



# — ANNUAL — REPORT

2019 - 2020

*"Celebrating Our Past... Influencing the Future"*



# 2019 - 2020

**ANNUAL REPORT:  
REPORT TO THE  
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING  
OF THE LIBRARY AND INFORMATION  
ASSOCIATION OF JAMAICA**

*"Celebrating the Past... Influencing the Future"*

**FEBRUARY 2019 - JANUARY 2020**

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## Mission of the Association

Our mission is to:

- ✚ provide leadership in the development of information professionals;
- ✚ facilitate capacity building, excellence in service-delivery and advocacy for key stakeholders; and,
- ✚ promote lifelong learning, knowledge creation and facilitate access to information.

## Purpose of the Association

- ✚ To unite all persons engaged or interested in library and information work in Jamaica and to provide opportunities for their meeting to discuss matters related to library and information work.
- ✚ To encourage co-operation between institutions engaged in library and information work throughout Jamaica and to promote their active development and maintenance.
- ✚ To promote a high standard of education and training for staff in such institutions.
- ✚ To engage in activities that will improve the status of staff in these institutions.
- ✚ To promote a wider knowledge of library and information work and to facilitate the formation of an educated public opinion on such work.

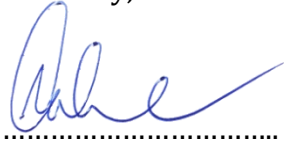
## Acknowledgements

I assumed the position of President to lead this noble Association for the second consecutive year with a great sense of pride and humility. I am grateful for the confidence placed by the membership to entrust me with the responsibility of leading the Association into a new decade. I am also extremely grateful for the well wishes, the advice, the support of all and particularly the team I was given the charge to lead. I must commend the members of the Executive team who took on the responsibility of leading the Sections, Working Parties, Sub-Committees and institutions as without their commitment and tenacity we would not have been able to close the chapter of another decade in fine style.

I am incredibly humbled by this journey that we have been on for the past two years which has afforded us the opportunity to become totally submerged in the affairs of the Association to gain a true understanding of this movement that we have been tasked to lead. As we honour our past pioneers and their accomplishments and look to the future and what it holds for us as professionals I can't help but imagine the struggles that they faced in pursuit of the establishment of this Association. We therefore cannot afford to take anything for granted, as the fruits that many of us now enjoy, is because we stand on the shoulders of those that have paved the way for us.

As we look to the future, a new decade and the year 2030 and all that it promises, we must ensure that we cease to be spectators and ensure that we always occupy a space of prominence in the national conversations. It is no secret that any modern society worth its salt must recognize the role that knowledge plays in the development of the country. As such we must remain relentless in ensuring that our voices are always heard, as we continue to remind the policy makers and administrators that we are and will continue to be a force to be reckoned with at the end of this decade and beyond. To all our members, I say thank you for your support and contribution in the various ways that you have touched our lives, as without you this journey would have been futile. We are and will forever be in your debt.

Sincerely,



.....  
President

## Introduction

As we close out yet another chapter in our history, we must express our sincerest gratitude to the individuals, institutions and groups that have lent their support for this administrative year. We began this period in anticipation of celebrating the anniversary year under the theme: ***Celebrating the Past... Influencing the Future***. The success of this year therefore will be measured against four variables: Advocacy, Fundraising, Membership and Training and Development of members.

I am honoured that based on the efforts of the team, we were able to accomplish much within the period of time that we were together. Our visibility and advocacy efforts were strengthened immensely; we were able to train Information Professionals from the four corners of Jamaica and the total revenue from membership for the period realized an overall increase. Our fundraising efforts however yet again, was far less than anticipated as we were without a Chair for a significant part of the year. While we are thankful for some gains that were made we will remain committed and hopeful that the plans for the property will come to fruition at some point in the near future.

We must also continue to recognize our international partner International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA) that has continued to be supportive of Jamaica and by extension LIAJA's efforts. There is much more on the horizon as we are now thrust in the spotlight as regional and international agencies see us as a viable partner to achieving mutual goals. We were able to assemble a team of committed and dedicated individuals who had the drive and energy to see the vision and make it plain. The major accomplishments for the period will therefore be highlighted in the next section.



# Highlights from 2019

## Annual General Meeting and Luncheon and Awards Ceremony

On February 15, 2019, over 94 members gathered at the Alhambra Inn for the Annual General Meeting, Luncheon and Awards Ceremony. This attendance in our 70<sup>th</sup> year was quite encouraging as it represented an increase of twenty three percent (23%) over the numbers for the previous year. Members were able to be briefed on the activities of the past year and also the upcoming plans for the anniversary year. They also got the opportunity to participate in the electoral process for the incoming Executive who are represented below:

### Officers

<b><i>President</i></b>	Mr. Nicholas Graham
<b><i>Immediate Past President</i></b>	Mrs. Jollette Russell
<b><i>1<sup>st</sup> Vice President</i></b>	Mrs. Christina Stewart-Fullerton
<b><i>Honorary Treasurer</i></b>	Mr. Mark-Jeffrey Deans
<b><i>Honorary Secretary</i></b>	Miss Chantal Cousins

### Section Chairs

<b><i>Academic Libraries</i></b>	Mrs. Marsha Stewart-Crawford (Returned)
<b><i>Records Management</i></b>	Miss Juliet Fuller
<b><i>Retired</i></b>	Mrs. Leona Bobb-Semple
<b><i>Schools</i></b>	Dr. Ruth Baker-Gardner (Returned)
<b><i>Special Libraries</i></b>	Miss Leleka Johnson (Returned)

### Institutional Representatives

<b><i>DLIS/Library Training Institutions</i></b>	Mr. Mark-Jeffery Deans
<b><i>National Library of Jamaica</i></b>	Mrs. Monique Forgie-Scott
<b><i>Jamaica Library Service</i></b>	Mrs. Keisha Walton

## **Floor Members**

The following persons were nominated from the floor:

Mrs. Kerry-Ann Rodney-Wellington

Mr. Delroy Harris

Mrs. Ana Peralta-Almira

Mr. Joseph Kerr

Miss Susan Haye

## **Members of the 2019/2010 Executive**



## **Executive Meetings**

The meetings of the Association were held on the second Friday of each month. There were a few occasions that based on circumstances beyond our control meetings were not held on the designated Friday, but were deferred to a subsequent date in the month. We express deep gratitude to the entities that provided us with a space to host our meetings for the year, these include:

March 9, 2018	Science and Engineering Branch Library Conference Room, University of the West Indies, Mona
April 12, 2019	Department of Library and Information Studies Seminar Room, University of the West Indies, Mona
June 14, 2019	Department of Library and Information Studies Seminar Room, University of the West Indies, Mona
September 13, 2019	University of the West Indies, Main Library, Multifunctional Room
November 8, 2019	University of the Commonwealth Caribbean
January 10, 2020	Jamaica Library Service, Staff Library

### **Online Meetings**

May 10, 2019

July 19, 2019

December 20, 2019

### **Regular Meetings**








Unfortunately, only one meeting was held for the year. Attempts were made to have the meeting in June, however, because of low registration and a lack of a quorum, this had to be postponed. Another attempt was made at convening the meeting in July, however the result was the same as there was still the lack of a quorum. As such, the only Regular Meeting for the year was held at the Calvin McKain Library, University of Technology, Jamaica on November 29, 2019. At this meeting over 40 persons were in attendance and in the end, it turned out to be a huge success. A highlight of this meeting was a farmer's market which was initiated by the Fundraising Chair, Miss Thelma White, as the items were funded by her and all proceeds donated to the Association's coffers.

## Special General Meeting

The Special General Meeting was held on the same day as the Regular Meeting, November 29, 2019 and was convened specifically to deal with matters related to the amendments to the constitution and the selection of the LIAJA Board. Several amendments that were made by the Constitution Sub-Committee chaired by Mrs. Winsome Hudson, were presented to the membership who accepted and made further modifications to the constitution. The next step is for the Sub-Committee to review the document and resubmit to the President for ratification at another Special General Meeting.

The meeting was also advised that at the last selection process for the LIAJA Board in 2016, there was a breach of the guidelines from the Companies Office of Jamaica Act. This was because it only gave the membership the power to elect the Board of Directors, but not to elect a Board Chairman. That decision rests with the Board of Directors to elect their Chairman. The membership voted to retain Mr. David Drysdale, University Librarian, University of Technology, Jamaica, Mrs. Odean Cole Phoenix, Documentation and Information Manager, Planning Institute of Jamaica and Miss Myrna Douglas, Librarian, Faculty of Law, University of the West Indies, Mona en bloc for another term as Directors of the Board.

## The 2019/2020 Executive T.E.A.M

 <p>Nicholas Graham, President</p>	 <p>Christina Stewart-Fullerton, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President and Chair, Research &amp; Publications Working Party</p>	 <p>Mark-Jeffery Deans, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President, Honorary Treasurer and DLIS/LTI Rep</p>	 <p>Chantal Cousins, Honorary Secretary</p>	 <p>Jollette Russell, Immediate Past President</p>
 <p>Marsha Crawford, Chair, Academic Section</p>	 <p>Juliet Fuller, Chair, Records and Archives Management Section</p>	 <p>Leona Bobb-Semple, Chair, Retired Librarians Section</p>	 <p>Ruth Baker-Gardner, Chair, Schools Section</p>	 <p>Leleka Johnson, Chair, Special Libraries Section</p>
 <p>Joseph Kerr, Chair, Education and Training WP</p>	 <p>Kerry-Ann Rodney-Wellington, Chair Information Technology Working Party</p>	 <p>Denise Hunter, Chair, Membership and Conditions of Service Working Party</p>	 <p>Monique Forgie-Scott, Chair, Public Relations Working Party, National Library of Jamaica Representative</p>	 <p>Thelma White, Chair, Fundraising Working Party</p>
 <p>Ana Peralta-Almira, Assistant Secretary</p>	 <p>Jessica Lewis, Chair, 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Sub-Committee</p>		 <p>Keisha Walton, Jamaica Library Service Representative</p>	 <p>Debbie Smith, Chair, Awards Sub-Committee</p>

## Library and Information Week 2019

Library and Information Week 2019 was a huge success, as various organizations undertook initiatives to celebrate and showcase their achievements. The week was celebrated October 27 – November 2, 2019. Below is an overview of the activities that were done for the period:

- ✚ National Library of Jamaica – Visit to First Missionary Church Basic School – October 28
- ✚ Customer Appreciation Day - Calvin McKain Library, University of the West Indies, Jamaica – October 28
- ✚ Unlocking Caribbean Memory, 1<sup>st</sup> Symposium on Archives and Records, Department of Library and Information Studies, UWI Mona, held at UWI Regional Headquarters, October 29 – 31
- ✚ Launch of Self Check Machine – University of Technology, Jamaica, October 29
- ✚ Distinguished Lecture Series in Archives and Records – Professor Donna Hope, UWI, Regional Headquarters, October 30
- ✚ Customer Appreciation Day – Northern Caribbean University
- ✚ Library and Information Professionals’ Day, October 31
- ✚ Gleaner Supplement 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Edition, October 31
  - University of Technology, Jamaica
  - National Library of Jamaica
  - Jamaica Library Service
  - UWI, Main Library
  - Jamaica Archives and Records Department
  - HEART Trust NTA
  - The Mico University
  - Department of Library and Information Studies, UWI, Mona

## Continued partnership with IFLA



At the end of 2019, the Association was a paid-up member of IFLA and was therefore entitled to all the benefits afforded to members. As such, the President was invited to attend two meetings and a workshop in Buenos Aires, Argentina, May 22-24, 2019. The first meeting was the Forum of Ministers and Secretaries of Culture of Latin America and the Caribbean which was held on May 22, 2019. The Minister of Culture, Gender, Entertainment and Sport, Hon. Olivia Grange, had accepted the invitation, but was unable to attend, but had asked Miss Beverley Lashley, National Librarian to attend in her absence. Since Jamaica was in attendance at this meeting, I was also invited to be a part of this meeting. At the end of this meeting, thirteen countries including Jamaica signed the Buenos Aires Declaration which affirmed their commitment to the continuous development of libraries in the region.



The IFLA President's Meeting was held on May 23 in the Museum of Fine Art in the city of Buenos Aires, Argentina and was a collaborative event with the Library of Congress of the Argentine Nation. Under the theme 'Motors of Change: Libraries and Sustainable Development', participants took part in a series of interactive discussions with the authors behind the 2019 Development and Access to Information Report and others. The overarching goal was to reflect on all the ways in which libraries make development happen, and how we can realize this potential across the region.



On May 24 the first ever workshop on Strategies for Stronger Libraries was also held and explored IFLA's new Strategic Framework, and helped to identify actions that could demonstrate the power of a united library field. This was a new initiative for IFLA, and was launched in Latin America and the Caribbean.



## ACURIL 2021, Jamaica

At the ACURIL General Assembly in Aruba in 2019, the Library and Information Association of Jamaica was nominated and elected to represent the category of Associations in the ACURIL Council. This was another step towards Jamaica hosting ACURIL in 2021. The President was unable to attend the first Council Meeting in Aruba, but was in attendance at the mid-year meeting which was held in Tampa, Florida, December 5-6, 2019. At this meeting the plans for the conference in Jamaica as it relates to the venue were presented to the Council members who were very enthusiastic about the conference being held in Kingston, Jamaica. The President elect for 2021, Ms Anne Pajard of Martinique also

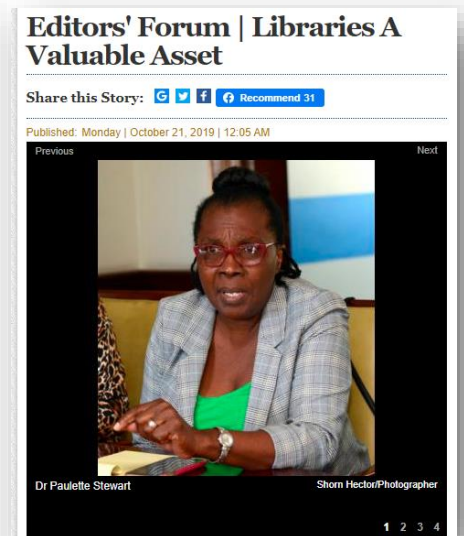


presented the theme and programme for the conference which was ***“Resilience: Creation, Playing and Wellbeing to Face Crisis, Improving Caribbean Libraries, Archives and Museums to become best Third Spaces.”*** The sub-themes for the Conference are below:

- ✚ Resilience, Bibliotherapy: Libraries are Good for You
- ✚ Game and Gamification: Playing and Using Game Processes
- ✚ Creative Space-making: New Concepts to Foster Individual and Collective Imagination and Creativity
- ✚ Professional Evolution and Partnership to Face Challenges

## Increased Visibility and Advocacy

The year saw the Association enjoying increased visibility, as a total of seven articles were published in the print and online media which represented an increase in coverage over previous years. These articles included a letter to the Editor by the President, the handover of vouchers valuing \$25,000.00 to fire victim, Rickayla Scotland, as well as five articles that emanated from the Gleaner Editor's Forum on Thursday October 17, 2019, at the office of the Gleaner on North Street. A few of the articles are listed below:



## Training and development

The year also saw an increase in the number of workshops being held as well as the number of Information Professionals being trained, as we continued the thrust of ensuring the continuous training and development of our Information Professionals. For the period, a total of five (5) workshops were undertaken by different Sections and Working Parties resulting in a total of 226 Informational professionals being trained. The themes for the workshops and the number of attendees for each is presented below:

- ✚ June 7, 2019, ***The Transformational Leader: Inspiring People, Building Great Teams***, University the West Indies Multifunctional Room, 20 participants
- ✚ June 21, 2019, ***Managing Records***, Montego Bay Community College, 85 participants
- ✚ October 23, 2019, ***Managing School Records: Best Practices and Legal Implications***, Joyce Robinson Hall, Kingston and St. Andrew Parish Library, 35 participants
- ✚ October 24, 2019, ***Research Skills to Support the New Curriculum Part II***, Joyce Robinson Hall, Kingston and St. Andrew Parish Library, 32 participants
- ✚ January 31, 2020, ***Managing Records***, Cecil Charlton Hall, Manchester Parish Library, 54 participants

Based on the trends identified, we will continue to pursue training and development initiatives for our members and will focus on Teacher Librarians and Records Management practitioners since that seems to be our niche audience. While we will continue to offer these training initiatives in the corporate area, we have seen that there is a dire need for these initiatives to be done in other parts of the island to include western and central Jamaica. We are also eternally grateful to all our presenters who assisted tremendously in making these workshops a tremendous success.

# Reports from Sections

## Academic Libraries

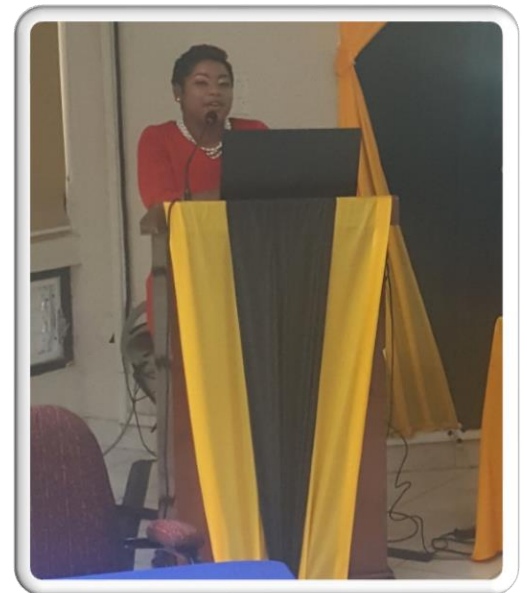
*Submitted by: Marsha Crawford, Chair, Academic Libraries Section*

### **Introduction**

The year 2019 saw the chair Marsha Crawford, Academic Libraries Section continuing to experience similar challenges as in the previous year, where the engagement of members for the section proved to be futile.

The following initiatives were proposed for the year:

- ✚ April –June - Workshop on Transformational Leadership for Academic Librarians
- ✚ Meet with CCCJ and COLINET Librarians regarding matter of structured Information Literacy Course within member institutions
- ✚ July – September - Workshop on Writing Scholarly Articles
- ✚ Use of social media apps for promotion of each Academic Library -services, events etc.
- ✚ October- December - Standardization of College Librarians Salary Package



Most of the proposed initiatives did not materialize based on various challenges. The following however came to fruition:

Transformational Leadership Workshop which was held on June 7, 2019 at the University the West Indies Multifunctional Room. The theme was *“The Transformational Leader: Inspiring People, Building Great Teams.”* The facilitator was Dr. Saseeka Harris, Head of the Science & Engineering Branch Library, UWI.

### **TURNITIN Consortium**

This initiative has finally come to fruition with the Council of Community Colleges of Jamaica eventually being the consortia umbrella group. The cost to subscribe to this software application is now significantly less than it was previously.

### ***Conclusion***

The Academic Libraries Section continues to face many challenges; we will however persevere until our professionals become an active part of same. It must be noted that some of the initiatives did not follow through due to a prolonged period of illness of the chair.

## **Records and Archives Management**

*Submitted by: Juliet Fuller, Chair, Records and Archives Management Section*

### **Introduction**

The year for the Records and Archives Management/ RAM section was one filled with a few challenges. Several initiatives that were expected to be undertaken by the section were not completed due to issues beyond my control. However, the section managed to complete one major event which was a collaborative effort in the form of a workshop with the Schools Library Section.

### **Records Management Workshop**

The Records and Archives Management/RAM and Schools Libraries section collaborated and conducted a workshop on October 23, 2019 at the Kingston and St. Andrew Parish Library. The theme for the workshop was “*Managing School Records: Best Practices and Legal Implications*” the presenters for the two sessions were Mrs. Claudette Thomas (Government Archivist) and Dr. Kaydene Duffus (Records and Information Consultant). The feedback from participants at

workshop was that the content, structure and delivery was very good, as for the suggestions persons stated that the workshop should have been delivered over two days as the content was a lot and they found it beneficial.

There has been a lot of requests as well as needs expressed by persons wanting more workshops from the RAM section. As such the section is currently developing a timetable of workshops, seminars both online and face-to-face, webinars and the possibility of blogs to support the needs requested. The section will also be actively collaborating with more sections in LIAJA to undertake some of these activities.

### **Participants at the RAM 2019 workshop**



### **Membership**

A major challenge that confronts the RAM section is in recruiting members that are serious and willing to serve the section. The chair has engaged persons that are working in records and archives to be aligned with the professional body that supports their profession. Consequently, a few persons have pledged to become members of the Association. Another challenge that cripples the section from moving forward is the willingness by members to engage in meetings whether online or face-to-face. As such I have expressed an interest in collaborating between the Membership and Conditions of Service Working Party to address this issue.

## LIAJA Records

The records inventory that was to be completed in February 2019 by the previous Chair is still incomplete. As such I had dialogue with Dr. Kaydene Duffus as to an expected date of completion or the way forward to complete the exercise. It is anticipated that this process will be complete in the next Executive year.

## Retired Librarians

No report submitted.

## School Libraries

*Submitted by: Ruth Baker-Gardner, Chair, Schools Section*

### THE EXECUTIVE

Miss Debbie Smith, Teacher-Librarian at the Half Way Tree Primary was reassigned to serve on the LIAJA Executive.

Chair	Dr. Ruth Baker-Gardner (DLIS, The UWI)
Vice Chair	Ana-Kay Lobban (Ardenne High)
Secretary	Shawna Dewar (Cedar Grove High)
PRO	Faithlyn Reader (Edith Dalton James)
Treasurer	Cynthia Hewitt (Kingston College)
Ass. Treasurer	Charlene Riley(Yallahs Primary)
Info. Technology	Monique Batchelor (Central High)

Compared to other years, 2019 was a quiet year for the section. Two workshops were held and school libraries participated in Library and Information Week.

## **WORKSHOPS**

This year, due to a number of reasons, the section was not able to host its planned three workshops. Instead, two workshops were held for the period. These were held on consecutive days (October 23 and 24, 2019) at the Joyce Robinson Hall at the Kingston and St. Andrew Parish Library.

The first workshop was a collaboration between the School and the Records and Archives Management Sections. The theme of the workshop was *Managing School Records: Best Practices and Legal Implications*. The target group was administrative assistants from schools at the primary and secondary levels. Presenters were Dr. Kaydene Duffus (Records and Management Consultant, Office of the Prime Minister; Deputy Registrar, University of the Commonwealth Caribbean) and Mrs. Claudette Thomas (Government Archivist). A total of thirty-five persons attended including principals, vice principals, senior teachers and administrative assistants.

The second workshop was for school librarians. The theme was *Research Skills to Support the New Curriculum Part II*. The presenter was Dr. Cherrell Shelley-Robinson. The attendance at this workshop was thirty two persons, the lowest in the past five years. Upon investigation it was discovered that School Librarians were not informed of the workshop by the principals. The practice for previous workshops was for the Ministry of Education to send the circular to the schools while the Section sent it to the librarians.

The Section is expecting to continue the partnership with the RAM Section for additional workshops this year. The topics of these workshops are to be decided after discussions with the team.

## **PLANNING SESSION**

No planning session was held this past year. However, the team will meet on Friday July 10, 2020 to plan activities for the academic year 2020 – 2021.



## **PARTICIPATION IN LIBRARY WEEK ACTIVITIES**

School libraries across the island participated in Library and Information Week activities. A circular was sent to the schools through the Ministry of Education which presented a list of suggested activities and these were well received.

### **Special Libraries**

*Submitted by: Leleka Johnson, Chair, Special Libraries Section*

The Chair would like to use this opportunity to say a huge thank you to the LIAJA Executive Committee for the support once again. For yet another year the elected members for the Special Libraries Executive did not take up the mantle to serve because of various reasons. The activities and functions of the section were left on the Chair with the support of the LIAJA Executive Committee.

The lack of participation from Special Libraries within LIAJA is still a major concern and needs to be addressed as soon as possible. The Chair collated a list with all the Special Libraries within Jamaica with contact information, however there is still no support from these individuals.

The section did not celebrate Special Libraries week this year, however, several Special Libraries like The Planning Institute of Jamaica (PIOJ), Urban Development Corporation (UDC) and National Environment and Planning Agency (NEPA) to name a few had activities at their libraries along with displays.

It is my wish that for the 2020-2021 period the Special Librarians of the Special Libraries in Jamaica will step up and support the Library and Information Association of Jamaica.

# Reports of Working Parties

## Education & Training

*Submitted by: Joseph Kerr, Chair, Education and Training Working Party*

### INTRODUCTION

At the commencement of the Administrative year, we were guided by the following strategic imperatives:

- 1. The promotion of lifelong learning, knowledge creation and professional development;*
- 2. The staging of at least 2 sessions relating to current trends and issues in Library and Information;*
- 3. Ensuring that one workshop covers either Constitutional Review (LIAJA) or Chairmanship and Basic Parliamentary Procedures (Meeting management);*
- 4. Collaboration with training institutions and groups;*
- 5. Provide links to library-related webinars.*

### MATTERS COMPLETED

#### 1. COMMITTEE

The initial working committee named at the start of the Administrative year had to be amended, some members did not fulfil their commitments. It should also be noted that some who previously indicated an interest to serve, later signalled they no longer wanted to be involved. New members were sought, and the relevant changes made. For the reporting period, a total of nine meetings (face-to-face and on-line) were held.

#### 2. MISSION

In keeping with the Mission of the Working party, **“To develop a training programme to address the training needs of the membership”**. A membership engagement survey was developed and circulated. However, the feedback was less than expected.

### 3. WORKSHOPS

Based on the continuous requests, the decision was taken to focus on the area of Records Management, coined “**Managing Records**”.

The first workshop was primarily geared for Western Jamaica and was implemented on Friday, June 21, 2019. The main objective of the Workshop was to guide functionaries in the management of records, and how to carry out their duties in a knowledgeable way with the intention of reducing possible risks associated with litigation, fraud, safety and security breaches.

The main presenter was Mrs. Donna LynFatt, Quality Assurance Officer at the Montego Bay Community College, she covered the areas of safety, security and conforming to regulations.

Other presenters were:

1. College Librarian, Mrs Marsha Crawford who presented on the different formats of storage;
2. Internal Auditor, Mr. Shane Gordon who spoke on compliance in relation to Governmental regulations (**GOJ**);
3. Joseph Kerr, Westmoreland Campus Librarian presented on the importance and benefit of Managing Records.

#### REGISTRATION/PARTICIPATION/FINANCE

Initially, the committee targeted thirty-five (35) participants, and ended up with eighty-five (85). Participants came from the Parishes of St. Ann, Trelawny, St. James, Hanover, Westmoreland and St. Elizabeth. HEART Trust NTA led the way with 19 participants. From the attendees, two has so far signed up for LIAJA membership.

The Montego Bay Community College’s Workforce Development Conference Room was the venue used. This came about as a result of a “trade-off” with the institution via Principal, Dr Maureen Nelson. In return the College was awarded complementary registration for five (5) staff members. The Accounting and IT Departments provided registration and technical support. The workshop had an income of \$214,000.00, while expenditure was \$143,130.00. Thus, reflecting a surplus of \$70,870.00.

### 4. LIBRARY RELATED WEBINARS.

Information on two Library 2.0 webinars was circulated to the general membership.

## **MATTERS IN PROGRESS**

### **1. WORKSHOPS**

Plans are far advanced for the 2<sup>nd</sup> leg of the Managing Records Workshop to be implemented in Central Jamaica. This is scheduled for Friday, January 31<sup>st</sup> at the Cecil Charlton Hall, Mandeville, Manchester. It will be a collaborative effort with the Membership and Conditions of Service Working Party.

The planning committee is aiming for forty (40) participants. The target audience: Administrators, Secretaries, Clerical Assistants, Library, Accounting, Registry and Human Resources Personnel. The committee will be utilizing the same presenters that were used for the Western Jamaica leg.

Plans are afoot for the Eastern Jamaica leg of Managing Records Workshop to be implemented May/June 2020.

## **PROBLEMS ENCOUNTERED**

1. Initial committee members failed to follow through on their commitments;
2. Impacted by serious transportation issues in the latter part of the administration.

## **CONCLUSION**

Even though the Workshop proposed for December 2019 in Eastern Jamaica did not materialise, I must publicly thank my colleague Ms. Tamara McCrae from the St. Joseph Teachers' College who assisted as it relates to the identification of a venue and quotation for meals.

To the Library support staff of MBCC (Ms Kimone Frazer, Mrs. Tomeca Jones & Ms Roxanne Morris) and Mr Yannick Haughton of the IT Department who provided technical support and captured the day's activity on camera a big thank you. Appreciation to Mr. Davian Grant from the UTech Western Jamaica Campus who was instrumental in getting HEART Trust NTA participants on board.

Thanks to the members of the working committee, without their support I am positive the Education and Training Working Party would not have had the successes it did. Special commendation and appreciation to my LIAJA colleague Denise Hunter chair of the Membership and Conditions of Service Working Party for the collaborative effort in staging the Central Jamaica leg of the Workshop.

Heartfelt gratitude to LIAJA for affording me the opportunity to serve as chair for the Education and Training Working Party, it was indeed a pleasure. The experience gained was invaluable, the camaraderie within the Association has no doubt enhanced my professional development.

## **Fund Raising**

*Submitted by: Nicholas Graham on behalf of Thelma White, Chair, Fundraising Working Party*

This Working Party experienced challenges for the greater part of the year due to a lack of representation which subsequently led to a resignation. As such, a new Chair had to be co-opted and Miss Thelma White accepted the charge of leading this Working Party albeit late in the year. She managed to implement a farmer's market initiative at the Regular Meeting held in November which was funded totally from her purse and the proceeds donated to the Association's coffers.

## **Information Technology**

*Submitted by: Kerry-Ann Rodney-Wellington, Chair, Information Technology Working Party*

The Information Technology Working Party's (ITWP) strategic priority for 2019/2020 was a continuation of the previous year. This was to have the Association's webpage redesigned and published. During the period HBJamaica was engaged to design and host the site. In order to accomplish this the University of the West Indies' Mona Information Technology Services Unit was asked to execute a domain name server change. This action was completed on January 8, 2020 and will ensure the successful launch of the website by HBJamaica for the beginning of the LIAJA year 2020/2021.

The ITWP's major collaborative partners during the reporting period were the Executive body and the Public Relations Working Party. The following contributions were made:

- ✚ Design of the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary logo. The original artwork resides with the executive.
- ✚ Design of the Association's 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary letterhead.
- ✚ Design of the Association's e-Christmas cards
- ✚ Photographs were also taken of some members of the Executive

The ITWP aims to collaborate more with the sections and working parties to make LIAJA achieve the "Destination 2030: Libraries Enabling National Development" goal.

## Membership & Conditions of Service

*Submitted by: Denise Hunter, Chair, Membership and Conditions of Service Working Party*

### Committee Members:

Denise Hunter (Chairperson)

Dionne Smith

Genevieve Jones-Edman

Adele Merritt-Bernard

Hirfa Morrison

Samantha Porter

Chantelle Richardson

Marsha-Gaye Robinson

Nicoleen Saunders-Grant

### Three major objectives for the year were:

- ✚ Negotiate at least one new benefit for members
- ✚ Plan one social activity for entire membership
- ✚ Work in collaboration with Education and Training Working Party to plan and execute one free professional development workshop for paid-up members

An initial meeting was held via Skype to plan activities for the year. Follow-up correspondences were done through emails.

**Objective one:** *Negotiate at least one new benefit for members*

*The committee successfully negotiated one new benefit for members.*

Ten letters were emailed to organizations inviting them to partner with the Association. After follow-up calls and negotiations, one company responded favorably. The Book Merchant agreed to give a 10% discount to members.

**Objective two:** *Plan one social activity for entire membership*

After brainstorming, the committee decided on YS Falls in St. Elizabeth and for the activity to take place in July. There were some negating factors however and it was felt it was not the best time to have a social. These include several persons would be off on vacation and the low responses to other correspondences that were circulated by the Association.

**Objective three** - *Work in collaboration with Education and Training Working Party to plan and execute one free professional development workshop for paid-up members*

The committee proposed topics were, *My Vision Board* and *Proposal Writing*. Although the date and presenters were secured for the presentations, due to a lack of sponsorship the free workshop did not materialize. However, the committee collaborated with the Education and Training committee for a Management Records Workshop to be held on January 31, 2020. Activities included sending letters to schools and other institutions in and around Manchester and making contact with the caterer and Parish Library in preparation for the activity.

***Membership Renewal***

An email was sent to the general membership reminding them to renew their membership. Follow-up emails were sent to individual members.

A total of 131 members renewed their membership and six new members joined the Association. In addition, there are six Honorary Members. The various categories are as follows:

<b>Paid Membership Categories</b>	<b>Total 2020</b>	<b>Total 2019</b>
<b>Personal</b>	71	79
<b>Institutional</b>	23	15
<b>Retired</b>	33	33
<b>Students</b>	8	24
<b>Associate</b>	1	1
<b>Corresponding</b>	1	1

- ✚ New members were added to the database and a welcome letter sent.
- ✚ An updated membership list was sent to the membership.
- ✚ Special invitation letters were sent to HEART librarians. The responses were not as favorable even after follow-up calls.

I take the opportunity to thank committee members for their suggestions, input and involvement. One challenge the committee faced was the lack of funds to initiate and carry out activities for its members. I am suggesting that consideration be made on how the committees can be funded without each one having to raise funds to carry out its activities.

## Public Relations

*Submitted by: Monique Forgie-Scott, Chair, Public Relations Working Party*

### Introduction

For the year 2019-20, the PRWP set out to increase the visibility of the Association as well as raise the profile of the profession and that of library and information units in Jamaica. The Party continued to circulate notices and announcements regarding meetings, training and employment opportunities and so on.

A few plans were made but never executed due to the lack of a committee and funding. Despite this however, there were some major achievements/activities for 2019.

### LIAJA In the Media

#### Presentation of Gift Vouchers

Four (4) Kingston Bookshop gift vouchers valuing \$25,000.00 were presented to 8-year-old Rickayla Scotland after her school supplies were destroyed in a fire which gutted her house on Orange Street, Kingston. A press release of the voucher presentation was sent to the media and was published in the Observer on June 17, 2019 titled, ***Observer story sparks help for young fire victim.***





Access to the article is available online at:

[http://www.jamaicaobserver.com/news/observer-story-sparks-help-for-young-fire-victim\\_167644?profile=1373](http://www.jamaicaobserver.com/news/observer-story-sparks-help-for-young-fire-victim_167644?profile=1373)

### Letter to the Gleaner Editor

In response to the government's recent proposal to extend the period of exemption of Cabinet documents from 20 to 70 years under the Access to Information (ATI) Act, President, Nicholas Graham commented on the issue in a letter to the Editor. The article was published on October 7, 2019 titled, *Don't deny access to information*. Access to the article is available online at:

<http://jamaica-gleaner.com/article/letters/20191007/dont-deny-access-information>

### Courtesy Calls to Honorary Members

Courtesy calls were scheduled for our six (6) Honorary Members to show our appreciation for their contribution to LIAJA in celebration of the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Members of the Executive made the courtesy calls and to offer a small token of our appreciation. Members of the Executive visited Professor Daphne Douglas and presented her with a token for her 95th birthday in September 2019. The



same was also done for Dr. Hazel Bennett for her 95th birthday in January 2020. We also visited Mrs. Beatrice Anderson and presented her with her gift also in January 2020. The visits to the other

members, Miss Stephney Ferguson, Mrs. Norma Kpodo and Mrs. Albertina Jefferson, is to be scheduled.

The Honorary Members expressed appreciation for our gesture, engaged us in conversations about LIAJA then and now, and gave us encouraging parting words.



## Research and Publications

*Submitted by: Christina Stewart-Fullerton, Chair, Research and Publications Working Party*

### Mission & Objective

Promote research and information sharing initiatives that allow library and information practitioners, researchers, and managers to create, innovate, deliberate, investigate, predict, and study information trends and issues to encourage and support further research and innovations in the field for all stakeholders.

Members of the Research and Publication working party for 2019 were

Christina Stewart-Fullerton  
Yulande Lindsay  
Jessica Lewis  
Ana Peralta  
Malinda Lowther

The working party for the year 2019 decided to have one publication to reflect the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Association. In conjunction with the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary committee, it was decided that the publication should take the form of a magazine reflecting the theme **“Celebrating the past: Influencing the future”**. This would be an electronic document published using the ISSUU platform <https://issuu.com/>.

A call for submission of articles, reflections and remembrances was sent to members via the LIAJA e-mail group. The magazine would be hosted on the redesigned website of the Association. It was agreed that the publication would be made available for February 2020 the slated launch of the website.

# Reports of Sub-Committees

## Advocacy

*Submitted by: Nicholas Graham, Advocacy Sub-Committee*

Even though this sub-committee did not have a chair for the most part, the advocacy program was continuous. Based on the combined efforts of the executive, the Association's presence was felt in the media at varying periods throughout the year. The President wrote letters to the Editor on topics of national importance that affected libraries as well a total of 5 articles were published in the week preceding Library and Information Week, all affirming the importance and relevance of Libraries and Information Units. Some snapshots of the publications are below:

### Editors' Forum | Libraries Still Relevant

Share this Story: [G](#) [T](#) [F](#) [Recomm](#) 77

Published: Sunday | October 20, 2019 | 12:11 AM | Nadine Wilson-Harris - Staff Reporter




Shorn Hector

David Drysdale, librarian at the University of Technology, addresses a Gleaner Editors' Forum while Kishma Simpson, director, Public Library Network, Jamaica Library Service, looks on.

### Editors' Forum | Foreigners Travelling Thousands Of Miles To Use Local Libraries - More Persons Logging On To Online Services As Technology Boosts Access

Share this Story: [G](#) [T](#) [F](#) [Recomm](#) 28


Published: Monday | October 21, 2019 | 12:05 AM | Andre Williams/Staff Reporter



### Observer story sparks help for young fire victim

Monday, June 17, 2019 | 1 comment

Like 0 Share Tweet




President of the LIAJA Nicholas Graham (left) makes a presentation to Rickayla Scotland, while her mother Rushelle Scotland (second right) and LIAJA executive Monique Forgie-Scott, look on

### Editors' Forum | Libraries A Valuable Asset

Share this Story: [G](#) [T](#) [F](#) [Recomm](#) 31

Published: Monday | October 21, 2019 | 12:05 AM



Dr Paulette Stewart

Shorn Hector/Photographer

## Awards

*Submitted by: Debbie Smith, Chair, Awards Sub-Committee*

This year the Awards Sub-committee saw the resignation the Chair- person Joan McDermott. We thank her for her years of service and contributions to the LIAJA and the LIAJA Executive. The call for new Awards Chair was taken up by Miss Debbie Smith, Teacher –Librarian at the Half Way Tree Primary School.

### **Sponsorship**

Gaining sponsorship for the awards on offer proved most challenging. This is so, as the sub-committee had to source new sponsors for its awards as previous sponsors expressed an inability to continue their sponsorship. The following entities have partnered with us and have provided sponsorship for the awards on offer this year: The University of Technology, Jamaica Teacher’s Association Co-op Credit Union, EduCom Co-op Credit Union, TIP Friendly Society, Sheldon’s Auto Parts and Rorey Baker of One Pop Studio.

### **2020 Awards**

In light of the challenges with gaining sponsorship the Executive has agreed to offer four awards for this year. We have retained two of the previously offered awards and added two new awards. They are as listed below.

#### **1. Library and Information Professional Award for Excellence**

#### **2. School Librarianship**

We retained the School Librarianship Award as we sought to acknowledge their efforts as Teacher-Librarians:

- i. Serve as the first introduction to the Information profession as a Career path for students
- ii. Provide invaluable service in creating information literate citizens and
- iii. Contribute significantly to the coffers of LIAJA.

### **New Awards:**

#### **3. Internship Award.**

This is to be awarded to the most outstanding student of the Department of Library and Information Studies within Library training institutions. The award will recognize a new

information professional's outstanding performance during the internship experience. This award is geared towards:

(A). Encouraging (new) membership within the Association among new/prospective information professionals and

(B). Encouraging excellence throughout the training process.

#### **4. Outstanding Library and Information Week Initiative**

This award is intended to acknowledge all information unit types (teacher-librarian and Information Unit / University) for conceptualizing and implementing a Library Week programme/initiative which embodies the year's theme while raising the profile of libraries and information units.

##### Award Type

Plaque in recognition of an Outstanding Library and Information Week Initiative.

One award will be given for the winning Information Unit.

This award was conceptualized with a view to:

- i. Encourage information units to celebrate Jamaica's Libraries and Information Professionals Week
- ii. Ensure through its entrants that LIAJA would have documentation/ a record of best practices within the information profession.

#### **Issues with Previous Awards Nomination Process**

It was indicated to the Sub-Committee that members interested in the awards found the nomination process tedious and off putting. As such the Chair along with the Executive sought to make adjustments. A review of the document was undertaken and the conclusion was made to allow the document to remain unchanged. It was the Executive's belief that the requirements within the document ensures that the integrity of the award is maintained and gives adjudicators the ability to make a balanced selection of a winner.

## **Building and Property Development**

*Submitted by: Nicholas Graham, on behalf of David Drysdale, Chair, Building and Property Development Sub-Committee*

The year proved to be tumultuous for the plans to develop the property, as they were instances of great expectations which eventually did not materialise into anything substantial. As was discussed in the AGM, 2019, discussions were held with the National Land Agency regarding them utilizing the land for parking purposes and this seemed promising at first, as the representative was very enthusiastic about the possibilities, since the agency had a dire need for parking. Discussions were held and measurements were taken by the NLA with a view of making an offer for rental of the space to be used for parking for their staff. However, months later, a decision was still pending as management had concerns regarding staff safety as it pertained to parking in that location and having to walk from the parking lot to the building. Consequently, no further discussions were held on the matter.

Attempts were also made regarding the clearing of the land and the erection of the wall to the rear of the property and the repairs to the fence. However, we were unable to have the infrastructural work completed as each time a meeting was arranged with the contractor to detail the work to be done, it did not materialize.

Additionally, we have been engaged by other parties interested in using the land as a parking lot, or to purchase the property, hence the use of the term tumultuous. It is anticipated that concrete plans, pun intended, will be put in place in the new administrative year to determine the way forward as it relates to the property.

## **Constitution Review**

*Submitted by: Nicholas Graham on behalf of Winsome Hudson, Chair, Constitution Review Sub-Committee*

The recommendations that were made for the amendments to the constitution were tabled at a Special General Meeting of the Association on November 29, 2019 at the University of Technology, Jamaica. Unfortunately the process was not complete, however much work was done to ratify the suggested amendments. The next step is for the accepted changes at that meeting to be forwarded to the Chair for further consultation with the committee and the modification of some areas based on recommendations of the membership. It is

anticipated that this process will be completed at the next Regular Meeting for the new Executive year.

## Functions

This sub-committee remained without a chair for the year as members on the Executive were called upon at various points to assist in carrying out this function. It is hoped that for the upcoming year this vacancy will be filled.

## 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

*Submitted by: Jessica Lewis, Chair, 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Sub-Committee*

The Library and Information Association of Jamaica (LIAJA), formerly the Jamaica Library Association (JLA) had its inaugural meeting at the St. Catherine Parish Library on July 14, 1949. This year we began to celebrate 70 years of outreach, leadership and engagement with the library and information science community and beyond under the theme **“Celebrating the Past... Influencing the Future.”** For the celebrations of the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary the focus was on quality rather than quantity, and as such was designed to have a long-lasting impact reflecting the true spirit of the Library and Information profession. Based on our resource constraints, while we tried to execute more activities, some did not come to fruition because of a lack of funding. In the end we were still able to ensure that our impact was felt for the first half of the anniversary year which will run from July 14, 2019 – July 13, 2020. The activities completed and to come are below:

- ✚ Design of 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary logo
- ✚ 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Church Service, July 14, 2019, Hope United Church, Kingston – attended by over 30 members
- ✚ Gleaner Editor’s Forum, October 17, 2019 – 5 articles published from discussions with members of the LIAJA membership to include: Nicholas Graham, President, David Drysdale, University Librarian, Utech, Jamaica, Claudette Thomas, Government Archivist, Jamaica Archives and Records Department, Paulette Thomas, Head, Department of Library and Information Studies, UWI, Mona, Kishma Simpson, Acting Senior Director, Jamaica Library Service and Kaysia Halstead Brown, Senior Records Management Analyst, Jamaica Archives and Records Department



- ✚ Redesign of the LIAJA website to include ecommerce
- ✚ Legacy postage stamps to commemorate the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Association (to be completed by July 2020)

The five (5) articles appearing in the Gleaner are linked below:

October 20 - ***Libraries still relevant*** available online at: <http://jamaica-gleaner.com/article/lead-stories/20191020/editors-forum-libraries-still-relevant>

October 20 - ***Document danger - upcoming generations might never access documents deemed worthless*** available online at: <http://jamaica-gleaner.com/article/lead-stories/20191020/editors-forum-document-danger-upcoming-generations-might-never-access>

October 21 - ***Foreigners travelling thousands of miles to use local libraries - more persons logging on to online services as technology boosts access*** available online at: <http://jamaica-gleaner.com/article/lead-stories/20191021/editors-forum-foreigners-travelling-thousands-miles-use-local>

October 21 - ***Libraries a valuable asset*** available online at: <http://jamaica-gleaner.com/article/lead-stories/20191021/editors-forum-libraries-valuable-asset>

October 25 - ***Security measures ward off vandals, libraries say*** available online at: <http://jamaica-gleaner.com/article/news/20191025/security-measures-ward-book-vandals-libraries-say>

# Reports from Institutions

## DLIS/Library Training Institutions

*Submitted by: Mark-Jeffery Deans, Chair, DLIS/LTI*

### EXCELSIOR COMMUNITY COLLEGE (ECC)

The Associate Degree Programme for the Department of Library Education was successfully re-accredited by the University Council of Jamaica.

The Department of Library Education continues to support the graduates in finding jobs, as a total of 95% of the graduates have been employed in libraries.

### DEPARTMENT OF LIBRARY AND INFORMATION STUDIES (DLIS)

The Department of Library and Information Studies Summer Institute 2019 was successful. The Institute had a record number of 90 participants over three days. The presenters were Eric Kokke- Marketing and Communications Manager at the School for Information, Netherlands, Cheryl Ann Peltier-Davis, Faculty Liaison Librarian-Social Sciences, UWI, St. Augustine and Dr. Stanley H. Griffin, Lecturer, Archival Studies, UWI, Mona.





The Department of Library and Information Studies also held its 7th staging of the Department's Annual Research Forum. The forum was held on Thursday, February 7, 2019 and the keynote speaker was Professor Anthony Clayton of the Institute of Sustainable Development, UWI, Mona. The Department welcomed Professor Clayton's wealth of knowledge and experience on issues related to the Forum's theme "Legal and Ethical Issues in Information Security: Integrity in the Information Environment." The forum also provided a platform for the Department's Lecturers and students to make presentations on current research being done in the area of library and information studies.

*Group picture of presenters: From far left; Dr. Paulette Stewart, Dr. Rosemarie Heath and Mrs. Kerry Rodney-Wellington. From far right, Dr. Yan Wu, Dr. Paulette Kerr and Dr. Ruth Baker-Gardner*

On Tuesday, May 16, 2019, the DLIS presented the findings from a University of the West Indies (UWI) research grant funded study titled: "Media and Information Literacy Levels at the Exit Stages of the Education System in Jamaican Schools: A Survey." The function was hosted by the DLIS on the Montego Bay Campus and saw in attendance, members of the Department and Students.



The Department of Library and Information Studies held its first symposium on Archives and Records Management at the Mona Campus of The University of the West Indies on the 29th to the 31st of October 2019. The Symposium was a collaborative effort of the Department of Library and Information studies, UWI, Mona and the Caribbean Branch of the International Council on (Archives CARBICA). It was the first Assembly focused on records and archives of the Caribbean since the Watershed, September 1965 Caribbean archives Conference. It acknowledged the academic accomplishments of the Department's first graduating cohort in the teaching faculty of the Master of Arts in Archives and Records

Management program. The symposium also celebrated the launch of the edited text “Decolonizing the Caribbean Record: an Archives Reader.



## Jamaica Library Service

*Submitted by: Keisha Walton, JLS Representative*

### 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Jamaica Library Service

#### Long Service Awards

The Jamaica Library Service (JLS) concluded the year-long celebration of its 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary under the theme: *Celebrating the Journey...Shaping the Future*, with a Long Service Awards Ceremony on April 24, 2019 at the Caymanas Golf & Country Club. Forty-four (44) staff members were presented with awards in three (3) categories named after former Directors of the JLS as follows:

- Twenty five (25) employees who served between 25 to 29 years were recognized for their **Faithful Service** and presented with **the Gloria Salmon Award**.
- Thirteen (13) employees who served between 30 to 34 years were recognized for their **Unwavering Service** and presented with **the Sybil Iton Award**.

- The **Leila Thomas Award** was presented to five (5) employees who served 35 to 39 years and who were recognized for their **Invaluable Service**.
- The **Joyce Robinson Award for Lifetime Service** was presented to Miss Audrey Minott who served for forty years.



*Miss Audrey Minott, Senior Librarian, Clarendon Parish Library Joyce Robinson Lifetime Service Awardee*



*The Gloria Salmon Awardees*



*The Sybil Iton Awardees*



*The Leila Thomas Awardees*

The longest serving member of staff in each category was also recognized. The Library and Information Association (LIAJA) sponsored a gift certificate for a member of staff from the St. Catherine Parish Library in recognition of the first meeting of the Association being held at that library.

## **Programmes & Services**

### **National Reading Competition 2019**

The 2019 season of the National Reading Competition (NRC) was successfully staged under the theme – **Get into the Reading Habit!**. There were 3,700 participants including over 300 persons who registered online islandwide.

### ***New Initiative! –National Reading Competition***

A new initiative for the National Reading Competition, ***Authors Live...Conversation with H. E. Palmer*** was held on June 20, 2019 at the Manchester Parish Library. The event was held in partnership with Pelican Publishers, publisher of the book, “The Measure of a Dad” which was one of the titles used in the Competition.

The event received great reviews and publicity including social media. The aim of the initiative was to encourage reading, highlight books used in the National Reading Competition; provide participants with the opportunity to engage with the authors and support local publishers.



*Moderator Mr. Mical Forsythe, host of The Drive on NCU FM Radio, skillfully conversed with H.E. Palmer to explore the author's early life, career as a writer, his motivators, relationship with his father and his publications.*

A second staging of *Authors Live...* was held on Tuesday, July 30, 2019 at 10:00 a.m. at the St. James Parish Library. The event featured the book "Murder in Montego Bay" written by Jamaican author **Paula Lennon**. This title was used in the 21 and over age group of the 2019 NRC.



*Author Paula Lennon (pictured center) fully engaged the audience*



*Audience participating in the conversations at both events.*



The NRC culminated with the National Quiz Finals on August 22, 2019 in the studio of Television Jamaica Limited (TVJ). Five Parish Champions emerged as National Champions as follows:

- **6-8 National Champions**  
Travis Michael –Anthony Kerr 7 years old - St. James Parish Library
- **9-11 National Champion**  
Natajia Newton, St. James, 11 years old – St. James Parish Library
- **12-14 National Champion**  
Jo’Anna Hill, 12 years old - St. James Parish Library
- **15-20 National Champion**  
Kaliesha Gager, Trelawny Parish Library
- **21 and Over Champion**  
Sanikia Powell-Morgan, Manchester Parish Library



*National Champions pictured from left to right, Sanikia Powell-Morgan, Natajia Newton, Travis Michael-Anthon Kerr, Jo’Anna Hill and Kaliesha Gager*

The five National Champions were recognized at the National Reading Competition Awards Ceremony held on Friday, August 23, 2019 at 12:00 noon at the Jamaica Pegasus Hotel.

The 6-8 National Champion, Travis Kerr who was awarded the sectional prize for best letter was presented a cash award and **trophy courtesy of the Library and Information Association of Jamaica.**





*Mr. Nicholas Graham, President of the Library and Information Association of Jamaica presents cash award and trophy courtesy of LIAJA to Travis Kerr, 6-8 National Champion*

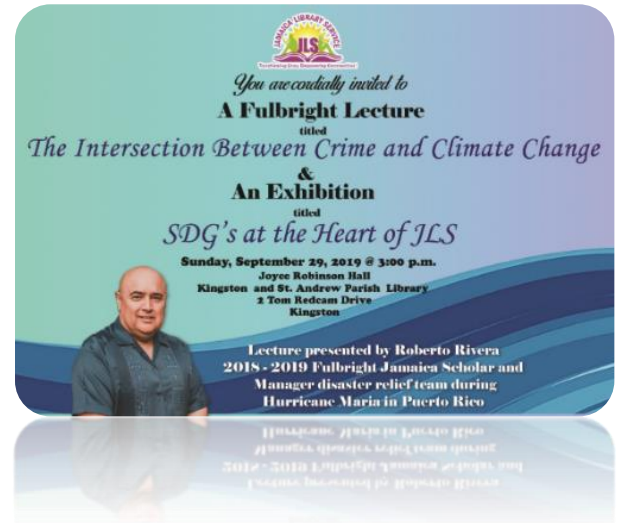
**A Courtesy Call on the Prime Minister, The Most Honourable Andrew Holness ON, MP was made on September 4, 2019.**



*Prime Minister, the Most Hon. Andrew Holness ON, MP (centre) is flanked by the five National Champions chaperoned by Miss Maureen Thompson, Director General, Jamaica Library Service (far right) and Miss Kishma Simpson, Senior Director (far left)*

## Fulbright Lecture and Launch of Digital Exhibition

The Jamaica Library Service Digital Exhibition entitled *“SDGs at the Heart of JLS”* was launched on Sunday, September 29, 2019 at the Joyce Robinson Hall, Kingston and St. Andrew Parish Library. The Digital Exhibition was a 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary initiative which highlighted the JLS programmes and services that contributed to six of the 17 United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The exhibit is accessible via the JLS website or at <https://jls70.omeka.net/>. The event included a Fulbright lecture entitled *“The Intersection between Crime and Climate Change”* delivered by Fulbright Jamaica Scholar Roberto Rivera.



## Memorandum of Understanding

### Early Literacy Resources Database and Jamaican-Authored Children’s Books

The Jamaica Library Service in partnership with EduConnectJA, launched the Early Literacy Resources Database and Jamaican authored children’s books in October 2019. The database contains over 100 early grade reading resources created under the USAID/LAC Reads Capacity Program. The resources are accessible through the JLS OPAC



at <https://catalogue.jls.gov.jm> and videos of the launch events may be viewed on the JLS Facebook Page.

The launch at the Kingston and St. Andrew Parish Library highlighted the inclusion of the deaf community and the blind as beneficiaries of the Early Literacy Database and Jamaican-Authored Children’s Books. A student from the Danny Williams School for the Deaf, signed the children’s book *I am Special* (pictured above).

### **Signing of Memorandum of Understanding between Jamaica Library Service and NTUKUMA, The Storytelling Foundation of Jamaica**

The Jamaica Library Service signalled its ongoing partnership with NTUKUMA, The Storytelling Foundation of Jamaica with the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding on Wednesday, November 13, 2019 to establish storytelling clubs in parish libraries.

This agreement will strengthen the partnership between NTUKUMA and the JLS in raising the profile of storytelling and enhancing the work towards achieving an Authentic and Transformational Culture critical to the success of Vision 2030 and contributing to Sustainable Development Goal # 11 “by adopting measures to promote, protect and safeguard tangible and intangible cultural and natural heritage.”

**National Storytelling Day** was observed in public libraries islandwide on Wednesday, November 20, 2019 under the theme “*Stories for Dignity and Identity*”. The Day was dedicated to the Honourable Dr. Louise Bennett-Coverley ‘Miss Lou’ in recognition of the centenary of her birth.

*Storyteller entertains an enthralled audience on National Storytelling Day 2019 at the Manchester Parish Library*



## National Library of Jamaica

*Submitted by: Monique Forgie-Scott, NLJ Representative*

It has been quite a very active year for the National Library of Jamaica (NLJ). Outlined below are some of the highlights of the Library's activities.

### **40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebrations**

The NLJ hosted two of its signature events: the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Distinguished Lecture, held on Sunday, March 3, 2019 and its World Poetry Day, Jamaica Celebration, held on Thursday, March 21, 2019. Both events were held at the Knutsford Court Hotel.

#### **✚ Distinguished Lecture Series – March 3, 2019**

Debate was lively among participants of a heavy-weight panel discussion on Jamaica's ongoing 'crime problem' at the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary NLJ Distinguished Lecture. The well-attended event featured a lecture by Professor Deborah Thomas, Professor of Anthropology at the University of Pennsylvania. Thomas' talk, ***Memory, Archive and the Price of Forgetting*** addressed the importance of the collections of the National Library of Jamaica for learning from the events of the past. The lecture was followed by a panel discussion with Commissioner of Police, Major General Antony Anderson; Director of Public Prosecutions, Paula Llewellyn; and columnist and Pastor, Rev. Dr. Devon Dick. Veteran journalist and attorney, Dionne Jackson Miller, served as moderator and led the panel through questions submitted by members of the audience. After the close of programme, several persons expressed the need for similar forums for open discussion on national issues.

#### **✚ World Poetry Day, Jamaica Celebration – March 21**

Thursday, March 21, 2019 marked the second staging of World Poetry Day, Jamaica. The event was a celebration of poetry featuring readings by Senator the Hon. Pearnel Charles Jr., Minister of State in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade, members of the diplomatic corps, as well as participants of the Poet Laureate of Jamaica's *All Flowers Are Roses: Poetry and Self-Defence Series*. Amra Miller, Ramona Mortley, and Priyanka Paharsingh proudly performed their original poetry to rousing applause from the audience. The programme culminated with the awarding of three new prizes for poetry: The Edward Baugh Prize – awarded to Delroy McGregor, the Michael Cooke Prize – awarded to Kaleb D'Aguilar, and the Lousie Bennett Coverley Prize which saw a tie between Sadé Young and Christopher Allen. Each prize included a cash award of US\$1000. Lisa-Gaye Taylor and Rohan Facey received certificates for Honourable Mention.

### ✚ **40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Church Service – April 7, 2019**

This was held at Mona Church of the Ascension, Daisy Avenue, Mona Heights. While the Library Community did not give full support the Church Members provided a memorable anniversary church service.



### ✚ **Outside Broadcast- Nationwide News Network – At your Service with Vernan Derby April 23, 2019**

Former Directors and National Librarian recounted their time at the NLJ. Testimonials of researchers who used the NLJ to advance their academic, research and professional lives; and current staff and users shared in the legacy and worth of one of Jamaica’s most treasured collection. Other persons interviewed were the President of the Book Industry Association, Mrs. Latoya Blackwood-West and the Executive Director of the Jamaica Intellectual Property Office (JIPO) Mrs. Lilyclaire Bellamy as April 23, 2019 was celebrated as World Book and Copyright Day.

### **GOJ/PCJ Energy Champion Competition**

NLJ came 2<sup>nd</sup> in **Division 3 of the GOJ/PCJ Energy Champion Competition**. The Energy Champion Awards Ceremony was held on March 20, 2019 at the Jamaica Pegasus Hotel. The NLJ received a trophy and Ja\$1.5 million dollars’ worth of energy saving equipment



### **Handover of the Q Award – March 21, 2019**

Handover ceremony of the Q Awards and the private screening of “Rude Boy: The Story of Trojan” was held at the Jamaica Pegasus Hotel on March 21, 2019. Mr. Anthony “ Chips”

Richards” handed the award to Minister Grange on behalf of Trojan Records, UK. The award will be housed at the NLJ.

### ***Old Stories and New Voices: Kingston Creative Artwalk***

On Sunday, April 28, 2019, the NLJ hosted an event as a stop on Kingston Creative’s Artwalk for April. The focus of this month’s artwalk was literature. The afternoon’s programme included readings from our 2019 Poet Laureate of Jamaica Poetry Prize Winners, Christopher Allen (winner of the 2019 Louise Bennett Coverley Prize for Poetry); Khadijah Chin (winner of the 2019 Helen Zell Prize for Poetry);



and Kaleb D’Aguilar (winner of the 2019 Michael Cooke Prize for Poetry). Special exhibitions and selected material of interest (including historical maps of Kingston) were on display. After the programme, participants went on a 'Behind the Scenes' Tour of the Preservation and Conservation Branch.



The event was well attended; attracting approximately 100 persons. Visitors had many questions and many expressed that they ‘had no idea’ about the various activities carried out by the NLJ.

Mrs. Nicole Prawl spoke to the gathering about the work of the Preservation and Conservation Branch. She and Mr. David Mohammed led tours to that Branch. Ms. Abigail Henry gave an overview of the NLJ’s special programmes and the work of the Poet Laureate of Jamaica programme before introducing the poets.

### **Chevening Scholar**

In August, Chantelle Richardson, Librarian and former LIAJA Secretary was one of 19 persons awarded the prestigious Chevening Scholarship. Chantelle will be pursuing a year

research-based fellowship at The British Library on ‘Digitised Archival Material from Latin America and the Caribbean’

### **Legal Deposit Month 2019**

The NLJ celebrated 15 years of Legal deposit in Jamaica during the month of October. To mark the milestone we had three main activities, namely, launch of legal deposit month which featured a panel discussion; a free writer’s and publishers’ seminar; and Lyrical Fuzion which featured performances from authors/publishers, artistes, dancers and so on.

### **Library and Information Week 2019**

The NLJ conducted a reading session with the Hortense Salmon Early Childhood Institution on Monday of the Week. A team-building exercise called pictorama was conducted in which groups of staff competed in fitting the pieces of puzzles together. For LIP Day, the librarians were treated to lunch and presented with gift baskets. The final activity took place on Friday which was Client Appreciation Day in which select patrons were presented with care packs.



## Reports from Associations

### Association of Caribbean University, Research and Institutional Libraries (ACURIL)



The 49<sup>th</sup> ACURIL Conference was held on June 2 - 6, 2019 in Aruba under the theme: ***“Access and Opportunities for All: Caribbean Libraries, Archives and Museums Supporting the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals”***. At the General Assembly of the conference the LIAJA was nominated and elected to the ACURIL Council to serve for a period of two years 2019 – 2021 in the category of Library Associations. The President, LIAJA was selected as the representative for the Association to the Council. Unfortunately, not attending the Conference, there was no representative of LIAJA at the first Council Meeting which was held after the conference. The mid-year meeting however, which was scheduled for December 5 – 6, in Tampa Florida saw the President in attendance. At this meeting the plans to host ACURIL in Jamaica was discussed, and the members of the Council were very impressed with the plans that were brought to their attention. They were also very enthusiastic about the venue of Kingston that would form the cultural backdrop for the proceedings. The proposed theme for the conference in 2021 will be ***“Resilience: Creation, Playing and Wellbeing to Face Crisis, Improving Caribbean Libraries, Archives and Museums to become best Third Spaces.”*** The Conference for this year will be in Nassau, Bahamas, June 7 – 11, celebrating its 50<sup>th</sup> year under the theme, ***“Design Thinking in Libraries, Archives and Museums: Revolutionizing the Way We Do Business.”***



## International Association of School Librarianship (IASL)



*Submitted by: Nicholas Graham on behalf of Dr Paulette Stewart*

### IASL Report 2019

The International Association of School Librarianship was held in Dubrovnik, Croatia on October 21-25, 2019 under the theme ***Convergence - Empowerment- Transformation: School Libraries***. Unfortunately, there were no participants from Jamaica, as there was no longer an embassy on the island which would mean traveling to the United States for a visa application which would prove to be too expensive. The conference for this year will be held in Denton, Texas, United States of America, June 8 – 12, 2020 under the theme ***“A Rich Tapestry of Practice and Research around the World.”***

## International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA)

*Submitted by: Nicholas Graham, President, LIAJA*



International Federation of  
Library Associations and Institutions

The relationship with IFLA continued, as the Association was a paid-up member for 2019 and as such entitled to all the benefits as a member of the International body. There was only one trip for this year that required the attendance of the President, however there were three activities that were very important that I was able to participate in. These meetings and a workshop were held in Buenos Aires, Argentina, May 22 – 24, 2019. The first meeting was the Forum of Ministers and Secretaries of Culture of Latin America and the Caribbean which was held on May 22, 2019. The Minister of Culture, Gender, Entertainment and Sport, Hon. Olivia Grange, had accepted the invitation, but was unable to attend, but had asked Miss Beverley Lashley, National Librarian to attend in her absence. Since Jamaica was in attendance at this meeting, I was also invited to be a part of this meeting. At the end of this meeting, thirteen countries including Jamaica signed the Buenos Aires Declaration which affirmed their commitment to the continuous development of libraries in the region.

The IFLA President's Meeting was held on May 23 in the Museum of Fine Art in the city of Buenos Aires, Argentina and was a collaborative event with the Library of Congress of the Argentine Nation. Under the theme 'Motors of Change: Libraries and Sustainable Development', participants took part in a series of interactive discussions with the authors behind the 2019 Development and Access to Information Report and others. The overarching goal was to reflect on all the ways in which libraries make development happen, and how we can



realize this potential across the region. With the agreement of the United Nations 2030 Agenda in 2015, the world's governments underlined the importance of access to information as a driver of development. The 2019 IFLA President's Meeting, explored how libraries, as guarantors of this access, can be motors of change, and saw a call to action to all participating, in person and online.

On May 24 the first ever workshop on Strategies for Stronger Libraries was also held and explored IFLA's new Strategic Framework, and helped to identify actions that could demonstrate the power of a united library field. This was a new initiative for IFLA, and was launched in Latin America and the Caribbean.



## Conclusion

As we reflect on the past year, one thing that is certain is that there is hope for the future. We are currently celebrating 70 years which is quite an achievement. We must continue to ensure that Libraries and Information Units occupy prominent seats at the table in order to realize the changes we want to see. There is no doubt the impact we have on the development on each person that walks through our doors and ultimately the development of Jamaica. I am confident that with the help of the stalwarts of the past, the current and future generations of Library and Information professionals once united, will continue to leave their mark on the information landscape.



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