

LI AJA

Library and Information Association of Jamaica



ANNUAL REPORT
FEBRUARY 2007 - JANUARY 2008

**LIBRARY AND INFORMATION ASSOCIATION
OF JAMAICA**

ANNUAL REPORT

FEBRUARY 2007 TO JANUARY 2008

PRESENTED AT

58TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

FEBRUARY 1, 2008

COMPILED BY

DAVID A. DRYSDALE
PRESIDENT

MISSION STATEMENT

To provide leadership in the development of resources in the Library and Information profession in order to facilitate access to and use of information for national growth.

VISION STATEMENT

To create an awareness in the society of the primacy of up to date information in personal, commercial and national life and to promote the delivery of quality library and information service

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INTRODUCTION

The Executive Committee of the Library and Information Association of Jamaica (LIAJA) is pleased to present this annual report which details the activities and programmes carried out during the period February 1, 2007 to January 31, 2008. These activities were undertaken in keeping with the eight (8) strategic objectives identified in the Association's Strategic Plan 2007-2010.

The highlights of the period were:

- Energetic public relations activities
- Vibrant programme of activities within the Sections including Special Libraries Week Celebration, Luncheon of the Chairs, and National Forum on School Libraries
- Partnership with the Jamaica Library Service to sponsor prizes in the National Reading Competition
- Increase of 21.5% in the Membership
- Opportunities seized to widen the Associations sphere of influence locally and internationally
- The passing away of outstanding members of the profession
- Attendance of the President at two international conferences

ANNUAL GENERAL MEEETING 2007 AND PRESIDENT'S DINNER

The new Executive Committee began its year on January 31, 2007 after the election of officers at the annual general meeting held at the Kingston and St. Andrew Parish Library.

The President's Dinner took place on Saturday, February 1, 2007 at the Terra Nova All-Suite Hotel, Waterloo Road in Kingston. It was an occasion that was a departure from the norm, as there was no guest speaker. Instead, the function was enlivened by an enthralling entertainment pot-pourri from the renowned Manchioneal Cultural Group from Portland, led by Mr. Richard Derby. The group took the audience through a medley of entertaining Jamaican folk songs, skits, story-telling, and dancing – featuring the popular “brukkins” party and dinki-mini.

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Dr. Cherrel Shelley-Robinson, Senior Lecturer in the Department of Library and Information Studies at the University of the West Indies, Mona, received the Association's Distinguished Librarian award at the President's Dinner. The first runner-up was Miss Hermine Salmon, Campus Librarian at the University of Technology. Both ladies have served as presidents of the Association and have made outstanding contributions to the profession nationally, regionally and internationally, and were richly deserving of all the accolades received. Other nominees for the

THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The first meeting of the Executive Committee was convened at the Kingston and St. Andrew Parish Library Reading Room on Friday February 10, 2007. This was a joint meeting of the "old" and new executive committees. The meeting was hosted and the cost for refreshment paid for through the kind courtesy of Mrs. Patricia Roberts, Director General of the Jamaica Library Service

The 2007/2008 Executive Committee met in retreat for two days March, 2007 at the Frenchman's Cove Hotel in San San Portland. The Committee reviewed the Strategic Plan for 2007 – 2010 and mapped out the action plan for the eight strategic objectives as outlined for the period. The revised plan was then circulated to members via the website and e-mail from the President.

All other Executive Committee Meetings were held as scheduled on the second Friday of each month, except for the October meeting which was cancelled due to a prolonged period of inclement weather and severe flooding on the day of the meeting. Meetings were mainly held in the Training Room at Jamaica Library Service Headquarters, but two were also hosted by the National Library of Jamaica and two by the Department of Library and Information Studies at UWI, Mona.

Participation was vibrant as members proposed, discussed and actualized plans for the year.

REGULAR MEETINGS

The first regular meeting was convened as scheduled on June 23, 2006 and was held at the St. Elizabeth Parish Library Multipurpose Room in Black River. There were fifty-three (53) members in attendance. In keeping with our plans to update members on the CSME, our guest presenter was Dr. Orville Taylor of the Faculty of Social Sciences, University of the West Indies, who spoke on "The CSME and Implications for Libraries and Librarians." At the end of the question and answer segment, Dr. Taylor was presented with a token of appreciation which included a book and a fruit and vegetable basket. The latter being donated by the Staff of the St. Elizabeth Parish Library Network.

At the end of the meeting the group proceeded on optional tours of the Black River Safari and a garden tour guided by Mrs. M. Joyce Francis, Chairman, St. Elizabeth Parish Library Committee, and an avid horticulturist.

Our second regular meeting was held on Friday November 17, 2006 at the Kingston and St. Andrew Parish Library Reading Room. There were forty-five (45) members in attendance. At this meeting a team from the National Library of Jamaica (NLJ) headed by the Executive Director, Mrs. Winsome Hudson spoke on the Legal Deposit Act and the various other services offered by the National Library of Jamaica. At this meeting the membership also reviewed the draft LIAJA Copyright Principles.

NATIONAL LIBRARY WEEK CELEBRATIONS

The major highlight of the year was the celebration of National Library Week during the period October 29 to November 4, 2006 under the theme: “Libraries: Your Launching-Pad to the Information Superhighway.” The programme of activities was a major contributor to our strategic objective to develop and promote a positive image of the Profession and the Association.

SPONSORSHIP OF PRIZES – JAMAICA LIBRARY SERVICE NATIONAL READING COMPETITION

As part of the President’s proposal to support and partner initiatives in Reading, the Association agreed to partner with the Jamaica Library Service in sponsoring some of the prizes awarded in the National Reading Competition. The following prizes were sponsored:

6 – 8	years group	\$1,000.00 awarded to the winner of the Best Letter
9 – 11	years group	\$1,500.00 awarded to the winner of the Best Story Ending
12 – 14	years group	\$2,000.00 awarded to the winner of the Best Story Excerpt
15 – 20	years group	\$2,500.00 awarded to the winner of the Best Review

A total of \$7,000.00 was donated. It was proposed that this sponsorship be renewed annually.

LIAJA COPYRIGHT PRINCIPLES

As a follow up from the 2005 Executive Committee, the Association continued to review the Draft LIAJA Copyright Principles. Mrs. Frances Salmon chaired the Committee which undertook to finalize this. A draft was circulated previous to the June meeting and was discussed and reviewed at this meeting. The recommendations/suggestions proposed by members were incorporated and the document is being tabled at this Annual General Meeting for ratification and acceptance.

LIAJA SCHOLARSHIP

The 2006 LIAJA Scholarship of One Hundred (\$100,000.00) Thousand Dollars was awarded to Department of Library Studies student, Miss Marsha-Gay Robinson. Miss Robinson is a final year student and expects to graduate in 2007.

The University at a function in honour of Donors of Awards on February 16, 2006 presented a plaque to the Association in appreciation of continued support of the University of the West Indies Mona Campus Scholarship Fund.

UWI MENTORSHIP PROGRAMME

During the year the Association sought to reactivate involvement in the University of the West Indies Mentorship Programme. Follow up work was done and Miss Sandra Stubbs of the University of the West Indies Main Library has agreed to coordinate the programme.

SECRETARIAT

The Executive Committee remained committed to the task of establishing a permanent home for the Association and continued to explore the various alternatives which were presented during the year. The Jamaica Library Service was again approached for a space at the Shortwood Branch Library and there is great hope that this will bring positive results. There is earnest need for the files, documents and other archival material to be housed in one place.

LIAJA E-MAIL GROUP

The group was established on June 24, 2005 and now has 262 members. It is an open group so members and friends of LIAJA can enter by self-subscription. The Home Page with URL <http://tech.groups.yahoo.com/group/LIAJA-Members/> provides a record of messages, and access to other features.

Group Email Addresses

To post a message LIAJA-Members@yahoogroups.com
To subscribe LIAJA-Members-subscribe@yahoogroups.com
To unsubscribe LIAJA-Members-unsubscribe@yahoogroups.com
To contact the List owner: LIAJA-Members-owners@yahoogroups.com

- * Membership does not require approval
- * Messages do not require approval
- * All members can post messages
- * Email attachments are permitted
- * Members cannot hide email address
- * Listed in directory

Up to January 9, 2007, the total number of messages was 657 as detailed below:

Message History and Messages per month

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2007	12											
2006	8	31	53	34	46	51	30	42	66	134	66	61

2005											18	14
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Types of messages

Messages have been sent by the President, members of the Executive, and the members of the association and have included:

- Notices of LIAJA meetings and related arrangements
- Congratulatory messages to members
- Notices of job vacancies
- Notices of seminars, meetings, workshops, conferences
- Notices about activities of associations – IFLA, IASL, ACURIL, etc.
- Developments in Library and Information Studies

Attachments to messages have been sent, but these are not saved and are therefore not accessible from the site. There are other features including the uploading of files which permit a member to store files for the group.

Activities of the group have mainly been through email messages to members, with occasional comments and responses. There are however other features which can expand the functions. These include hyperlinking to other sites, polling members for their opinions and decisions.

Although there is a SPAM filter, this does not seem to be working effectively, and irrelevant messages have been a problem.

Members are encouraged to increase participation, to circulate information on their activities and accomplishments.

Professor Fay Durrant administers the group.

REPORTS OF THE WORKING PARTIES

The life-blood of any organization or association such as LIAJA is the willing input of a strong cadre of volunteers. For the year under review, there were few volunteers coming forward from the general membership to carry out the activities of the Working Parties. This stymied the operations of the working parties during the year.

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

The year was a relatively low-keyed one for this Working Party, as the activities planned did not materialize:

- A lecture by Dr. Gloria Royale-Davis, jointly organized by the Department of Library and Information Studies (DLIS) of the Mona and LIAJA
- A workshop on Information Literacy for public librarians sponsored by the Commonwealth Library Association (COMLA) being organized in conjunction with LIAJA and the Jamaica Library Service

Unfortunately, both of these activities were postponed and rescheduled to be held in the first quarter of 2007. Regarding the lecture by Dr. Royale-Davis, an assurance was given by Dr. Cherrell Shelley-Robinson, then acting Head of DLIS, that this would definitely be held in the new Semester commencing January 2007.

COMLA has provided a grant of \$65,000.00 to LIAJA to undertake a workshop to train trainers in information literacy. The Education and Training Working Party is in the process of finalizing the date for the workshop with the Jamaica Library Service.

FUNDRAISING

The “**fundraising committee**” got off to a late start. Only one person volunteered to serve on the committee, therefore, most of the fundraising decisions was made at the executive meetings.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

The group under the chairmanship of Mrs. Audrey Chambers began to map out the structure and broad work plan for LIAJA’s main document groups – minutes, etc – which were already in electronic format.

MEMBERSHIP AND CONDITIONS OF SERVICE

Concerted efforts by the President and members of the Executive Committee to increase the paid up membership, resulted in our exceeding our target of ten percent (10%) increase as stated in the Strategic Development Plan.

PUBLIC RELATIONS

The Public Relations Working Party under the chairmanship of Mavis Belasse was very active during the year as it sought to promote the Association and the Profession and to meet the targets outlined in LIAJA’s Strategic Plan for 2006. The following activities:

- Developed a public campaign to promote the use of information by inviting celebrities to endorse library activities.

RESEARCH AND PUBLICATIONS

During the year attempts were made to collect outstanding amounts related to the publication of the LIAJA Bulletin 2005-2006. Attempts were also made to sell issues, but sales were very poor and even with a “two for the price of one” offer at the regular meeting in November, no additional copies were sold.

REPORTS OF SECTIONS

The sections of the Association were very vibrant during the year as they planned and executed activities in the interests of their members and with the Associations Strategic Objectives in mind.

SCHOOL LIBRARIES

The year 2006-2007 was a very productive for the Schools Section when measured against the Strategic Plan set out by the Executive Committee.

SPECIAL LIBRARIES

The Special Libraries Section of LIAJA continued to serve special librarians throughout Jamaica providing professional growth for its members, promoting the profession, continuing support in education, and creating strength within the organizations.

RETIRED MEMBERS

The 2006 Executive Committee was elected at the Annual General Meeting held at Morgan's Harbour Hotel on December 3, 2005. Those elected were as follows:

REPORTS FROM INSTITUTIONS

JAMAICA LIBRARY SERVICE STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT PLAN

The Jamaica Library Service undertook an extensive planning process which culminated with the production of the Strategic Development Plan 2006-2011 for the organization. This Strategic Development Plan became effective November 1, 2006 and is currently being implemented. A new Logo for the organization also became effective November 1, 2006. New Vision and Mission Statements and core values were also developed as follows:

NATIONAL LIBRARY OF JAMAICA

The following are highlights of a very active and productive year for the National Library of Jamaica.

DEPARTMENT OF LIBRARY AND INFORMATION STUDIES (DLIS)

Staff Activities:

Prof. Durrant went on a Mona Research Fellowship in January in order to conduct research and write about factors influencing access to information. During her absence, Dr. Shelley-Robinson acted as Head of Department. While on Fellowship leave Professor Durrant participated in the following conferences:

ACADEMIC LIBRARIES REPORT

This report focuses on the libraries of following institutions:

ADHOC COMMITTEES

Investment

The Treasurer and other members examined investment options and investments were made as detailed in the Treasurer's Report.

ADVOCACY

During the year the Advocacy Committee was asked to respond to the following:

The Draft Strategic Plan Framework for Tertiary Education 2006-2010. This plan was prepared by the Strategic Plan Writing Group for Ministry of Education Youth and Culture Tertiary Unit in January 2006. Some members of the Association were concerned that no provision had been made for libraries in the draft. The matter is still being pursued.

AWARDS

The Executive Committee at its Retreat in March reviewed the criteria for the Association's Awards. The Awards Committee resumed its work this year as four nominations were received for the Distinguished Librarian of the Year Award. The winner will be announced at the President's Dinner on Saturday February 3, 2007. Regrettably the Committee received no nominations for the Innovative School Library Award.

ASSOCIATIONS

The Association continued to maintain membership in the following organizations:

COMLA

Mrs. Norma Kpodo continued to represent COMLA on the Executive Committee during 2006/2007. Following on the COMLA/UNESCO Workshop on Information Literacy for Public Libraries Across the Commonwealth held January 30 – February 2, 2006; the Association gave a commitment to do a follow up seminar for Training of Trainers in the public libraries. Contact was made with the Jamaica Library Service and early in the next

term the Association in partnership with the Jamaica Library Service will undertake a follow up seminar. On January 16, 2007 the Association received a cheque in the sum of \$65,000.00 from COMLA to undertake this venture.

IFLA

The Association's Membership was renewed during the year and all outstanding fees including retroactive amounts were paid over. The fees paid guarantees membership to December 2007. Our membership number is JM0001. We have also signed up for the following sections: Information Technology, Continuing Professional Development, Latin America and Caribbean and the Management of Library Associations. Staff members of member institutions attended the 72nd Annual Conference in Seoul, South Korea August 20 – 24, 2006. The conference was hosted under the theme: "Libraries: Dynamic Engines for the Knowledge and Information Society." Mrs. Joan Vacianna is being nominated by the Association as representative to the Latin America and the Caribbean Regional Section while Mrs. Frances Salmon has been invited to serve on the Copyright Committee.

IASL

The Association's Membership in the International Association of School Libraries (IASL) was also renewed during the year. The 2006 conference was held from July 3 – 7 in Lisbon, Portugal under the theme: "The Multi-faces of Literacy: Reading, Knowing, Doing." Three persons from Jamaica attended including two members of staff of the Jamaica Library Service and Mrs. Paulette Stewart, chair of the School Libraries Section who received the Ken Haycock Leadership Award at the Conference.

ACURIL

Eighteen (18) members of the Association including the President attended the 36th Annual Conference of ACURIL in Oranjestad, Aruba May 28 - June 2, 2006. The theme was "Information and Human Rights: The Social, Cultural and Ethical Aspects of the Information Society." The President's attendance was part sponsored from the Association's Travel Grant and by the Jamaica Library Service. At this Conference two Institutions from Jamaica which were successfully nominated for Awards received these as follows:

REPRESENTATION/AFFILIATIONS

The Jamaica Civil Service Association

Membership was also maintained in the Jamaica Civil Service Association with Mr. David Drysdale being named as our representative to attend meetings.

National Library of Jamaica Board of Management

Following on an invitation from the National Library of Jamaica, under its newly constituted Board of Management, the Association was requested to name a representative to the Board. Miss Hermine Salmon, University Librarian at UTECH was

therefore named as LIAJA's representative on the National Library of Jamaica's new Board of Management.

Jamaica National Commission for UNESCO Information Advisory Committee

On an invitation from Secretary General of the Jamaica National Commission for UNESCO the Association was asked to serve on the Information Advisory Committee. The President was named to serve as the Association's representative.

Jamaica Library Service National Information Literacy Committee

Following on an invitation from the Director General of the Jamaica Library Service to name a representative on the Jamaica Library Service National Information Literacy Committee, Mrs. Paulette Stewart, chair of the School's Section was named to represent the Association on this Committee.

LIAJA ARCHIVIST

In a bid to ensure that information on the Association is being stored properly, Mrs. Rosella McCarty Spencer, librarian at UTECH was named as LIAJA ARCHIVIST by the Executive Committee. She will be responsible to ensure that the records of the Association are kept for posterity.

AWARDS/ACHIEVEMENTS

During the year the Association extended congratulations to a number of our members who received awards/or other achievements namely:

- Professor Fay Durrant – who was elected Vice President of the Intergovernmental Council of UNESCO's Information for ALL Programme (IFAL) Professor Durrant will serve for a two year period and will represent the group of countries comprised of Jamaica, Peru, Uruguay and Venezuela.

CONDOLENCES/GET WELL

During the year messages of sympathy were sent to a number of our members who lost loved ones. The Association noted with regret the passing of Mrs. Gwenllian Hart, Honorary Member who passed away October 12, 2006.

“Get well” wishes were extended to several of our members during the year.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The President would like to record deepest appreciation to:

- The Executive Committee and Members for their support and encouragement during the year
- The Director General and Staff of the Jamaica Library Service for the tremendous support in a variety of ways during the year and in particular

for providing venues for both regular meetings (through the Parish Library Networks), the Executive Committee meetings and the Annual General Meeting.

- Mrs. Patrica Smith Shaw of the Manchester Parish Library and Miss Simone Mills of the St. James Parish Library for excellent secretarial support during the year.

CONCLUSION

A measure of success was achieved during the year as the Association undertook programmes which sought to take us one step further in the achievement of our strategic objectives.

However, much more could have been achieved if there had been greater support from the general membership - “a chain is as strong as its weakest link”. For any Association to survive and to be successful there must be strong volunteer support from its members. Regrettably this support did not reach the desired level during the year. It is hoped that the new Executive will receive full, active support from the membership so that the Association can attain its goals and objectives and make its mark on the development of library and information services in Jamaica and in the global marketplace.

This is a great Association - grounded on a solid foundation. It is our Association, it needs our unrelenting support in order to be successful. Together we can achieve.

APPENDIX I

Members of the Executive Committee 2007 – 2008

1	President and Representative, Jamaica Library Service	Mr. David Drysdale
2	1 st Vice President and Chair, Advocacy	Miss Marva Bradford
3	2 nd Vice President and Chair Public Relations Working Party	Ms Mavis Belasse
4	Hon. Secretary	Miss Daphne Daly
5	Hon. Treasurer and Chair, Investment Committee	Mrs. J. Pamela Williams
6	Immediate Past President	Mrs. Karen Barton
7	Chair, School Libraries Section	Mrs. Paulette Stewart
8	Chair, Special Libraries Section	Miss Claudia Sutherland
9	Chair, Retired Members Section	Miss Stephney Ferguson

10	Chair, Fundraising Working Party	Miss Claudia Sutherland
11	Chair, Information Technology Working Party	Mr. Mark-Shane Scale
12	Chair, Membership and Conditions of Service	Mrs. Christina Stewart-Fullerton
13	Chair, Research and Publications Working Party	Mrs. Judith Rao
14	Ordinary Member	Mrs. Rosella McCarthy-Spencer
15	National Library of Jamaica Representative	Miss Jessica Lewis (resigned July 2007) Mrs. Winsome Hudson
16	Academic Libraries Representative	Miss Natalee Deir
17	COMLA representative	Mrs. Norma Amenu-Kpodo
18	Department of Library Studies	Mr. Ownali Mohamedali
19	Ordinary Member and Chair of Copyright Committee	Mrs. Frances Salmon

APPENDIX 11

LIBRARIES

The Jamaica Library Service,