddhist Retreat Centre in Ixopo, KZN.

We all live stressful lives and feedback from some of our recent meetings indicated that stress management was a topic on which members would appreciate a little guidance. Rather than the usual slant on the topic we thought to do something a little different hence our invitation to Mr. van Loon. A synopsis of his talk follows.

"CELEBRATING THE ORDINARY: Creating a Moment of Sanity".

We live in a world of hyperbole and exaggeration. Advertisers tell us what is good for us. Spin-doctors manipulate us into electing political idiots. We are entertained only by what is excessive, rude and invasive. Everything and everyone screams for our attention and our money. Is there anywhere where we can find sanity?

We can. We can find it in ordinariness and spontaneity. It is possible to live a life of authenticity, calmness and clarity in the midst of confusion, hypocrisy and artifice.

Buddhist practice involves "Here-Now" meditative exercises that aim to ground us into what is truly real. They can free the mind from compulsion and obsession, enabling us to clearly see the situation we happen to be in. Only then can we say and do things we can take responsibility for.

The Zen Buddhist tradition has been particularly successful in identifying a number of every-day activities that provide us with opportunities to experience such clarity and calmness. They make a meditative art out of ploughing the land or riding a horse; of making a cabinet or polishing a table; of gardening and flower arranging; practising archery and drinking tea.

But in a modern urban setting there are many other activities where we can ground ourselves momentarily into an ordinary everyday event and where we can find a Moments of Sanity.

Louis van Loon lectured in Buddhist philosophy at the Universities of Cape Town and Durban-Westville for 22 years. He established the Buddhist Retreat Centre in 1980. His interest lies in the psychology of meditation and in the relationship between art, science, religion and philosophy. He is an architect and consulting civil and structural engineer in private practice.

At the end of the meeting the new LiSLIG KZN Executive Committee for 2006/8 was announced as follows:

- Priscilla Moodley (SA Sugar Association): Convener
- Zweli Ndayi (National Bioproducts Institute): Secretary.
- Grace Nyvone (Umgeni Water): Membership/PRO.
- Shireen Deoraj (EML Water & Waste Library): Treasurer.

Congratulations to the incoming committee members. I wish them every success in their term of office and thank the 2004/6 committee members for their support during my term in office.

*Myra E Boyes, Convener
LiSLIG KZN, 2002/6*

MULTI-MEDIA AND E-EDUCATION CONFERENCE IN GAUTENG

Due to the exponential growth in knowledge and information, it is of vital importance that learners have access to information in every format and are able to sift, evaluate and use the information effectively. This leads to a convergence in the purposes and methods of school libraries/ resource/media centres and e-education.

It is also vitally important that the very basics of information access and use, i.e. reading and writing, should receive the necessary attention. Without these basic skills, the availability of most forms of information is to no avail as they are inaccessible.

The Multi-Media Unit of the Gauteng Department of Education therefore arranged a conference to address these issues and convergences. The conference took place from 5 to 7 April 2006. It was attended by over 500 teachers and other educators from Gauteng, as well as teachers and other delegates from other provinces, and



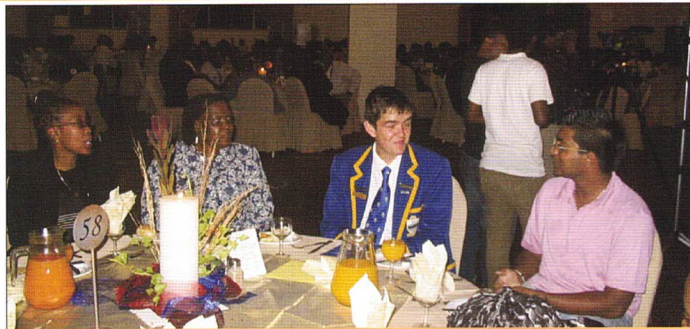
Anna Brown chairing a panel discussion with Sibongile Nzimande, Busi Dlamini, Mandla Maseko, Zandile Gqwathi at the Multimedia & e-Education Conference 2006

other people interested in education development, about 760 delegates in total.

Papers dealing with the policy, strategy and delivery of reading, school libraries, and e-learning were included in the conference. Presenters came from tertiary institutions, education departments, schools and consultancies. The papers dealt with practice as well as theory, and were very well received.

A gala dinner was held on Thursday 6 April, at which the Gauteng MEC for Education, Angie Motshekga, the national Minister of Education, Naledi Pandor and the LIASA President, Tommy Matthee were guest speakers. They all emphasised the importance of access to and use of reading and information resources. The Minister announced that a national school library policy will soon be launched.

*Anna Brown
SLYSIG Coordinator
Gauteng South*



Teachers and Kyle Siebert from Littleton High School who gave a speech on "I am an African" at the Gala Dinner



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A Voice for Genealogists in the Library World

Interest in genealogy has surged dramatically in recent years, a fact which has not escaped the notice of librarians and archivists working in a wide range of public, academic and special libraries and archives. In many cases, these organizations have responded by developing a wide variety of resources and services to assist genealogists in the search for their origins. Inevitably, the popular interest in genealogy presents the library and archival community with both opportunities and challenges.

To support librarians and archivists working in this area, a new Genealogy and Local History Section within the International Federation of Library Associations (IFLA) was formally established at the World Library and Information Congress in Berlin in 2003.

The Section's goals are to:

- Be a voice for genealogy and local history librarians in the international information community.

- Facilitate and promote global networking among genealogy and local history professionals and between libraries, archives, and museums serving genealogists and local historians.

- Support and promote improved traditional and electronic genealogy and local history reference services.

- Proactively address data privacy concerns that affect genealogy and local history collections and services.

The Section has been very active since its inception, maintaining a listserv, distributing a newsletter, and organizing programmes and study tours at IFLA conferences. The most recent conference program, on the theme of "Navigating the World of Our Immigrant Ancestors", was presented at the 2005 Oslo conference, and was very successful. GENLOC conference papers from Oslo and previous conferences are archived on IFLA's website at www.ifla.org/IV/index.htm

Despite its successes, GENLOC is a relatively new IFLA section and needs support. Existing institutional members of IFLA are encouraged to join GENLOC. The cost is very reasonable (EUR 48). Institutions that are not members of IFLA might also consider joining IFLA and becoming Section members. Membership in IFLA not only allows your institution to join GENLOC, but also entitles it to a wide range of benefits. Several membership plans are available, depending on the size and location of your library. Individuals can also join as Personal Affiliates. For information on IFLA membership, see www.ifla.org/III/members/index.htm

Finally, librarians and archivists working with genealogists are encouraged to subscribe to the GENLOC mailing list at <http://infoserv.inist.fr/wwsympa.fcgi/info/genloc>, and to contact the Section with news, questions and information concerning library-related genealogy issues.

More information about the IFLA Genealogy and Local History Section is available online at www.ifla.org/VII/s37/index.htm

City of Johannesburg - PSYCHED FOR SCIENCE

What a success!!

City of Johannesburg Library and Information Services (COJLIS), comprising 11 Regions, participated in the National Science and Technology awareness campaign for the second consecutive year and had a very successful campaign culminating in a programme of activities which ran from 13-20 May 2006.

The purpose of the campaign was to encourage learners to study and improve their performance in Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM); and ultimately to follow careers in related fields.



Ms Lolo Masetlha: Manager: Libraries (Region 10); City overall winner; Ms Peta Qubeka - Mashinini: Director: Social Services; Ms Atilla Lourens: Deputy Director: City of Jo'burg, Library Services



Winning Model - Aeroplane

Learners were encouraged to build science models explaining an existing physical law or a new invention. An official launch, held at Florida Library on 16 February was attended by Council officials and Councillor Christine Walters, the MMC for LIS in Johannesburg and representatives from SA Agency for Science and Technology Advancement (SAASTA) and Sci-Bono.

The models were entered in categories according to the grade of the learners who built them, namely primary, junior secondary and senior secondary learners.

Judging was done initially in the regions and the winning models sent to the Danie van Zyl Hall in Montclare which was the venue for the concluding citywide programme.

The programme consisted of a series of workshops and exhibitions for 1400 learners and educators city-wide, from 13-18th May 2006. The 19th was set aside for judging the models for the best city-wide entries from each category as well as a prize giving ceremony.

The prize giving event was quite exciting with speakers like Dr. Jabulani Nukeri from SAASTA and Ms. Peta Qubeka-Mashinini, Director: Social Services, COJ.

The excitement on the 19th May reached a climax when prizes were awarded to regional winners in each category as well as to the best new invention and the best entry by a girl city-wide.

Prizes included books, telescopes, digital cameras and a computer which went to the overall city-wide winner. One of the youngest prize winners received a telescope that was nearly as big as she was!

COJLIS gratitude goes to SAASTA which donated a sum of R50,000 for running the project.

*Maria Digoamaye
Region F Library Services Manager
Outreach & Marketing*



MABESKRAAL LIBRARY

Sometimes we miss the days when our grannies used to tell us stories while sitting around the fire at night. But now things are different at Mabeskraal Community Library as children come in their numbers to read. One can see the twinkle in their eyes and the smiles on their faces, waiting eagerly inside the library for the story hour session. Emphasis is placed on the importance of reading, how to handle library books and the life long value of reading. The community is very fortunate to have librarians who are skilled in introducing their users to the library through library orientation, book education and reading enrichment sessions. Reading is made fun as books are read aloud to the children, acted out and dramatised. It is quite evident that the librarians are doing their job well. Learning is done through association as the children also sing rhymes related to the stories.

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"PUBLIC LENDING RIGHTS FOR LIBRARIES?"

On 19 June 2006, a Copyright Iekgotla was held at the Cape Town Book Fair. This event was a rights-owners (publishers and authors) event to discuss and debate various issues around copyright and to promote the Academic and Non-Fiction Authors Association (ANFASA).

As a librarian, I was concerned to hear the Secretary-General of the Norwegian Writers and Translators Association (NFF) promoting Public Lending Rights (PLRs) for South Africa at this stage of our development.

PLR programmes compensate authors for the potential loss of sales from their works being available in public libraries (mostly benefitting fiction writers). There is no international framework for lending rights, except for the EU Directive on Rental Right and Lending Right, 1992. Currently about 15 developed countries have PLR programmes, but in most cases, educational institutions are exempt. Unlike fiction writers, academic authors are generally salaried and are not dependent on sales or loans of their publications for their living.

PLRs may work in Norway, a wealthy, developed country with a small but highly educated and employed population, who can obviously afford to pay high prices for books and levies such as PLRs. However, it is not a system that suits less-wealthy countries in the EU, nor developing countries.

It would be inappropriate to consider such a system in South Africa at this stage. There is hardly a reading culture in South Africa. More than 50% of the total adult population has not completed a general level of education. Unemployment levels are high and literacy levels low. 42.5% of the total population is under the age

of 19 years, thus the demand for libraries and information constantly grows. 43% of government schools in South Africa do not have electricity, nor do they have adequate books or basic resources. Only 19.8% have libraries or media centres. 7% of South Africans have access to the internet, according to two independent studies in 2004/5. Access to information is limited.

Libraries are crucial as the majority of people cannot afford books. Book prices are high and additional VAT and import levies make reading material very expensive. Some books are far cheaper in developed countries, e.g. Mandela's "The Long Walk to Freedom" and Coetzee's "Disgrace". Library budgets are stretched to the limit and would not be able to accommodate additional costs to manage a PLR programme. It would have a major impact on library collections and resources, if part of their budgets now had to pay for a PLR programme.

Restricting access or making it more expensive would just exacerbate problems around access to information and education, which is essential for socio-economic development and transformation in South Africa.

As the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA) states in its Position Paper on Public Lending Rights (<http://www.ifla.org/III/clm/p1/PublicLendingRigh.htm>): -

"If PLR were introduced in developing countries, the State may be unable to divert funds to pay for it without severely compromising other services, such as primary healthcare, which may be considered more essential to the public interest. Publicly accessible libraries in such countries are likewise not in a position to be able to pay for PLR without fatally undermining their already fragile core services. If new charges were introduced to use public libraries, many people would be unable to pay. Library usage would decrease, which would

have a profoundly negative impact on literacy levels and the subsequent economic growth of that country. It should also be noted that developing countries would most likely experience more payments for PLR to foreign authors than to their own nationals."

I am involved in international, regional and local projects, co-ordinated by the following organisations, which are addressing issues around access to knowledge in developing countries:

- International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA) - Committee on Copyright and Other Legal Matters (CLM) www.ifla.org
- Electronic Information for Libraries Network (eIFL.net) www.eifl.net
- Commonwealth of Learning (Canada) www.col.org
- Copy South Project (Kent University, UK) www.copysouth.org.uk
- African Access to Knowledge Alliance (AAKA) www.nlu.go.ug/acconf.htm (own website to be created)
- Open Society Initiative for Southern Africa (OSISA) www.osisa.org (now managing the "Access to Learning Materials for Southern Africa Project" and "Access to Knowledge (A2K) Campaign in Southern Africa")
- African Digital Commons: www.common-sense.org
- Creative Commons: www.creativecommons.org (and new website: icommons.org)
- Centre for Education Policy Development (CEPD): www.cepd.org.za
- SARDEC: www.sardec.org.bw

Denise Nicholson
Copyright Services Librarian
University of the Witwatersrand
Johannesburg

COMLA/UNESCO Workshop on Information Literacy for Public Librarians across the Commonwealth

The reality that public libraries are part of the information literacy conquest was confirmed at a workshop organised by COMLA/UNESCO in Jamaica from January 28 to February 2, 2006. Public Librarians from various Commonwealth countries from the Caribbean, Botswana and as far from Fiji gathered at the University of the West Indies (UWI) in Jamaica. The workshop aimed to draft an Information Literacy Module for public librarians. The final model consisting of a manual and resource kit was submitted to UNESCO for consideration as part of UNESCO's Information for All Programme. Subsequent to approval, selected library associations across the Commonwealth will be approached to use the manual to empower public librarians to develop information literacy programmes for their users. The programme will be of great value to public libraries especially in developing countries to support development and life long learning.

The aim of the workshop was to help public librarians to develop information literacy programmes; to equip public librarians with skills to design and develop Web Pages for their public libraries and to network on the importance of information literacy in public libraries. The workshop agenda included a visit to Kingston Parish Library, Jamaica Library Service Headquarters and the annual LIAJA (Library

and Information Association of Jamaica) meeting. The highlight of the workshop was the brainstorming sessions of the modules for the Information Literacy manual and resource kit.

The home hospitality far exceeded expectations. From the elegant LIAJA President's Dinner, the UWI Principal reception to the Jamaica Library Service luncheon, all participants experienced the warm heartbeat of the Jamaican culture.

But it was not just work. Each representative had to take with a cultural item that represented the country they were from. Each item had to be accompanied by appropriate notation explaining the significance of the item. I took with me a beaded-wire-bowl that represented the South African nation as follow:

- The different coloured beads represented the Rainbow Nation of South Africa
- The fruit bowl shape of the bowl represented the Unity of the nation
- The wire (metal) represented the rich natural resources of the country, and
- The open spaces (pattern) represented the right to freedom of association and religion.

All the items were sold on a "Dutch auction" to raise funds for COMLA, and I am proud to



report that the South African beaded-wire-bowl took the highest bid of all the items.

Jamaica is like home away from home. The Island's surroundings, vegetation, humidity and people reminded me of KwaZulu-Natal; in fact at times I thought that I was in KwaZulu-Natal. I also had a taste of the unique "ackee fruit" only to be found in Jamaica. The flesh of this red skin fruit that grows on trees is used in many meals. It looks like scramble eggs but the taste is difficult to explain, but in a unique way very delicious. And yes, swimming in the idyllic Caribbean Sea was a bonus. In short, a picture of Jamaica, the home Island of Bob Marley, the king of Reggae.

Flippie van der Walt
Ekurhuleni Metropolitan Municipality

A LIASA membership campaign message from Gauteng South branch

Vision

The Association strives to unite, develop and empower all people in the library and information field into an organization that provides dynamic leadership in transforming, developing and sustaining library and information services for all people in South Africa.

Mission

The Association advocates and supports the provision of efficient, user-orientated and excellent library and information services that aspire to equitable access to information for all communities (literate and illiterate) in South Africa. To this end, the Association represents the interest of and promotes the development and image of library and information workers in South Africa.

Opportunities and benefits

- Provides a direct channel of communication between every member and the Association through a number of publications, in print and electronic format. To subscribe to LIASOnline mailing list register your name at: liasaonline@mailman.sabinet.co.za
- Organises an annual national Conference for the entire LIS sector which attracts international speakers and delegates from outside of South Africa
- Provides access to professional expertise.
- Provides opportunities for continuous training and development.
- Acts as a powerful advocate for the LIS sector
- Provides authoritative policy advice to government and other agencies.
- Provides an active and consultative process of governance in which the membership is encouraged to be involved.
- Participates in the international LIS community through partnerships such as the SA Library Leadership project, IFLA, Carnegie Corporation of NY, SCECSAL....
- Organises and supports international and regional events.
- Plays a positive role in the international LIS community.
- Draws investment into SA intended for capacity building and development of members, as well as key projects.
- Facilitates development and networking of members through the structures of the organization such as within branches, interest groups, etc.
- Gives competitive edge for an

individual at prospective job interviews

- By being a LIASA member automatically makes you an IFLA member enjoying reduced IFLA conference fees
- You get a chance to select a title to be entered into the "Librarian's Choice of the Top Ten Books. When your title wins, every Public Library is obliged to buy that title
- In addition to your membership, you have a choice of participating in two interest groups of your choice

More info: www.liasa.org.za

Successes and challenges

Did you know?

- IFLA's new Secretary General, Professor Peter Johan Lor, comes from Gauteng,
- Ellen Tise, former LIASA President, was the first South African to serve on IFLA's Governing Board
- The third place in the Best Poster Competition, IFLA 2004 was an entrant from South Africa.
- In February 2005 the National Librarian, J Tsebe accompanied by the LIASA PRO, N Moerat, met with the Arts & Culture Portfolio Committee to discuss the propagation of libraries and LIASA's role. This discussion needs to be ongoing.
- International relations: some established relationships are
 - Membership of the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA)
 - Membership of the Commonwealth Library Association (COMLA)
 - Membership of the Standing Committee on Southern, Central and East African Library Associations (SCECSAL)
 - American Library Association
 - Malaysian Library Association
 - Cuba National Library
 - Finish Library Association
 - Swaziland Library Association
 - Botswana Library Association
- Awards
 - LIASA/Sabinet Librarian of the Year Award to start in 2006 to the value of R25,000.00
 - EBSCO Travel Grant
 - Nielsen BookData Presidential Award
- Funding
 - The National Research Foundation was recently commended by the LIASA President for their



Sharing Fundraising Skills with Gauteng South librarians

South Africa's libraries often find themselves on the losing end of government funding decisions, and are looking in new directions for ways to expand, or even maintain, collections and activities. On 25 May, Information Resource Officer (IRO) Fenghua Wang from the American Embassy in Pretoria gave a presentation on "Fundraising Techniques for Libraries" to the members of LIASA Gauteng South Branch. The event was held at the Rosa Parks Library in Soweto. The workshop covered proposal and grant writing techniques, management, and governance. Among those in attendance was the Deputy University Librarian (Technical Services) of the University of the Witwatersrand, Di Man, who also shared her fundraising experiences with the participants. In three hours, Ms. Wang covered all the vital aspects of fundraising that go into making winning proposals.

Participating librarians engaged in extensive discussion during the event, complimenting the presenter on the comprehensiveness of the workshop and the practical examples given. Participants were eager to try out their new skills with potential corporate and foundation funders.

Selaelo Ramolela

outstanding support

- The National Lottery Distribution Trust Fund awarded R250,000 in 2005 for the publication of LIASA-in-Touch, the SA Journal of Libraries and Information Science and LIASA National Office.
- The Department of Arts and Culture has funded the National Launch of SA Library Week since its inception as well the international speakers to the Annual Conference.

Recently Minister of Finance, Trevor Manuel, promised R1 billion towards public libraries. As an Association with a vested interest in libraries we need to follow up on the roll out and monitor its use

● School Libraries Policies: under the auspices of Busi Dlamini and her team from SLYSIG, the Association was able to engage with the Minister of Education, Naledi Pandor, to discuss and formulate policies relating to school libraries provision. The School Library Policy has now been adopted and will be implemented in the near future

● The LIASA National Office is based in Gauteng. Institutions/

libraries are concentrated here; most awards should reside here to complement the leadership. Your membership will enable this notion to be a reality.

- The success of Conference 2006 rest on Gauteng North and South. We should recruit more and more colleagues from Africa for this conference.
- Institutional support is crucial for members to be active within the Association. The LIASA President consistently commends institutions for the invaluable support.

Challenges

Membership recruitment remains the major challenge to the sustainability of the Association. It is crucial that all LIS workers become members of LIASA. Gauteng has the most educational institutions, public libraries and special libraries, therefore the highest signed up members should reside in this region. Renewal is a critical factor in membership management.

Colleagues, this is just a flavour of what LIASA can offer. Sign up and enjoy the rest!

Lindile Nhlapo

UNISA Library, Florida Campus

Keep up your membership subscription. Encourage your colleagues to join.
"Be a proud and committed LIASA member and reap the benefits"

U.S. Acting Ambassador opens "American Corner" in Pietermaritzburg

United States Chargé d'Affaires of the U.S. Embassy, Donald Teitelbaum opened an American Corner in the revamped Msunduzi Municipal Library in the centre of Pietermaritzburg on July 3, 2006. The library has a beautiful new children's wing, funded by the KwaZulu-Natal provincial government and the Carnegie Corporation of New York. Many VIP guests, including Acting Premier of KwaZulu-Natal Mike Mabuyakhulu, President of Carnegie Corporation Vartan Gregorian and the Msunduzi Mayor Zanele Hlatshwayo, celebrated opening the wing, and the launch of the Corner.

This is the first American Corner in the province of KwaZulu Natal and the second in South Africa. The Corner is open to the general public, who will find books, periodicals, CD-ROMs and DVDs containing information about U.S. culture and society, as well as educational and business opportunities. Five computers will provide access to the optical discs and to the Internet. Equipment includes a shared printer and a fax machine.



Chargé d'Affaires, Donald Teitelbaum, Consul General Eugene Young, Msunduzi Municipality Mayor Zanele Hlatshwayo, Vice President - Public Affairs for Carnegie Corporation Susan King and Carnegie Corporation President Vartan Gregorian.

The U.S. Consulate General's Information Resource Center in Durban will provide support and assistance as well as training to the American Corner staff. U.S. funding also includes six-month internships for a recent library science graduate from the University of KwaZulu-Natal to serve as assistant librarians in the American Corner.

In his remarks at the launch, Chargé Teitelbaum remarked: "The U.S. Embassy has agreed to furnish the American Corner in the Msunduzi Library with over 1000 books, 25 periodical subscriptions, five computers, EbscoHost database that provides full text of articles in over a thousand of periodicals covering the past twenty years as well as a collection of DVDs of American documentaries and classic feature films." He also stated that "Our hope is that a result of this American Corner the residence of Msunduzi Municipality and the province of KwaZulu Natal will have the resources to learn more about the United States, perhaps continue their education at an American school, plan a vacation to our country, develop commercial or business interest there or read the best new fiction

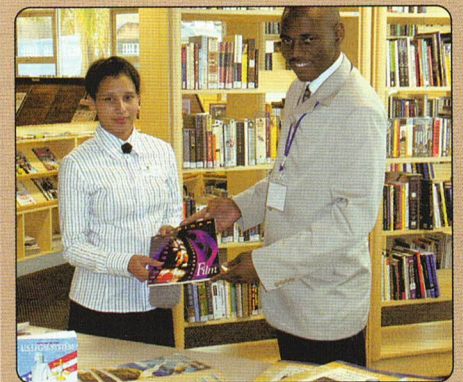
and old classic by an American writer."

Mr. John Morrison, Msunduzi Municipal Library Manager is very supportive this initiative. He indicated that this will enhance opportunities to attract wide audiences and further increase the usage of the library. In his remarks he said, "The American Corner is not just the addition of a library collection but it will also help in job creation since it provides funding for a six month salaried internship for a current University of KwaZulu Natal Library School student to work for 24 hours a week in the American Corner".

In the past ten years the U.S. State Department has made a commitment to strengthen ties and relationships between the U.S. and other countries by funding American Corners in cooperation with public and university libraries around the world. The success and the enthusiasm for this program have grown to the extent that there are over three hundred American Corners in more than one hundred countries around the world.



Chargé d'Affaires, Donald Teitelbaum making the opening remarks



American Corner Coordinator Karmaney (Kammy) Naidoo and Information Resource Center (IRC) Director Thula Hlongwane looking at the collection.

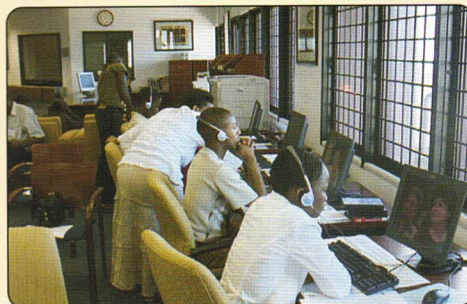
U.S. Consulate Durban Information Resource Center (IRC)

Durban IRC Focus: The IRC provides current, comprehensive information about the United States, its policies, social and political processes and related subjects. The resources of the IRC are intended to service the information needs of government officials, journalists, researchers, scholars and professionals.

It also provides information and reference services primarily by fax and e-mail, but also by telephone for urgent requests. You can contact us to arrange a visit if you require personal assistance or wish to use our electronic and print resources. Resources are accessible by appointment for specialists with more extensive research needs. We are also open to the general public from Monday through Friday from 1:00pm until 5:00pm.

Books, Periodicals & Newspapers: The Durban IRC has a collection of 20 current US newspapers and periodicals, of which recent issues are kept in the IRC. The IRC also has a small reference book collection, which may be used in the IRC, but under normal circumstances, may not be borrowed.

HIV/AIDS FOCUS: The Durban IRC has a special focus on HIV/AIDS since the province of KwaZulu Natal is heavily affected by the pandemic and the IRC has identified high



interest in U.S. programs and materials dealing with the community aspects of this concern. The use of the IRC in disseminating HIV/AIDS information has been identified as a key aspect of this programme because of the need to reach as many people within the province as possible. The collection on HIV/AIDS consists of books, magazines, DVDs and electronic resources that will be distributed monthly in the form of information alerts.

Internet: Access and orientation is available for serious researchers. Four workstations with DVD drives and internet access are available for public use. The embassy homepage is <http://southafrica.usembassy.gov> for information about the American Embassy in South Africa and answers to frequently asked questions about the U.S.

Databases: Subscription to a number of

American on-line commercial databases equips the IRC to provide a unique service in South Africa. These databases provide full text of articles from thousands of American journals and newspapers. The IRC also subscribes to a number of directory databases covering associations, corporations, authors, legal firms and telephone numbers. Profiles of organisations are also provided.

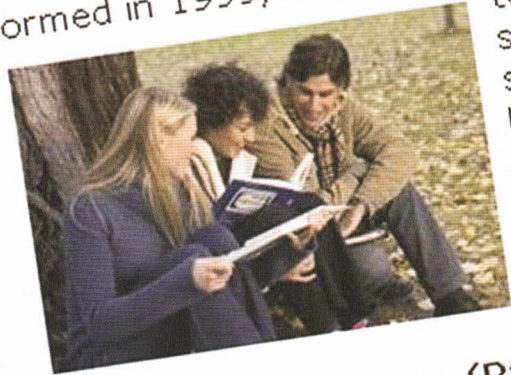
Further Research: The IRC in Durban is part of the IRC network comprising of the main IRC at the Embassy in Pretoria and two consulate IRCs in Cape Town and Johannesburg. In the event that Durban IRC is not able to provide information from on-site resources, the IRC Director or assistant librarian is able to call upon the expertise and information infrastructure available in the United States. The U.S. office can provide print resources that are not found in online databases and is also able to make personal contact, if necessary, with government agencies, academic and research institutions, foundations, businesses or non-governmental organisations. This service is available to organisations and professionals in South Africa with serious information needs which fall within embassy guidelines.

*Thulasizwe Hlongwane
Director, IRC Durban*

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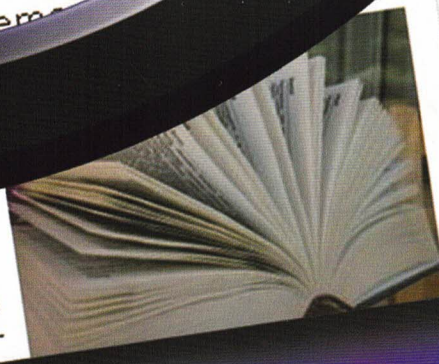
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New job? Had a promotion? Retiring soon? Send news about new appointments, promotions, retirements, etc to Ingrid Thomson at Ingrid@uctlib.uct.ac.za or fax to (021) 689 7569 (marked for Ingrid's attention). Photos are welcome.

On the Move

► **Gwenda Thomas** took up her new post as the Director: Library Services at Rhodes University on 1 June. She replaced Margaret Kenyon who passed away in August last year.



Ms Thomas has 25 years experience as a librarian. She was previously Director of FOTIIM/GAELIC and of LIASA, where she was the Executive Director for 3 years. Prior to that she was in charge of Research Services at UNISA Library.

Asked about her vision for the Library Gwenda said, "I think the Rhodes Library has an exciting future of development ahead of it. When I was interviewed for the job I was asked about my vision and I said I wanted an academic library environment in which people teach and learn in a digital age. Libraries still have a large print collection side-by-side with e-resources and we need to create an environment where people have access to both print and digital Staff skills need to be developed so that they can support the infrastructure, content and delivery of the new material."

Gwenda strongly believes in "service delivery, in knowing your users' needs and shaping yourself to meet those needs." On the topic of what it takes to be a good librarian she advocates team work. "You cannot work as an individual because the whole process... is interlinked and interdependent... Self-improvement is very important: you have to embrace change and guide others through the process of change."

Rhodos: Rhodes Community Newsletter

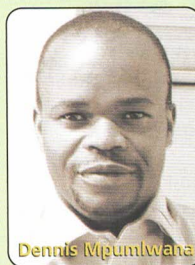
► The Educational Library & Information Service (ELIS) of the Mpumalanga Dept of Education has been joined by six new librarians: **Tlapudi Otilia Masemola** (Library Assistant), **Bianca Mabjala Ledwaba** (Librarian) and **Sifiso Godfrey Khambule** (Librarian) have joined the staff at Head Office, while **Mabel Tladi** has been

appointed as Media Advisor in the Nkangala Region. New staff in the Gert Sibande Region are **Mandla Josiah Nkambule** (Media Advisor) and **Busi Dlamini** (Regional Librarian)

► **Lebogang Raphadu** has been appointed Senior Library Assistant in the Periodicals Department at University of Cape Town Libraries. **Siyabulela Mamve** has been appointed Evening Senior Library Assistant in Access Services at University of Cape Town.

► **Beulah Isaacs** has joined the Periodicals Department at the University of the Western Cape Library as Senior Library Assistant.

► News from Durban University of Technology (DUT) is that **Dennis Mpumlwana** from DUT Library, previously based at the Durban campus, has been promoted to subject librarian at the Indumiso campus, Pietermaritzburg. Ms **Ntombizethu Mazibuko** and **Anushie Moonasar** were promoted to Cataloguing librarians at the DUT library in June 2006. They are now based on the ML Sultan Campus of Durban University of Technology. **Nhlanhla Nhleko** was appointed as a stack attendant at the Alan Pittendrigh Library, Steve Biko campus, Durban University of Technology in July 2006.



on offer in the region now that he is retired.

Awards & Travel Grants

► **Busi Dlamini** chair of the School Library & Youth Services Interest Group and **Mona Niemand**, Treasurer of the School Library & Youth Services Interest Group have been invited by Maud Hell, from Sweden to attend the Skolbibliotek Syd Conference and a tour with meetings and study visits from 26 August - 2 September 2006. Skolbibliotek Syd is a regional organization in the south of Sweden, formed by librarians and teacher librarians, schools principals, and other parties interested in school libraries. Busi Dlamini will be presenting on the development of school libraries, school library policy in South Africa and the role of the LIASA and the School Library & Youth Services interest group in the school library policy development. Mona Niemand will present on mobile library service in Gauteng. A presentation on the visit to Sweden will be delivered at the LIASA: SLYSIG's preconference on 25 September 2006.

► Jean Smith of EBSCO received two honours from EBSCO's International Headquarters in the U.S. After serving since 2000 as the General Manager of the EBSCO Information Services Regional Office located in Johannesburg, she was promoted to vice-president. As one of 30 vice-presidents within EBSCO Information Services, Smith contributes to the formation of strategic plans for the development of the largest division of EBSCO Industries. In addition, she manages the Southern Africa Regional Office, which provides services for print and electronic journal subscriptions to libraries of all types throughout Southern Africa. Following on the heels of her promotion, Smith was also selected to join the EBSCO Founders' Club. The Founders' Club recognizes managers whose operations have made significant growth. Members of the club have achieved historically significant improvements that sustain the company's growth.

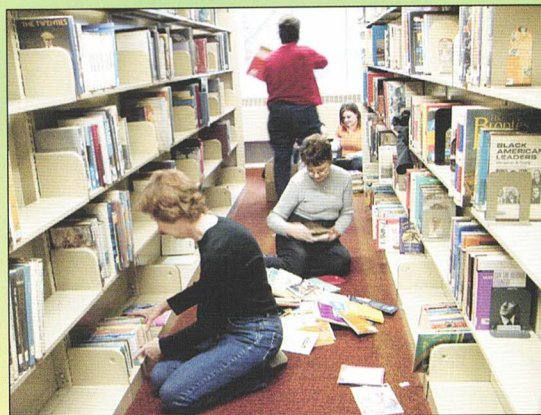
Retirements

► **Dennis McCarthy**, has retired from the DUT Alan Pittendrigh Library on 31 July after more than 33 years in the Library profession.

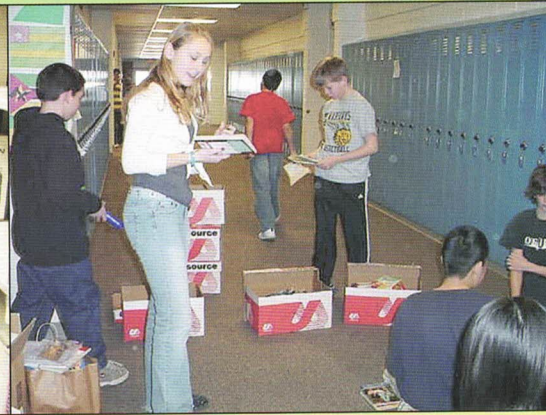
Mr McCarthy started working in 1973 at the Killie Campbell Collection library at the then University of Natal, and moved onto the main campus and served as Head Circulation services at the GH Malherbe library for 22 years. He took early retirement in 1999 and took a position as Supervisor After-hours at the then Technikon Natal library. During his time with the DUT Library, Mr McCarthy has played a major role with regard to the training of student library assistants. He is a regular attendee at LIASA meetings and workshops and has promised that he will continue to attend what is

Book donation from Naperville Central High and Madison Jnr High Schools, Illinois

Jane Sharka, the Director and Webmaster of the Media Centre and her students have done a mammoth job over the last five months. A team of five classes from Naperville Central High School and the seventh graders from Madison High School have accomplished the following;



Teachers from Naperville Central High School sorting the books to be shipped to schools in the Free State province



Seventh graders from Madison Junior High School packing the books into boxes

- Collected over 8 732 books
- Sorted them into age appropriate groups
- Packed them into 147 boxes
- Assigned the boxes to each of the eight schools in the Free State province receiving the books
- Sealed and weighed each box. The boxes weighed 4,476 pounds (2.4 tons)
- Labeled the boxes
- Raised over \$4 441 for shipping.

The LIASA School Library & Youth Services Interest Group is excited about the donation. Raspy Ramugondo, the SLYSIG coordinator for Free State is responsible for receiving the donation under the Free State Department of Education. She has identified the schools and will be distributing them accordingly.

We wish to thank Jane Sharka and her students for contributing towards the development of education in South Africa. As Liasa we will continue to support such partnerships and hope that the partnership will be strengthened.

Busi Dlamini, SLYSIG Chair

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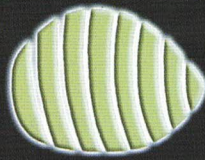


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