

Editor's Note

This issue of LIAJA Newsletter has failed to meet expectations on two counts. Firstly, it has come out long after the due date of November 2004 and secondly it does not reflect the activities of most of the Sections and the Working Parties. Why is this so? The news has not been forthcoming in a timely manner from some quarters and in some cases not at all.

I appeal to all of us to keep this publication alive by reporting on what is happening in our areas. We owe this to our Association and to ourselves.

Finally, let me wish all our readers a very productive year. I also hope that you will enjoy reading the articles in this issue.

Evadne McLean

**STORY TIME DURING LIBRARY
WEEK Oct. 31- Nov. 6 2004**



Shernett Bennett, St. Catherine Parish Library, holds the attention of the students at Bridgeport Infant School during story time.



Marva Bradford (in the black blouse) does her storytelling as well.

Meet the LIAJA Scholarship Winner

I am Nicholas Graham, recipient of the Library and Information Association of Jamaica (LIAJA) scholarship for 2004/2005. I entered the field of librarianship ten years ago when I joined the team at the Portland Parish Library as a library assistant. The experience has been tremendous and has served to convince me that librarianship is an exciting profession and a good career choice!

Those who know me were therefore not surprised when I entered the Department of Library and Information Studies, University of the West Indies, Mona in 2001. I am happy to report that I am enjoying the transition from para-professional to professional. When I graduate, I hope to serve in the information technology area of the service.

For me, the LIAJA scholarship is the perfect gift at the right time. It has made it easier for me to continue on the path to realizing my dream of becoming a qualified librarian. Had I not received this scholarship, I would have had to turn to the Students' Loan Bureau for this year's tuition. Thanks LIAJA!

It is satisfying to know that our Association is able to assist persons like me to achieve their goals. I look forward to becoming an active member of LIAJA, not because it is a term of the scholarship, but because it is a body of which I shall be proud to be a member.

INSTITUTIONS

**University of the West Indies.
Department of Library and Information
Studies**

Microsoft Jamaica presented the Department

a full product package of Encarta Reference Library 2004 - for installation on twenty-five (25) PCs.

The presentation also included a full product package of Encarta Reference Library 2004 Educators' Edition. The Encarta Reference Library, which has been installed in the Department's Library and Computer Laboratory, is an update of the earlier version held, and provides a valuable multimedia teaching and learning resource for staff and students of the Department. It will be used as an example of a reference resource and students will be able to examine and evaluate its structure, contents and technology applications.

Prof. Wendy Duff, of the Faculty of Information Studies at the University of Toronto, who is responsible for teaching the Records Management Courses over the Internet this semester, visited the Department from Dec 6-13, 2004. On Thursday Dec. 9, she gave a presentation entitled "Electronic Records Management: Issues and Research" in which she discussed the issues and challenges of managing electronic records. She also described current research in this area.

New credit courses Semester II January - May 2005

Graduate course: Copyright Issues Affecting Caribbean Libraries and Information Services.
Lecturer: Mrs. Beverley Pereira (3 credits)

Graduate course: Archives and Records Management including access to information and with a focus on electronic records management (3 credits)

Undergraduate course: Introduction to Records Management (3 credits)

NOTE: This course will be delivered via the Internet by Prof. Wendy Duff of the University of Toronto, Faculty of Information Studies.

Cost to specially admitted students: \$23,000 per 3-credit course

The Quality Assurance Review November 15-18, 2004

The review team of Prof. Joanne Gard Marshall, School of Information & Library Science University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (Team Leader), Dr Margaret Rouse-Jones University Librarian and Campus Librarian UWI (St Augustine), and Mrs. Winsome Hudson, Executive Director National Library of Jamaica met with members of the University Administration, staff, students, employers of graduates, representatives of associations and other stakeholders.

New External Examiners

Prof. John Feather, Head of the Department of Library and Information Studies at Loughborough University and Prof. Jose-Marie Griffiths, Dean of the School of Information & Library Science, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, recently agreed to be external examiners for two postgraduate courses. External examiners are noted academics in the field who advise the Department and the University on its courses and programmes and on their fit in the international arena.

Regional Activities

Mrs. Barbara Gordon paid a visit to the British Virgin Islands (BVI) at the invitation of the UWI Dept. of Continuing Studies. She prepared a status report on the Public Library system and on the library of the University Centre in the BVI.

Professor Durrant participated in a regional meeting (October 5-6) on Intellectual Property in the Digital Era and presented a paper on Regional Information Systems and Resource Sharing. The Barbados National Library Service and the CARINFO convened the meeting. Papers from the meeting are to be posted on the CARINFO section of the Caribbean

Development Bank website

<http://www.caribank.org>

Prof. Durrant held meetings with representatives of the national library services of the Caribbean countries particularly with a view to discuss the programme of the Department and to determine training needs.

National Library of Jamaica (NLJ)

Supplement

As part of Library Week activities, a supplement commemorating the 25th anniversary of the National Library of Jamaica was published with the November 4, 2004, issue of *The Gleaner*.

NLJ Digital

The NLJ digital library project, which is funded by the grant from CHASE Fund, is far advanced in implementation. Most of the equipment has arrived and has been deployed. The networking infrastructure has also been significantly upgraded. The first digitized output to be created is entitled **Jamaica Unshackled, 1831 - 1938**, documenting significant periods of resistance in Jamaica's history such as the Sam Sharpe Rebellion, the Morant Bay Rebellion and the 1938 Labour Riots. Appropriate training and software selection has been completed and actual scanning of materials has begun.

Legal Deposit

The Legal Deposit Act, which was passed in 2002, and designated the NLJ as the principal legal depository, came into effect on October 11, 2004.

Caribbean Digital Library for the Blind and Print Disabled

NLJ chairs the steering committee to establish the Caribbean Digital Library for the Blind and Print Disabled. This project was initiated by the Canadian National Institute for the Blind and has received funding from the Canadian Local Initiative Fund and UNESCO.

Microsoft Summit

Mr. Byron Palmer Information Network Manager of the National Library of Jamaica (NLJ) and Mrs. Annette Wallace of National Library and Information System Authority of Trinidad and Tobago (NALIS) were specially invited guests at Microsoft Headquarters, Redmond, Washington. The librarians were invited to participate in the summit: **Libraries for the Blind and Print Disabled: Moving Toward a Digital Future.** Bill Gates, Microsoft Chairman and Chief Software Architect presented the keynote address at the summit, which took place November 7 – 10 in Redmond, USA. The event was attended by about 60 librarians and specialists from all over the world. Microsoft invited the gathering to brainstorm and make recommendations about accessibility features, which should be included in the next release of the Windows operating system.

Participation in the event served to sensitize the attendees to the issues and techniques related to providing digital library services to the blind and print disabled. The event was timely for NLJ and NALIS as both libraries are in the process of establishing a **Caribbean Digital Library for the Blind and Print Disabled.** Mr. Palmer's and Mrs. Wallace's attendance was facilitated by the Canadian National Institute for the Blind which is assisting the two libraries to create and make library resources accessible to the blind and other print disabled persons.

According to Madelyn Bryant McIntire, Director of the Accessible Technology Group at Microsoft, "Our goal for the event was to provide a forum where libraries could develop a common vision of a future where there are no barriers, and start planning for a digital technology infrastructure that would allow them to move from analog to digital formats" One of the more thorny aspects of the development of a "global talking book library, which transcends geographic boundaries and linguistic differences, and which embraces cultural diversity" has to do with digital rights management and national copyright legislations.

Working groups were formed to explore this as well as the technical, aspects of the development of a digital global library for the blind and print disabled.

The event concluded with an agreement that the DAISY Specification be promoted for book publishers to employ as the worldwide standard for the navigation and structure of Digital Talking Books. Microsoft indicated that the next release of Windows operating system would have accessibility features that are compatible with this standard. Daisy 2.02 Specification presents a talking book format which enables the user to navigate within the talking book as he would within a printed book. The "pages" can be marked, the book can be browsed, and the user can skip around in the book; essentially as he would in a printed book were he sighted.

Gates told the participants that: "The advantages of accessing different types of digital information on a variety of devices are not limited to the visually impaired. The pioneering work being done to serve their special needs today could have widespread benefits for every user tomorrow -- and keeping the two closely connected will help lower costs and speed development."

Production of material for The Caribbean Digital Library for the Blind will be incorporated into the NLJ's project to digitize copyright free material for its new collection *NLJdigital*.

Audio Visual Conferences

Mrs. Maureen Webster-Prince presented a paper entitled "**State of Media Archives in the Caribbean**" at the World Conference and General Assembly of the International Federation of Television Archives, October 15-19, 2004 held in Paris. She also presented a paper entitled "**Challenges Building a National AudioVisual Collection**" at Association of Moving Images Archivists held in Minneapolis, Minnesota between November 10-13, 2004. The respective Associations sponsored both conferences.

Jamaica Library Service (JLS)

Bridging the Digital Divide through the provision of Access to ICT across Jamaica

Submitted by Mark Anthony Green,
Director, Information Technology JLS

JLS continues to bridge the digital divide by taking Information and Communication Technology (ICT) to users who would not normally have access to it. The JLS has partnered with the CHASE Fund to provide one hundred and forty six (146) computers for public use. As a direct result, sixty eight (68) communities benefited from this initiative, thirty (30) of these locations now offer ICT services for the first time while the other thirty eight (38) libraries benefited from upgrades to the ICT facilities.

Another recent initiative to bridge the divide was the launch of the first Mobile Library Unit with ICT capabilities. This took place at the Emancipation Park on October 16, 2004 during the inaugural hosting of the National Reading Fair. The Mobile Library is equipped with two small form factor computers that are networked using wireless technology. The Unit provides a wide range of traditional library services and access to more recent ICT services. Users of the Mobile Library are able to access the Internet using General Packet Radio Service Technology (GPRS). GPRS is a packet data communications system integrated with the GSM cellular telephone system that enables users to access the Internet using cellular telephones.

The Cable and Wireless Foundation has partnered with the JLS to offer free access to Internet on the Unit. One of the long-term goals of the JLS is to offer free Internet access at all service points.

The JLS has ninety-three (93) fixed communities access points that provide ICT services. Eighty-six (86) of these community access points provide Internet services in addition to regular ICT facilities. Ten percent

of these access points offer Internet services at broadband speed.

The JLS plans to launch several other Mobile Libraries to serve the needs of users residing in various communities across Jamaica. Also, visually impaired persons will benefit from these services, after the relevant screen reader software is installed on the computers within the Mobile Libraries. The software will facilitate the usage of ICT services by visually challenged individuals and assist persons with reading difficulties.

The JLS is resolute in its mission to become an organisation driven by relevant technology that meets and exceeds the needs of the public as the organisation continues to bridge the digital divide.



Jamaica Library Service Mobile Library

The National Reading Competition

The National Reading Competition, which is one of the annual stellar programmes of the Jamaica Library Service, came to a climax with the following events which took place between August 31 and October 16, 2004:

The Parish Champions of the National Reading Competition were hosted at a luncheon at the Hilton Kingston Hotel and were given hotel accommodation prior to the Finals.

The National Reading Competition Quiz Finals was broadcast on TVJ Television, culminating with prizes being presented to the National Champions. The prizes were very competitive and attractive, consisting of cash, gifts, trophies and trips to interesting local and Caribbean destinations.

JLS's strategic alliance with corporate sponsors proved extremely gratifying, as it yielded an unprecedented level of funding, enabling the Service to host, *for the first time*, an exciting National Reading Fair on October 16 at the Emancipation Park at which all the sponsors showcased their products.

The Fair featured Poetry Reading, Story-telling, Clowns and Face-Painting. An Exhibition on the JLS, highlighting information about the National Reading Competition and Reading Tips was mounted. **The Daily Observer**, October 18, 2004, termed the Reading Fair: *KIDS PARADISE*. The National Motorcade drove the National and Parish Champions from the Kingston and St. Andrew Parish Library to the Emancipation Park, where the National Reading Fair was being held. Honourable Maxine Henry-Wilson, Minister of Education, Youth and Culture, headed the list of persons who attended the Fair.

The tremendous corporate support undergirded the Jamaica Library Service's efforts to achieve the main objectives of the National Reading Competition, which are: to encourage the habit of reading, develop the skill of reading, cultivate an appreciation of books and foster continuing education in adults.

Hurricane Ivan

As a result of Hurricane Ivan, some of the Parish and Branch Libraries suffered damage to their roofs, furniture, equipment and their book collection. The total loss to the Jamaica Library

Service is estimated at over 25 million (\$25,000,000) dollars.

University of Technology

All levels of staff are presently involved in training and testing activities in preparation for the Library's new integrated management system (LIMS). The system is scheduled to be fully operational by March 2005.

The University Librarian, Miss Hermine Salmon attended the International Federation of Librarians (IFLA) annual conference 2005 held in Argentina from 22 to 28 August 2004.

An extensive collection of over 300 titles including books, magazines and technical papers relating to architecture, philosophy and other subject area was presented to the Library on September 8, 2004. These items were a part of the late Nadine Isaacs' personal collection. Nadine Isaacs was head of the Caribbean School of Architecture up to the date of her passing in June 2004. The Calvin McKain Library is presently working on an exhibition to depict her life and work.

The Library participated in the University's annual orientation exhibition. The theme of the library's display was "Your Library Bridging the Information Divide". For the first time this year, arrangement was made for first year students to be awarded a mark in their communication course for voluntarily attending library orientation and information skills instruction sessions.

The biennial College Library Network (COLINET) symposium will be held on Wednesday February 23, 2005 in Mandeville. Online registration forms for the symposium will be available soon.

University of the West Indies

New Campus Librarian

Mrs. Norma Amenu-Kpodo, former Deputy Campus Librarian, is the new Campus Librarian.

She succeeds former Campus and University Librarian, Stephney Ferguson, who retired at the end of September.

Prior to joining the UWI Library as Government Serials/UN/OAS Librarian in 1980, she worked in Libraries in Canada as well as the Balme University Library in Ghana.

A member of the Library and Information Association of Jamaica (LIAJA), she served the Association in various executive positions and presently, co-chairs its Research and Publications Working Party. She is also the Honorary Executive Secretary of the Commonwealth Library Association (COMLA) and a member of the International Federation of Library Associations (IFLA) Round Table for the Management of Library Associations.

In recognition of her contribution to the Association, LIAJA named Mrs. Amenu-Kpodo Librarian of the Year in 2002. She was also named Information Professional of the Year for the English-speaking Caribbean in honour of “excellence in administrative and academic performance and... distinguished professional work at the local level and in the Caribbean region” by the Association of College, Universities and Research Institutions Libraries (ACURIL) at its 33rd Session in 2003.

Mrs. Amenu-Kpodo sits on the UNESCO National Commission for Jamaica Committee on Information for All and the committee promoting World Book and Copyright Day. In addition she is a member of the University Council of Jamaica’s team of assessors of tertiary institution libraries.

**American Library Association (ALA)
Annual Conference Orlando Florida, June
24-30, 2004**

Submitted by Paulette Kerr

Jacqueline Howell-Nash, Carol Burgher and I attended the ALA conference, which covered varied areas of interest ranging from

administration and leadership, digital information and technologies, staff development, user services, children and youth and information literacy. Plenary sessions, workshops and paper sessions were organized around these thematic tracks which made navigating the world’s library conference so much easier.

The highlights at the conference included:

- Opening session with well-known author Richard Clarke, who delivered a provocative talk on the ‘war on terrorism’. He drew from his record setting, eleven years of White House service.
- Poster sessions: showcase of work being done by librarians in all areas
- Exhibitions with over 1600 exhibitors
- Scholarship Bash at Universal Studios: Fundraising for ALA scholarships
- Showing of controversial film “Fahrenheit 911”
- International Paper Program with theme *Library Associations Worldwide: Breaking Down Barriers and Making Connections*, that included a presentation on LIAJA. A number of excellent sessions on information literacy which I attended included “The Price of Success: Affording IL in an Uncertain Academic Economy” & “Prenuptial, Marriage and In-laws: Partnerships and Connections”

At the International Papers Session, which for 2004 focused on national library associations, I had the pleasure of showcasing LIAJA with a presentation “Library and Information Association of Jamaica, connecting a diverse Profession for Focused National Impact”. The presentation was one of four selected by the Papers Committee. Other library associations represented were China Society for Library Science, Library Associations in Israel, and the fledging Library Association in Zimbabwe.

Of course it was not all work as I participated in a number of social events and tours.

70th International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions Conference

Submitted by R Runcie

The 70th IFLA General Conference was held in Buenos Aires, Argentina from August 22 – 27, 2004 and was attended by almost 4000 participants from 121 countries. Approximately sixteen persons from Jamaica attended the conference representing the university, national, public and special libraries. The theme of this year's conference was **Libraries : Tools for Education and Development**, a most relevant theme as stated by IFLA's president Kay Raseroka since libraries are no longer on the fringes of education and development but at the heart of the process.

The *Tango Conference* as it was dubbed, introduced participants unfamiliar with South America to many of the highlights of Buenos Aires. The official ceremonies and social events (with the Tango dance as a feature on every programme) gave delegates a taste of this fascinating and culturally rich city. Some 222 meetings with 409 speakers occupied the attention of delegates over the six days. In addition to the regular con-current sessions, there were industry updates, business meetings, workshops, poster sessions and exhibitions. Satellite meetings were held in Chile and Brazil, and a two-day pre-conference meeting on International Cataloguing Principles to replace the 1961 Paris Principles held at the Universidad de San Andres, Buenos Aires and attended by 45 invited participants from 20 countries including Leona Bobb-Semple and Rosemarie Runcie from Jamaica.

Of particular interest to some librarians were the sessions on information literacy, collection development, bibliographic control, and University libraries-E-thesis and Scholarly Communication as many academic libraries including the University of the West Indies are developing programmes to produce cyber thesis and using DSpace as an open archival information system.

IFLA is truly a worldwide organization and this conference was an excellent opportunity to get to know our colleagues from different parts of the world through the many professional and social events that took place. It was a busy and profitable time for all, and especially for those of us engaged in developing and advancing policies to keep pace with the rapid changes taking place in our different core activities.

See also report by Louise Foster for another view of this conference

SECTIONS

Retired Members' Section

The group had a very successful meeting on Saturday, July 10 at the Ashanti Vegetarian Restaurant at the Tea House in Hope Gardens. For many of us, this trip to Hope Gardens brought back pleasant memories, even though some had difficulty in finding the Tea House. Mrs. Patricia Thompson, a registered nutritionist with special interest in dietary management of obesity and the chronic disorders, addressed the group. Her talk was very well received, there was a lively question and answer session, and many members availed themselves of the opportunity to purchase copies of her "Caribbean Calorie Counter" which was on sale during the meeting. Did you know that for most women, a calorie intake of between 1,000 – 1,500 calories per day would result in a loss of about one (1) pound of body fat per week, and that a slice of hard dough bread contains about 145 calories, and a Jamaican patty contains 390? After the meeting, those attending had a vegetarian lunch at the restaurant. A first for some meat lovers!

As the year drew to a close, the Retired Members' Section hosted their Annual General Meeting and a Christmas Luncheon at the Morgan's Harbour Hotel, Port Royal on December 4 at 10.00 a.m. As expected all had a good time and in the spirit of Christmas many who came, brought along children's books which were donated to a children's home.

Special Libraries

Who will break the Seal?

Activities for Special Libraries Week 2004 culminated with a church Service at the Claremont Seventh Day Adventist Church in Highgate, St. Mary. In keeping with the theme for the week “Creating Information Currency” the preacher, Pauline Nicholas of Jamaicans for Justice Library used as her text Rev. 5:1-9. In this passage, the writer, John refers to the sealed Book in the right hand of Him who sat on the throne. The preacher asked the question “Who will break the Seal? She noted that Jesus Christ was the only person eligible to do so.

While there is no comparison between the work of Jesus and that of the information professional, the preacher concedes that within this knowledge economy, information professionals, such as special librarians, have the enviable role of facilitating the “breaking of the seal”. They do this by bringing their clients and the knowledge they seek together so that access can take place. She recommends constant retooling and retraining in order to be always prepared to serve clients in this evolving technological environment.

Records Management and Openness - Its Impact on Democracy

Stockholm, Sweden

August 28 – September 25

Submitted by Claudette Thomas

During August 29 to September 26, 2004, the wrier (Records & Information Manager of the Ministry of Water and Housing) participated in an international records management training programme in Stockholm, Sweden.

The Swedish International Development Cooperating Agency (SIDA) provided the funding in collaboration with the National Archive of Sweden (Riksarkivet) which hosted and conducted the training. This 4-week programme was extremely intense, and emphasized the importance of compliance with international standards, the development of

relevant legislations and guidelines and the consistency/commonality of procedures nation wide.

The National Archive of Sweden, one of the countries oldest public agencies, was inaugurated in the 17th century for the government’s record keeping. Presently it is directly responsible for the records of the agencies of central government and delegates to the regional archives supervision of records generated by regional or local authority. The Archive monitors and directs all ministries and government agencies to ensure compliance with records management practices/ procedures which conform to the various related legislations, international standards and local policies.

The Riksarkivet led a programme for efficient records management, at all levels, throughout the country even at the municipal level as was observed while on a visit to Taby, a municipality of Vaxholm. This national Records Management focus contributes to the clearly defined career-path that exists, thus making allowances for advancement even to the professorship level and lends recognition to the profession at highest level.

Coupled with the establishment of the Riksarkivet from as far back as in the late 1600’s, is the Freedom of the Press act (a statute similar to Jamaica’s Access to Information). It functions from the premise that there is a positive co-relation between democracy and public access to official information. It is believed in Sweden that openness enables citizens to participate more closely in the decision-making process and enhances the accountability and efficiency of public institutions. This is therefore an ideal environment in which one can learn, observe and test the concept of public access and citizen’s involvement in governance.

Yes, other vital lessons can be learned. Lessons such as access to public document means immediate access by anyone, whether Swede of

foreigner. Access is given without question – your name is not even requested. For example, on a visit to the Records Centre of the Foreign Ministry, we were allowed to review a database listing of all correspondences received by the Prime Minister on a daily basis. We randomly selected one and requested to see the item. Our request was not only promptly granted but we were issued copies of the letter in which the writer objected to the funding of training for Palestinian youth.

To a citizen of a developing country such as Jamaica this was admirable. Swedes boast that since 1686 they have maintained a unique church record system for the recording of all individuals and demographic changes. I was privileged to observe records of churches, photo, drawings, plans and demographic detail relating to various parishes.

Of a population of a little over 9 million over 90% of the people are literate, the prevalence of HIV is 0.18%. Another boast of theirs is that the country topped the 30 OECD countries in terms of published research works per capita and bettered Denmark, Finland, The Netherlands, Great Britain and the United States.

Violent crimes are almost non-existence. In a city of over 3 million people hardly are the law enforcement officers on the streets and neither are the sirens of emergency vehicle heard. Most Swedes with whom we came in contact were cordial, even-natured and open.

Aided by peace, neutrality and efficient records control for the whole 20th century, Sweden has achieved an enviable standard of living under a mixed system of high-tech capitalism and extensive welfare benefits. Jamaica can learn and adopt.

WORKING PARTIES

Education and Training (Chair, Professor Fay Durrant)

The working party continues work on the identification of capabilities and competencies

required for information personnel in the 21st century. This is to be an article for the LIAJA Bulletin.

Prof. Wendy Duff of the University of Toronto will give a talk on Electronic Records Management during her visit in the week beginning December 6, 2004.

Fundraising (Chair, Beverley Lashley)

The Party ably assisted other Working Parties in the selling of items. It worked with the Special Libraries Section to market tickets for the benefit performance of the musical *Moses* produced by Father Richard Ho-long. It also sold some copies of LIAJA Bulletin at the recent ACURIL Conference in Trinidad. The Party was also instrumental in obtaining sponsorship for the advertisement of the Annual General Meeting in the print media. In addition, it assisted with the distribution of tickets for the President's dinner.

For the future it is attempting a raffle as well as the selling of cotton shirts to the membership.

CONFERENCES

**Report On World Library and Information Congress
IFLA 70th General Conference and Council
August 22 - 27, 2004**

*Submitted by: Louise Foster 2004 Scholarship
Winner to the IFLA 70th General Conference
Rural Development Librarian
Manchester Parish Library*

The recently concluded World Library and Information Congress, 70th IFLA General Conference and Council held in Buenos Aires Argentina was for me a most memorable and rewarding experience. This was so especially because of the excellent opportunity it provided

for meeting and exchanging ideas and experiences with library professionals from around the world. It also created an important avenue for establishing relationships and forging linkages with various individuals and organisations involved in the provision and delivery of library and information services. Of significance was the special bond developed with fellow IFLA grantees who have already put systems in place to facilitate the sharing of information as well as expertise.

The fact that it was my first time attending an IFLA Conference and also my first visit to Argentina made the experience even more special. Worthy of note also was the warmth and friendliness of the Argentine people, which contributed significantly toward making my stay in Buenos Aires a pleasant one.

Venue

Buenos Aires was, in my opinion, a suitable location for hosting such a conference and I considered the conference facilities to be excellent. Generally, travel around Buenos Aires was fairly easy and there were choices in the mode of transportation. The taxi service, in particular, was very good and quite affordable.

Programme

A most interesting and varied programme of activities was organised. There were so many sessions in which I had an interest that it was sometimes difficult to choose between those which ran concurrently. I found the Newcomers session to be quite informative and enlightening. The Opening and Closing sessions, the Opening Party and the Cultural Evening were events which undoubtedly entailed much planning and organisation. The National Organising Committee and the various groups and individuals involved in staging these events certainly rose to the occasion in accomplishing what was, evidently, a mammoth task.

The city tour and library visits were among the activities I enjoyed most. I had the opportunity of visiting a number of suburb libraries and museums as well as taking a most delightful boat cruise along the canals of the Parana River Delta. I was particularly impressed with the warmth and hospitality of the staff and other

officials of the various libraries which hosted us, especially members of the Buenos Aires Province Popular Libraries Federation, Tigre who guided us on these visits and provided us with transportation and refreshment.

Conclusion

The 2004 World Library and Information Congress, IFLA 70th General Congress and council is now history but the experience of being one of its participants has impacted me not only professionally but also intellectually and socially. The meaningful exchange of ideas and experiences as well as the establishment of relationships that this facilitated can only redound to the benefit of the profession and ultimately the improvement of the service we offer.

ACURIL XXXII LOCAL ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

ACURIL XXXII

The CD-ROM of the papers presented at the conference has been completed and is being distributed to those who attended the conference and to libraries in Jamaica and in the region. Library copies can be requested from the Dept of Library and Information Studies. dilis@uwimona.edu.jm Phone 927-2944, Fax 970-4903

Congratulations

Academic Achievements

B.A. Library & Information Science

Miss Kishma Simpson -	} First Class Honours
Miss Susanne Williams	
Miss Nadia Parkes	
Miss Lorness Fulcott	
Miss Heidee Wilson	

} JLS

B.Sc. Management Studies

Miss Maria Thomas – JLS

B. Sc. Accounting (major), Management Studies (minor)

George Mcgregor – UWI Library

B.A. Library and Information Studies (major), Education (minor)

Allison Walder – UWI Library

Retirements

Ms. Stephney Ferguson retired from the University of the West Indies at the end of September 2004 after eleven years of dedicated service. Her career at the University began in 1993 when she was appointed Head of the Department of Library and Information Studies (formerly Department of Library Studies). In 1997 she assumed the positions of Campus and University Librarian.

Mr. Keith Roswell of the Library Bindery and Miss Yvonne Josephs of the Medical Branch Library have also retired.

Farewell

The UWI Library said farewell to Mr. Messieurs Manton Grant and Mark Wynter who resigned.

Awards

Ms Stephney Ferguson, former University/Campus Librarian, Mona and Dr. Margaret Rouse-Jones, University Librarian and Campus Librarian, St. Augustine, each received the Vice Chancellor's Award for Excellence for 2003.

Mr. Nicholas Graham received the Award for the Best Second Year Student with the Most Outstanding Performance in Library & Information Science.

Miss Kishma Simpson received the Dorothy Collings Prize for the Most Outstanding Performance at Level III (Undergraduate) in

Library & Information Science for the academic year 2003/2004.

New Arrivals

Baby Jenelle was born on July 6, 2004, to an elated Mr. Mark Anthony Green, Director of Information Technology, Jamaica Library Service.

Much to her delight, Miss Juen Campbell, of Jamaica Library Service Headquarters, gave birth on July 13, 2004 to a baby girl, whom she named Jade.