

# LIAJA NEWS

Vol. 6 No. 1.

Newsletter of the Association

MAY 2009

LIBRARY & INFORMATION ASSOCIATION OF JAMAICA

## Inside this Issue

### “Highlights of 2008”

Information Technology

Retired Members Section

Library Institutions

Fundraising Working Party

Education & Training Working Party

School Libraries Section

Special Libraries Section

Membership & Conditions of Service Working Party

Congratulations

Obituaries & Farewell

Upcoming Events

Joke of the Day

Prepared by:  
Sasekea Harris  
Pauline Nicholas  
Koren Witter-Thomas

Edited by:  
Evadne McLean  
Verna George

© 2009 Library & Information Association  
of Jamaica, Research & Publication Working Party

## Executive Committee Members 2008

### Executive Members 2008

President - Ms. M. Bradford

1st Vice President, Chair Public Relations Working Party - Mrs. M. Belasse-Williams

2nd Vice President, Chair School Libraries Section - Dr. P. Stewart

Immediate Past President. - Mr. D. Drysdale

Honorary Treasurer - Mr. M. Blake

Honorary Secretary - Mrs. C. Fullerton

Assistant Secretary - Ms. S. Harris

Chair, Special Libraries Section—Ms. C. Sutherland

Chair, Retired Librarians Section - Ms. J. Vernon

Chair, Fund Raising Working Party- Mrs. P. Nicholas

Chair, Information & Technology Working Party - Mr. M-S. Scale

Chair, Research & Publication Working Party-Mrs. E. McLean

Chair, Advocacy - Ms. A. Robins

Jamaica Library Service Representative - Mrs. P. Gordon

National Library of Jamaica Representative - Ms. Y. Clarke

Academic Libraries Representative - Ms. M. Douglas

Dept. of Library & Information Studies Representative -Dr. C. Shelley-Robinson

Ordinary Member - Ms. Kishma Simpson



## INFORMATION & TECHNOLOGY WORKING PARTY

Mark Shane Scale

2008 was a very rewarding year for the Information Technology Working Party (ITWP). Among its accomplishments was:

1. A workshop on “Building Google Custom Search Engines” on December 11, 2008. Participants were exposed to practical exercises in building their Google CSE. Participants were asked to post/upload their CSE description and URL to a site created for the workshop. The written feedback received was positive. Among the comments received were:
  - I must commend the organizers for hosting a theoretical and practical session.
  - This workshop has empowered me to return to my office with the ability to build Google custom search engines.

## LIBRARY INSTITUTIONS

The **Jamaica Library Service** celebrated its 60th Anniversary during the year. Highlights from the year of activities were:

1. The former Governor General of Jamaica, the Most Honorable Prof. Sir Kenneth Hall read a proclamation at Kings House on April 30, 2008 declaring May 1– April 30, 2009 the official anniversary year of the Jamaica Library Service.
2. The National Reading Competition under the theme for the year “Sixty in 2008: Read and Celebrate”.
3. The National Reading Fair was held at the National Arena on November 29, 2008. At this event, HITZ 92 FM conducted a live outside broadcast to facilitate interviews with the national champions and attendees.

The **National Library of Jamaica (NLJ)** embarked on several new initiatives during the year. Of note were:

1. “Picture Dis”; the national online album of Jamaica, developed in partnership with the British Arts Council and launched on August 8, 2008. “Picture Dis” seeks to promote NLJ’s photograph resources while presenting parish history and biography.
2. The launch of the Jamaica Social Policy Research and Evaluation Database (JAMSPRED). This database comprises social research, technical reports and policy position papers on Jamaica and the Caribbean. The database can be accessed via NLJ’s website.
3. The launch of the Louise Bennett-Coverley Database, which features a collection of Miss Lou’s work.

## RETIRED MEMBERS SECTION

2008 was a very fruitful year for members of the Retired Librarians Section. The Honorable Dr. Joyce Robinson was awarded the Jamaica Committee’s Award for Excellence at the Pineapple Ball.

In August, Dr. Robinson was also honoured by the St. Elizabeth Homecoming Foundation for her sterling service as a pioneer of the Foundation.

Additionally, the Jamaica Library Service introduced the Joyce Robinson Scholarship in honour of Dr. Robinson. The scholarship was presented to Ms. Tamika Watson in October 2008.

Another section member, Mrs. Merline Bardowell was installed as the President of the Rotary Club of St. Andrew.

The long-awaited scrap book on members was created with clippings for the years 2007-2008. The section held a benefit performance which netted a profit of \$20,000.



## FUND RAISING WORKING PARTY

PAULINE NICHOLAS

1. **LIAJA Building Block Drive** - The aim of the building block drive was to assist in the procurement of equipment for the secretariat. The drive was launched in May 2008 and continued throughout the year.
2. **Symposium** – The highlight of the year was the Library Week Symposium held at the Medallion Hall Auditorium on October 28, 2008. The theme of the symposium was “Emerging Technologies and Your Libraries”. The event was sponsored by Blackwell Book Service, The Online Computer Library Centre (OCLC) and H. W. Wilson.

Mr. Antonio Alba from OCLC spoke on “Opportunities and Challenges, Embracing E-Books : Trends and Future Directions”. Ms. Martha Orellana from Blackwell’s Book Services spoke to “Digital Resources and Collaborative Initiatives”. Local presenters spoke on the topics: “ Read, Write, Connect: Wikis and Blogs”; “Face Book: an Avenue for Social Scholarship in Your Library”. Over 85 librarians from school libraries, special libraries, community college libraries and university libraries attended the symposium. The symposium made a profit of \$200,000.00.





## EDUCATION AND TRAINING WORKING PARTY

BEVERLY LASHLEY

LIAJA in collaboration with the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA) sponsored a project “Continuing Education, Networking and Innovation for Librarians in the English-speaking Caribbean”. The project was supported by the Department of Library & Information Studies (DLIS), Jamaica Library Service (JLS) and the libraries at the University of the West Indies, Mona. The first part of the programme ran concurrently with the Association of Caribbean University, Research and Institutional Libraries (ACURIL) conference. Mrs. Joan Vacianna, LIAJA’s representative on the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions / Latin America and the Caribbean Region IFLA/ LAC coordinated this project.

The Association in collaboration with the National Library of Jamaica (NLJ), JLS, HEART/NTA, Jamaica Tourist Board (JTB) as well as DLIS hosted the ACURIL Conference from June 1—6 at the Rose Hall Resort and Country Club in Montego Bay, Jamaica. The conference provided numerous opportunities for personal and professional growth.

## SPECIAL LIBRARIES SECTION

Highlights of the year for the Special Libraries Section included:

1. The staging of Special Libraries Week 2008.
2. Collaboration with the Socio-economic Information Network (SECIN) and other library professionals in a consultation session on the National Development Plan—Vision 2030.
3. Donation of a special collection of software among other items to the Jamaica National Children's Home.
4. A 2-day workshop on “Records Management” held April 16-17, 2008 at the Mona School of Business, UWI. The presenters were: Mr. Rohan McCalla, Chief Records Officer at the Financial Services Commission; Miss Helen Rumbolt, Director of Documentation, Information and Access Services at the Ministry of Finance and Public Services; and Mrs. Jacqueline Lynch-Stewart, General Manager, Bob Marley Foundation and Museum.



## SCHOOL LIBRARIES SECTION

PAULETTE STEWART

The School Libraries Section inaugurated a Library Week Workshop, which introduced librarians to a number of new technologies relating to the field of librarianship. Two of these included: “ How to Use Blogs & Wikis” and “Using Facebook to Build a Virtual Literature Circle”.

During the year, Ms. Eunice McKenzie and Ms. Elinor Sutherland became members of the International Association of School Librarianship (IASL).

Dr. Paulette Stewart and Ms. Eunice McKenzie attended the IASL Conference in San Francisco, USA, August 2-6 2008. At the opening ceremony, Ms. Eunice McKenzie received the Jean Lowrie Leadership Development Award for her outstanding work at the Annotto Bay High School Library and for her active participation in the School Libraries Section, LIAJA.

## MEMBERSHIP & CONDITIONS OF SERVICE WORKING PARTY

Membership and participation in the Association’s activities grew significantly. Membership increased by thirty-two percent due to an increase from two hundred and eleven (211) members at the beginning of the year to two hundred and seventy-eight (278) members at the end of the year.

The working party produced a Members Directory on CD-ROM, which was distributed to members.

The library students’ social was held on October 30, 2008 at the Department of Library & Information Studies, UWI, Mona. Students and faculty from DLIS and MICO participated in the event.

Representatives from various libraries, the 2008 LIAJA Scholarship recipient and the LIAJA President made speeches.

## CONGRATULATIONS



Congratulations to Professor Emerita Daphne Douglas, a distinguished librarian and educator who was selected as the honouree for the UWI 60th Anniversary Commemoration Celebrations. The week long celebrations held from February 14-22 included a flag-raising ceremony at which a citation was read to Professor Douglas. During these celebrations, the Main Library at the UWI, Mona mounted an exhibition on her life. A dinner was also held in her honor at which the Honorable Patrick Manning, Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago, was the guest speaker.



Congratulations to Mrs. Eunice McKenzie who received the Jean Lowrie Leadership Development Award for outstanding work at the Annotto Bay High School Library and her active participation in the School Libraries Section, LIAJA.



The LIAJA scholarship was awarded to Ms. Melodian Montaque, a second year student of the Department of Library and Information Studies, UWI. Ms. Montaque received \$100,000.00. Congratulations to you, Ms. Montaque.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- **ACURIL 2009**—The Association of Caribbean University, Research and Institutional Libraries (ACURIL) will be holding its 39th annual conference in Guadeloupe June 1-6 2009, at the Arawak Hotel.
- **IFLA 2009**—The International Federation of Library Association will hold its 75th Annual Conference in Milan, Italy, August 23rd – 27th 2009. The theme of the conference is “Libraries Create Futures: Building on Cultural Heritage.”
- **IASL 2009** –The International Association of School Libraries Conference will be held at the Hotel Alexander Palace in Abano Terme (Padua) Italy, on September 2nd—9th 2009 under the theme, “School Libraries in the Picture: Preparing Pupils for the Future”.

## OBITUARIES & FAREWELL



The Association regrets the death of Mr. Ownali Mohamedali.

Mr. Mohamedali served as a Senior Lecturer in the Department of Library and Information Studies at the University of the West Indies, Mona.

The Association also regrets the passing of Ms. Grace Munroe former Librarian at the Voluntary Social Services Commission.

Miss Claudia Sutherland, Chair of the Special Libraries Section and an active member of the Library and Information Association, has migrated to the United States of America. The Association wishes continued success for her and family.

## JOKE OF THE DAY

A chicken walks into the library. It goes up to the circulation desk and says: "book, bok, bok, boook". The librarian hands the chicken a book. It tucks it under its wing and runs out. A while later, the chicken runs back in, throws the first book into the return bin and goes back to the librarian saying: "book, bok, bok, bok, boook". Again the librarian gives it a book, and the chicken runs out. The librarian shakes her head. Within a few minutes, the chicken is back, returns the book and starts all over again: "boook, book, bok bok boook". The librarian gives him yet a third book, but this time as the chicken is running out the door, she follows it.

The chicken runs down the street, through the park and down to the riverbank. There, sitting on a lily pad is a big, green frog. The chicken holds up the book and shows it to the frog, saying: "Book, bok, bok, boook". The frog blinks, and croaks: "read-it, read-it, read-it".

