

The background of the cover features a white, textured, circular pattern resembling a stylized sun or a ripple effect. Overlaid on this are several diamond-shaped photo cutouts. One diamond shows a group of people standing next to a large blue and white banner with the 'LIAJA' logo. Another diamond shows a group of people, including children, in a brightly lit room. A third diamond shows a group of women in formal attire standing on a red carpet. A fourth diamond shows two women smiling, one in an orange shirt and one in a blue shirt with the 'LIAJA' logo. A fifth diamond shows a man in a suit standing with three women in formal wear. The overall theme is community and professional association.

LIAJA
Library and Information Association of Jamaica

Library and Information Association of Jamaica
ANNUAL REPORT
2023 - 2024

Library and Information Association of Jamaica

P.O. Box 125, Kingston 5

www.liaja.org.jm

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MISSION OF THE ASSOCIATION

To provide leadership in the development and promotion of resources in the library, archives, records management and information sectors for the accomplishment of institutional mandates

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 form an educated public opinion on such work.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

It is my absolute pleasure to have this opportunity to extend my gratitude and acknowledgement to the entire membership of LIAJA for your support over the period February 2023 - January 2024. To serve a second term as your president, this administrative year has truly been my honour that is forever engraved in my memory. My reflection at the start of our journey together in 2022 was on the premise that the library and information profession is not a “mere flotsam and jetsam” in the information ecosystem. This idea has assumed a life of its own evidenced by the attitude, character, strength and collective courage through which the mandate of the Association was carried out in the face of challenging times. The tremendous work we do across this island Jamaica, and the high quality of service we continue to offer indicate that we hold pride of place in our society as purveyors of truth. A challenge that I can sincerely say we have met and continue to excel in with the passage of time. For this, I am truly grateful.

Members, heartfelt thanks for your personal and institutional commitment to making a difference in these unprecedented and challenging times. Your support and work made it possible to delve into new ways of managing the affairs of the Association. Certainly, your involvement and participation in the various activities throughout the year made it a most memorable experience. I acknowledge all your efforts; none was too small or insignificant and none was too large and out of place in helping this administration to provide leadership in the development and promotion of libraries, archives, records centres and all information sectors for the accomplishment of the Association’s mandate.

Once again, I thank you for selecting me for this 2023 executive term and for all your continued guidance and support throughout the year.

Sincerely,

.....

Kerry-Ann Rodney-Wellington

President

Introduction

The 2023-2024 administrative year saw the Association embarking on several initiatives geared towards accomplishing its stated objectives: these objectives as stated are,

1. Strategically seeking to expand the knowledge and advocacy skills of members of the Association.
2. Maintaining already existing relationships with international library organizations
3. Actively engaging our members; seeking to provide new and innovative ways for training and development of staff in library institutions.
4. Moving forward in exploring new and profitable avenues for the continued financial sustainability of the Association.

The Association hosted the 53rd Association of Caribbean University, Research and Institution Libraries (ACURIL) conference under the theme “Innovation: Opportunities and Challenges in Libraries, Museum and Archives of the Caribbean” at The Pegasus Hotel from June 4-8, 2023. Additionally, the president was invited to bring greetings at the opening session of the 37th Annual Caribbean Association of Law Libraries (CARALL) Conference under the theme “Caribbean Law Libraries: Opportunities in Uncertain Times. This presented the opportunity for dialogue concerning collaboration between the two Associations. Of special note LIAJA was represented at the naming ceremony of the library of the University of the Commonwealth Caribbean, now named the ‘Aaron Matalon Library’.

For the year, we maintained our membership with our international partners, the Association of Caribbean University, Research and Institutional Libraries (ACURIL). Additionally, we had representation from members at the Association at the International Association of School Librarianship (IASL) Conference held in Rome, 2023.

We also had a few training and information sessions that were geared towards actively engaging our members; providing them with support while highlighting new and innovative ways for development within the profession. The major accomplishments for the period will therefore be emphasized in the next sections.

Highlights from 2023

Annual General Meeting

On February 10, 2023, 58 members attended the Annual General Meeting. The AGM was facilitated online via the Zoom platform and face to face at LT49, University of Technology, Jamaica, 237 Old Hope Road, Kgn. 6 . Members were briefed on the activities of the past year and also the upcoming plans for the new administrative year.

The 2023 Executive members are listed below:

Officers

President:	Mrs. Kerry-Ann Rodney-Wellington
Immediate Past President:	Mr. Mark-Jeffery Deans, JP
1 st Vice President/Treasurer:	Mr. Joseph Kerr, JP
2 nd Vice President	Mrs. Marsha Crawford
Honorary Secretary:	Ms. Natoyna Garwood

Section Chairs

Academic Libraries:	Mrs. Marsha Crawford
Records and Archives. Management:	Ms. Tracey-Ann Ricketts
Retired Members SIG:	Ms. Leona Bobb-Semple
Schools:	Dr. Ruth Baker-Gardner
Special Libraries:	Ms. Leleka Johnson

Institutional Representative

DLIS/ Education Institution Rep:	Mr. Mark-Jeffery Deans
JLS Representative:	Ms. Keisha Walton
NLJ Representative	Mrs Desaray Pivott-Nolan

Working Parties

Education and Training:	Mrs. Odean Cole-Phoenix
Fundraising:	Ms. Kadiesha Grant
Information Technology:	Mrs. Natalee Knight
Membership & Conditions of Services:	Mrs. Monique Forgie-Scott

Public Relations: Mrs. Nicoleen Saunders-Grant
Research and Publication: Dr. Sasekea Harris

Sub-Committees

Advocacy Mrs. Jessica Lewis-Marshall
Awards: Mrs. Odean Cole-Phoenix
Functions: Ms. Marsha Jack

Executive Meetings

Meetings of the Association were held on the second Friday of each month. All meetings of the Association for the year were held online via Zoom.

Regular Meetings

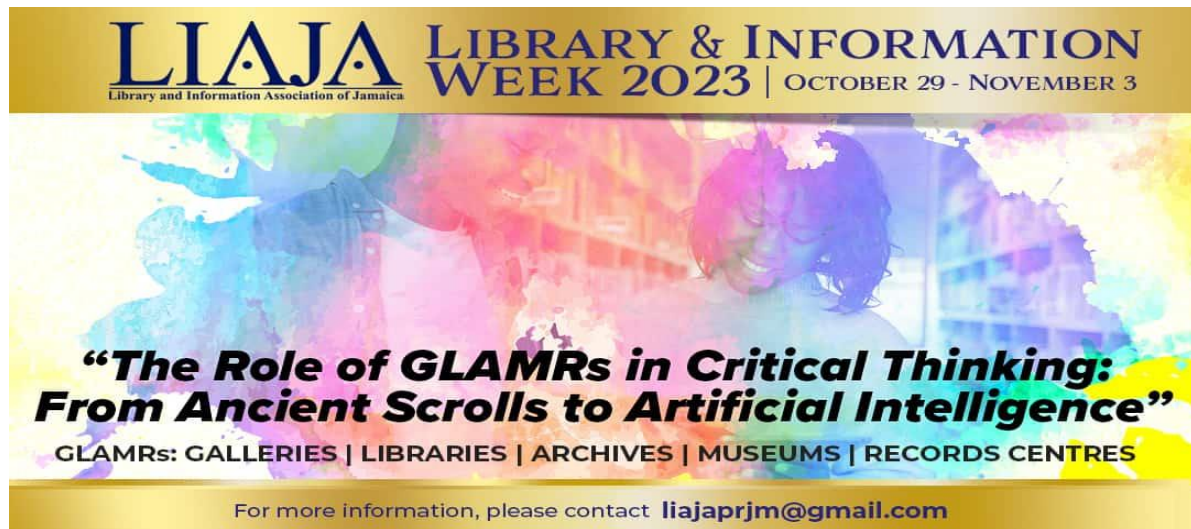
Two Regular Meetings were held for the year. They were both held via Zoom on July 7, 2023, and the second on November 24, 2023. The first meeting in July was preceded by a pre-meeting presentation on "Academic Integrity and ChatGPT" , by Dr Ruth baker-Gardener, Lecturer in the Department of Library and Information Studies, UWI, Mona and author of the book *Academic Integrity in the Caribbean: Plagiarism, Policies, Perception, Prevalence and Possible Solutions*. The second meeting was quite informative as we had two presenters Monique McIntosh, Marketing Specialist; and Micheal Dowling, Director, Chapter Relations Office and International Relations Office at the American Library Association. Both presenters expounded on the topic of librarians using social media as a marketing and advocacy tool professionally and as private individuals.

Board Meetings

The last meeting of the board was held on January 27, 2021. The Board of Directors Meeting was held via Zoom, this was chaired by Mr. David Drysdale, Chair and gave insight and made recommendations concerning:

- ✚ Building and Property Development Sub-Committee Chair
- ✚ Paying LIAJA Property tax
- ✚ Updating records at the Company's office

Library and Information Week 2022



Library and Information Week 2023 was a success, as various organizations undertook initiatives to celebrate and showcase their achievements. The week was celebrated from October 29 - November 3, 2023, under the **GLAM/Rs in Critical Thinking: From Ancient Scrolls (AS) to Artificial Intelligence (AI)**” The articles included in the supplement highlighted:

LIAJA’s support for IFLA’s promotion of GLAM/R; providing a strong and united GLAMR field powering literate, informed and participative societies..

LIAJA’s support for GLAM/R institutions embracing the responsibility to provide citizens with useful information, in order for them to make proper decisions concerning all areas of life; thus, contributing to improved outcomes across the SDGs and contributing to “promoting peace, ethics, transparency and good governance; Public access to information; Intellectual Property Rights”.

LIAJA’s support for the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) initiative “Promoting literacy for a world in transition: Building the foundation for sustainable and peaceful societies”

The Association thanks all those organizations/institutions which answered the call to contribute to the Gleaner Supplement on November 2, 2023. Your participation was paramount to the success of the supplement (Appendix 1). We invite and encourage all to join us in future publications.

2023 Gleaner Supplement Sponsors

- ✚ Jamaica Library Service
- ✚ Office of Utilities Regulation
- ✚ Department of Library and Information Studies, UWI, Mona
- ✚ The University of Technology, Calvin McKain Library

2023 Gleaner Supplement Contributors

- Dr. Sasekea Harris, UWI, Mona
- Dr. Ruth-Baker Gardener, DLIS, UWI
- Ms. Collen Mignott, OURic
- Kerry-Ann Rodney-Wellington, President, Calvin McKain Library UTech, Ja

FINANCIAL REPORT

Submitted by: Joseph Kerr, 1st Vice President/Honourary Treasurer

Matters Completed

1. *Membership*

The Association's membership as of January 24, 2024, was as follows: Personal fifty-eight (58), Institutional nineteen (19), Retirees sixteen (16) [including seven (7) Honorary], Students six (6), and Corresponding one (1). Kindly take note that despite numerous requests for membership to send an email or a WhatsApp message providing lodgement/transfer information we are still having challenges in identifying to names to be assigned to some online transactions.

2. *Dues Increase*

We note that the proposal from the Executive for the adoption of a new rate structure was presented and ratified at our last AGM (February 10, 2023), (**As per BYE-LAWS Section 2.1 and 2.2 of the Constitution**). This was the first increase in twelve years. Please see Figure 1 for breakdown.

3. *Finances*

Income and expenditure for the reporting period was **\$785,600.00** and **\$547,163.35** respectively, thus reflecting a surplus of **\$238,436.65**. Approximately **\$365,100.00** was generated from membership dues, while the additional income came from the following: The fundraising play \$291,000.00 (Surplus of \$66,000.00), and February's Annual General Meeting \$129,500.00 (Surplus of \$3,600.00). **Please see Figure 2 for Income and Expenditure Statement and Figure 3 for Bank Balances.**

Colleagues, for the reporting period we were able to pay two years' worth of back taxes for the properties located on Harbour Street (**75 - 218/62 and 77 - 1053/137**), in addition to fulfilling our commitments for the Jamaica Library Service Annual Reading Competition. We paid the 2023 membership dues to ACRUIL. We are working towards re-affiliation to the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (**IFLA**) by the middle of the new administration.

Matters In Progress

1. **Accounts Payables -**

We are indebted to the following:

- a. Companies Office of Jamaica - **\$75,000.00** for the period 2015 to 2021)
- b. International Federation of Library Professionals & Inst’ (IFLA) - **292 Euros**
- c. Joseph Kerr - **\$3,535.00** (Reimbursement for Receipt books and certified copies land titles)

Conclusion

Heartfelt gratitude to LIAJA for affording me the opportunity to serve. The experience gained was invaluable; the camaraderie within the Association has no doubt continued to enhance my personal and professional development. Sincere thanks to the Executive and our General membership for the support given. I therefore urge us “....do not fall prey to complacency....”. Instead, let us continue to move positively forward so we can have an enduring impact on our members, communities, fellow citizens, and the wider World.

Figure 1

Dues Increase effective February 10, 2023

	Categories	CURRENT	PERCENTAGE	ADDITIONAL	NEW RATES
1	Personal	\$2,500.00	40%	\$1,000.00	\$3,500.00
2	Institutional	\$5,000.00	100%	\$5,000.00	\$10,000.00
3	School	\$2,500.00	20%	\$500.00	\$3,000.00
4	Retired	\$1,000.00	0%	\$0.00	\$1,000.00
5	Student	\$600.00	66%	\$400.20	\$1,000.20
6	Associate	\$1,500.00	67%	\$1,000.50	\$2,500.50
7	Corresponding	\$50.00	0%	\$0.00	\$50.00
8	Honorary	\$0.00	0%	\$0.00	\$0.00
9	Sustaining	\$0.00	0%	\$0.00	\$0.00

Figure 2
Income and Expenditure

Library and Information Association of Jamaica													Income and Expenditure Statement For the Period Ending December 31, 2023	
	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	Dec/Jan 2024	YTD	
Revenue														
LIAIA AGM		\$121,500.00	\$4,000.00	\$4,000.00									\$129,500.00	
LIAIA AGM Booth Space													\$0.00	
LIAIA Luncheon													\$0.00	
LIAIA Luncheon Sponsored Tables													\$0.00	
Awards Ceremony (sponsorship)													\$0.00	
Regular & Special General													\$0.00	
Academic Section Workshop													\$0.00	
RAM Workshop													\$0.00	
Education and Training													\$0.00	
School Library Section Workshop													\$0.00	
Play								\$126,000.00	\$123,000.00	\$33,000.00	\$9,000.00		\$291,000.00	
Fund Raising Committee													\$0.00	
LIAIA Shirts													\$0.00	
Gleaner Supplement													\$0.00	
IFLA IAP													\$0.00	
Membership														
Full (3 paid for 2024)	50,500.00	42,500.00	21,500.00		4,000.00	6,000.00	3,500.00		1,000.00		3,500.00	24,500.00	\$157,000.00	
Institutional	25,000.00	105,000.00	15,000.00									40,000.00	\$185,000.00	
Retired (1 paid for 2024)	3,000.00	7,500.00										1,000.00	\$11,500.00	
School														
Associate														
Corresponding												6,800.00	\$6,800.00	
Student		\$1,800.00				1,000.00					1,000.00	1,000.00	\$4,800.00	
Gross Profit/Loss	\$78,500.00	\$156,800.00	\$36,500.00	\$0.00	\$4,000.00	\$7,000.00	\$3,500.00	\$126,000.00	\$124,000.00	\$5,100.00	\$13,500.00	\$73,300.00	\$785,600.00	
Operating Expenses														
LIAIA AGM (venue)		\$20,000.00											\$20,000.00	
LIAIA Coffee Break & Lunch		\$105,900.00											\$105,900.00	
Awards Ceremony													\$0.00	
Regular Meeting & Special General													\$0.00	
School Library Section Workshop													\$0.00	
School Library Awards/Book Voucher													\$0.00	
LIAIA Shirts													\$0.00	
Auditing Fees													\$0.00	
Library Week/Gleaner Supplement													\$0.00	
Audit Expenses	\$70,000.00												\$70,000.00	
Property Repair													\$0.00	
Property Tax										\$26,125.00			\$26,125.00	
RAM Workshop													\$0.00	
Academic Library Section Workshop													\$0.00	
Education and Training Workshop													\$0.00	
COJ Fees													\$0.00	
Letterbox Rental													\$0.00	
Executive Meeting													\$0.00	
JLS Reading Competition							\$16,718.88						\$16,718.88	
IFLA IAP Workshop													\$0.00	
IFLA Membership													\$0.00	
ACURIL						\$5,425.00							\$5,425.00	
ZOOM Technology													\$0.00	
Website Hosting (billed quarterly)													\$0.00	
Stamp Duty (NCB)		\$2,862.43											\$2,862.43	
Gleaner Supplement / BENEFIT PLAY							\$112,500.00		\$112,500.00				\$225,000.00	
Miscellaneous (Ecommerce Fee)	\$6,938.17	\$6,938.17	\$6,125.57	\$6,125.57	\$6,125.57	\$6,125.57	\$6,125.57	\$6,125.57	\$6,125.57	\$6,125.57	\$6,125.57	\$6,125.57	\$75,132.04	
Total Operating Expenses	\$76,938.17	\$128,762.43	\$6,125.57	\$6,125.57	\$6,125.57	\$11,550.57	\$135,344.45	\$6,125.57	\$118,625.57	\$32,250.57	\$6,125.57	\$6,125.57	\$547,163.35	
Net Income (Loss)	\$1,561.83	\$28,037.57	\$30,374.43	-\$6,125.57	-\$2,125.57	-\$4,550.57	-\$131,844.45	\$119,874.43	\$5,374.43	-\$27,150.57	\$7,374.43	\$67,174.43	\$238,436.65	

Figure 3
Bank Balance as at
January 24, 2024

	Institution	Currency	Amount	Account	As at:	Notation
1	NCB	Jamaican	\$348,893.28	# 23196488	Jan 24, 2024	Active
2	VMWealth	Jamaican	\$303,614.15		Oct 31, 2022	Cannot access statement
3	JMMB Smart Investor	US	\$2,363.77	# 0812	Dec 31, 2023	Quarterly Statement
4	JMMB Smart Business	US	\$477.43	# 2303	Dec 31, 2023	Quarterly Statement
5	JMMB Smart Business	GPB British pound	£4,125.34	# 2352	Dec 31, 2023	Quarterly Statement

REPORT FROM SECTIONS

Academic Libraries

Submitted by: Marsha Crawford, Chair, Academic Section

Introduction

The year 2023 saw Academic Libraries Section being chaired by 2nd Vice President, Marsha Crawford. The aims for the year were to:

- Increase membership of LIAJA's academic librarians by 10%
- Offering relevant professional development sessions for personnel in academic libraries
- Possible Collaboration with training institutions for post -graduate certificates/ three credit courses

Proposed Initiatives/programmes

- Identify at least three initiatives that you want to undertake for the year. Ideally you should also indicate:
 - -Needs Analysis survey of COLINET Librarians
 - Initiate dialogue with DLIS/EXED
 - AR/VR initiatives in academic libraries Seminar
 - Collaboration in research Seminar/How to publish Webinar
 - Academic Library Feature (Weekly/Monthly)
 - Date for implementation. In order not to overburden ourselves I would aim for one initiative per quarter Apr – Jun; Jul – Sept.; Oct – Dec.
 - Needs Analysis; Academic Library Feature (Apr- Jun)
 - Initiate Dialogue with DLIS/EXED/HEART; Academic Library Feature (Apr- Jun)
 - AR/VR initiatives in academic libraries seminar; Academic Library Feature (July – Sept)
 - How to Collaborate in research & how to publish webinar; Academic Library Feature (Oct – Dec)

These initiatives were presented at the LIAJA's Strategic Planning Retreat. A needs analysis was conducted among COLINET librarians, there were 19 respondents. The needs analysis was geared at gleaning information that would drive the training and professional development needs.

Throughout the year a number of opportunities for training and professional development were sent out to the COLINET group as well as the LIAJA group.

Investigations were done regarding collaboration with DLIS, however, due to deficiency in DLIS staff, we were not able to forge the partnership as noted in strategic plan.

Unfortunately, we were not able to fulfil the other objectives.

Conclusion

The year while not fully successful saw academic librarians being able to participate in both local and international training and professional development. It is the hope of the outgoing section chair that the upcoming year will be a bigger year for the section and support will be given to the incoming chair to make it a successful 2024.

Records and Archives Management

Submitted by: Tracey-Ann Ricketts, Chair, Records and Archives Management Section

The fundraising activity in the form of a bake sale slated for April 2023 had to be cancelled due to work commitments of the RAM committee members. Additionally the planned RAM professionals and paraprofessionals workshop slated for August 2023 was also postponed due to competing interests of the members. It is hoped that this workshop will be conducted in 2024 – 2025 administrative year. I wish to express deepest gratitude for the support received during the year.

Retired Members

Submitted by: John Arons, Secretary, Retired Members Group

Over the past year the Retired Members did not have a called meeting. However, they kept in touch with each other through the creation and use of a WhatsApp group. During the administrative year 2023 – 2024 the retired members section celebrated with honorary member Dr. Hazel Bennett on her 100th birthday. Unfortunately, during the year we lost Gloria Salmon. Please see below the tribute posted in the Association's email group.

Dear Colleagues,

I had not originally planned to write a tribute to Mrs. Gloria Salmon, who passed away last night, as a fulsome one would likely be forthcoming from the Jamaica Library Service (JLS), where she worked for just under 45 years. Her contribution there was impressive, as she began her career as a temporary library assistant and worked her way to the position of Director General, before retiring in September 2001. This was a lifetime achievement of commitment, loyalty and service which would be hard to equal.

However, I felt that Gloria Salmon's contribution to the library and information profession in Jamaica far exceeded her contribution to the JLS, no matter how outstanding this was. I am therefore writing on behalf of the library community as a whole, and particularly the Retired Members Section (RMS) of the Library and Information Association of Jamaica (LIAJA). I am also writing on my family's behalf for as a 'yout' growing up in Port Antonio in the early 1950's, I remember Mrs. Salmon as a young, attractive, and vivacious young librarian. She never let me forget, even when I was Executive Director of the National Library of Jamaica (NLJ), that she once helped my mother 'dress' my sister and myself for a children's fancy dress party - the costumes for which she helped to design!

Gloria Salmon was a librarian's librarian - always involved in library and library related activities. When Jamaican, regional, or international conferences, such as those of the Jamaica Library Association, ACURIL (Association of University, Research & Institutional Libraries), IASL (International Association of School Librarians) and the Council for Adult Education, were held locally, she was always involved in their planning and execution. She believed in Service, and this was buttressed by her strong Christian faith and convictions. Not surprisingly, she was very involved in the activities of her Church, especially in its outreach programmes.

She was involved on the international library scene, serving on IFLA's (International Federation of Library Association) Coordinating Board of Libraries Serving the General Public and as Secretary/Treasurer of the IFLA Round Table on Mobile Libraries. She relished her association with these bodies and the contacts she was able to make for the JLS. Her contribution in the international arena continued even after her retirement for in 2003 as Chair of the Jamaica Council for Adult Education she went to Thailand to speak on Adult Literacy.

Although very involved in the then Jamaica Library Association, serving in many capacities including that of Secretary (part of 1963 and 1985), she was never elected President, as when the opportunity came, she was too busy at the JLS. However, she later played a prominent role in the Retired Members Section of the now Library & Information Association of Jamaica (LIAJA) serving as the first Chairperson of the Section after

conducting the inaugural business session. She always enjoyed attending meetings and social events and the interaction with her colleagues.

Gloria had a charming, gracious, and welcoming personality and these qualities endeared her to colleagues and friends. It was always a joy to be in her company and experience her enthusiasm and energy. Those of us who knew her, will always treasure our association with her over the years.

*Unfortunately, the last 2 years of her life were distressing both to her and the family. After a 'high' on 20 December 2021, when she celebrated her 90th birthday with her family, she had a stroke the following month from which she never fully recovered. Fortunately, before she became ill, she finished writing *Beyond My Wildest Dreams*, her autobiography. Recounting and writing highlights of her life was a major achievement, not only for her, but for the country, as the book also tells of the early days of the Jamaica Library Service. We remember this faithful, loyal colleague and friend with deep love and affection.*

John Arons

Secretary, Retired Members Section, Library & Information Association of Jamaica

School Libraries

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

The past two years has been significantly challenging for the school section based on firstly the covid-19 pandemic and its effects on schools, and secondly, the mass migration of teachers. As a result of these two factors, teacher-librarians have either migrated as part of overseas recruitment, or they have been removed from the library to serve as teachers in the classrooms. The result is that at present, it is difficult to determine how many school libraries are actually operational, that is having the required staff to run the programme.

Efforts to conduct a seminar for principals and a workshop for school staff on academic integrity have not been successful. Although communication was sent to the Ministry of Education twice, these were not sent out to schools. It was later discovered that the system for getting workshop bulletins through the Ministry's official channel had changed. In keeping with the requirements of the new system implemented by the Ministry, a request was made, and an approval was granted for a seminar for secondary principals to be held on March 14 2024, and a

workshop for school personnel (including librarians where these are still present) on March 21 2024.

Special Libraries

Submitted by: Leleka Johnson, Chair, Special Libraries Section

The Chair, Ms Leleka Johnson would like to use this opportunity to say a huge thank you to the LIAJA Executive Committee for the support once again. The section did not have any activity for the year. The Chair continues to represent the section and is hoping for a better year for 2024-2025.

The Special Libraries Section participated in the LIAJA Library and Information Week held in the week of October 29 through to November 3, 2023. The section did not have any activities during Special Libraries week in the month of April 2023
LIAJA continues to support the section in any way possible and continues to encourage other Special Library to come on board and join the association. As the Chair, I am appealing to all the Special Librarians in Jamaica to come on board and join the section, you all are needed in order for the section to prosper and grow to its full potential.

REPORTS OF WORKING PARTIES

Education & Training; Awards

Submitted by: Odean Cole-Phoenix, Chair, Education and Training Working Party

Fund Raising

Submitted by: Chair, Kadiesha A. Grant

On August 26, 2023, the Library and Information Association of Jamaica (LIAJA) arranged a benefit performance play titled "JAMAICA: Land We Love" at the Little Little Theatre, located on Tom Redcam Drive in Kingston. LIAJA invested a total of \$225,000 to acquire all 150 seats at the venue in order to guarantee maximum participation and each ticket then had a resale value of \$3,000. With the help of the Fundraising Chair and other executive members, LIAJA members were able to purchase tickets directly via WhatsApp and email, which led to the sale of 97 seats and a remarkable \$66,000.00 profit for LIAJA.

With confirmed details, it has been decided that a silent auction will take place on February 9, 2024, during the Library and Information Association of Jamaica's (LIAJA) Annual General Meeting. Members have been specifically requested to contribute an item each for this auction. The fundraising chair has formally proposed this auction as the subsequent fundraising event. To enhance engagement and garner additional support, members are strongly urged to donate items for this upcoming silent auction, and have ample time to prepare and provide unique contributions.

Information Technology

Submitted by: Natalee Knight, Chair Information Technology Working Party

Mission/Objectives of the ITWP

The Information Technology working party plans, organizes, and suggests future information technology initiatives and activities, and formulates methods to better bring technology to the membership.

Roles & Functions

- Lead in the management and redesign of LIAJA 's webpage
- Facilitate IT training as required for members/executive

Strategic Priority

- To maintain a current LIAJA Website.

- To highlight various new and emerging technological tools which can be utilized or leveraged within the library and information sector.
- To promote lifelong learning, knowledge creation, and professional development.

Proposed Initiatives/Programmes for 2023/2024

1. Update the LIAJA website.
2. Create/Collate “Library Tech Weekly” feature for publishing on LIAJA social media pages (Facebook, Instagram). “Library Tech Weekly” highlights current technology trends in libraries and other information centres.
3. Link LIAJA social media pages to the website.

Tasks Completed

LIAJA Website Updates

The following updates were made to the LIAJA website:

- About Us
 - Executive members updated from 2022 to 2023
 - Past Presidents & Secretaries list updated
- Resources Page
 - The QR code for the new membership form added
 - Information on the *Resources* page was reorganized for better readability
- News & Announcements (Formally Events and Promotions)
 - Information about the Passing of three LIAJA members added
 - ACURIL challenge and registration information added
- Membership (Plans)
 - Membership fees were updated to reflect the current rates
- Publications
 - LIAJA Journal information was updated
 - LIAJA Annual reports up to 2022-2023 added
- Gallery

Pictures of the following events were added to the Gallery:

- Library & Information Week 2023 Church Services
- LIAJA AGM 2023 Highlights
- Read Across Jamaica Day 2023 at Kingston & St. Andrew Parish Library

- ACURIL Conference 2023 highlights
- Homepage
 - Correction was made, via HB Jamaica, to the linked information at “*The Jamaica Library Association was founded to: ... >read more*” section. The linked information had nothing to do with LIAJA.

Payments via LIAJA Website

- This service was subsequently discontinued as it was not generating enough revenue to remain active.

Library Tech Weekly

- During the reporting period, no Library Tech Weekly features were submitted for posting on LIAJA social media pages.

Linking of LIAJA Social Media Pages to Website

- It was decided not to pursue linking of the LIAJA social media pages to the website because of the additional cost associated with it, which would not be financially viable at the time.

2023/2024 LIAJA ITWP Members
○ Chair – Natalee Knight, Interim Director of Library Services, NCU - natalee.knight@ncu.edu.jm
○ Secretary/Assist. Chair –Denisha Douglas, Kingston Campus Librarian, NCU - denisha.douglas@ncu.edu.jm
○ External Website Consultant – Christopher Dunn, Web Developer, NCU christopher.dunn@ncu.edu.jm

Membership & Conditions of Service

Submitted by: Monique Forgie-Scot, Chair, Membership and Conditions of Service Working Party

Introduction

The Membership and Conditions of Service Working Party is a vital component of our library association. We are dedicated to fostering a thriving and engaged membership community. This report aims to provide an overview of the status of our membership and engagement efforts for the year 2023.

Membership Overview

The Association acknowledges the continued support of all our members. We are especially grateful to our paid-up members whose financial contributions have been instrumental in funding the Association’s business. We continue to encourage people to join the Association, and for those who have not renewed their membership for an extended period to do so and become active.

Category of Membership	Total Number of Paid-Up Members
Honorary Members	7 (Free)
Retired Members	9
Personal Members	49
Institutional Members	18
Student	6
Associate	1

New Members

We welcome the following new members:

1. Kadiesha Grant (Student, DLIS)
2. Latania Powell (Student, Shortwood Teachers College)
3. Kecha Delusma-Chase (Student, DLIS)
4. Jason Carter (Librarian, eGov Jamaica)
5. Andrea Bailey (Teacher Librarian, Southborough Primary School)
6. Shelley-Ann Martin (Librarian, JLS)
7. Stacy-Ann Subani (Librarian, PIOJ)
8. Erica Davis (Librarian, Edna Manley College)
9. Olivia Nisbett (Librarian, BOJ)
10. Taniesha Brown (JLS)
11. Sonja Robinson-Madden (Research Officer, MBCC)
12. Alisa Campbell (Student)
13. Fiona Hutchinson (Student)
14. Shanique Reid (Student)

Members who passed

Dr. Vivienne Kerr, member, and former president of LIAJA.

Congratulations

- Erica Davis (awarded the most outstanding librarian by JAMCOPY for 2023)
- Dr. Sasekea Harris (recipient of the UWI, Mona Principal's Research Award for 2023 for her work titled, *Building an Entrepreneurial Caribbean University Library: Practice, Possibilities and Lessons*.)
- Ruth Baker-Gardner (appointment to the National Artificial Intelligence Task Force, and on publishing her book titled *Academic Integrity in the Caribbean: Plagiarism Policies, Perception, Prevalence and Possible Solutions*.)
- ACURIL 2023 Jamaica Conference was dedicated to some of our retired members as well as a deceased member. The honourees were: Prof Daphne Douglas, Prof Fay Durrant, Mr. John Aarons, Miss Stephney Ferguson, Mrs. Albertina Jefferson.

Membership Engagement

The Working Party attempted to revive the LIAJA social in a bid to enhance member engagement and promote networking. The proposed date of the social was October 28, 2023. However, the initiative did not bear fruit the anticipated level of support was not forthcoming.

Benefits

Our members continue to enjoy a range of benefits, including discounts to LIAJA workshops, seminars, and events, and to research. Partnership was renewed with H&L Ultimate Touch Promotion in providing discounts on purchases to LIAJA members.

Conclusion

We look forward to a membership that is vibrant and impacts our communities positively in 2024. Sincere gratitude to all our members for their support throughout 2023.

Public Relations

Submitted by: Nicoleen Saunders-Grant, Chair, Public Relations Working Party

The Public Relations (PR) Working Party continues to work on the objectives of keeping the membership up to date with the happenings of the Information industry with factual, timely and concise information. The committee is comprised of Nicoleen Saunders-Grant as Chair and Kadiesha Grant as Social Media Coordinator.

Information Circulated

Via Email, Instagram, and Facebook

February

- DLIS Info Talks Seminars:

- February 1, 2023, featuring Nicole Alleyne and Kasiya Halstead-Brown
- February 8, 2023 featuring Dr Ruth Baker-Gardener
- February 15, 2023 featuring Peta-Gaye Richards and Audrey Hotwijks-Koenders
- March 1, 2023 featuring Vernanda Raymonds
- The ACURIL Call for Papers was sent out as well as the necessary guidelines were sent out to the members using both email and social media platforms.
- Mona Library Employment Opportunities for the following positions:
 - Digital Collections Librarian
 - Digital Curator: Digital Humanities Librarian west Indian and Special Collections
 - Scholarly Communications Librarian
- Mico University College Online International Webinar
 - Presenters were: Prof. Leonie Rowen, Dr. Ruth Baker-Gardener, Prof. Naomi Baron and Mr. Greg Toppo

March

- DLIS Info Talks Seminars
 - March 15, 2023 featuring Shani Roper, PhD
- A repeat ACURIL call for papers
- DLIS/UWI Mona Library Research Forum to held May 4, 2023. The theme was “Data Security and Information Services in the 21st Century Exploring Theory and Best Practice”. Keynote Speaker was Dr. Patrick Anglin

April

- A repeat posting of the DLIS/UWI Mona Library Research Forum information
- RIM Month Launch and Public Lecture, held April 5, 2023. The theme was “Re-igniting a Nation for Greatness: Managing and Preserving the Records of our Nation”. The guest speaker was Prof. Elizabeth Shepherd.
- Prof Jeannette Bastian’s book titled “Archiving Culture: Heritage, Community and the Making of Records and Memory”
- Peter Abrahams Collection Launch by the Mona Library, West Indies and Special Collections. This was held April 5, 2023. Keynote speaker was Prof. Rupert Lewis.
- Mico University College Online International Webinar
 - April 13, 2023 featuring Dr. Wayne Wesley and Dr. Brent Anders. The topic was “Chat GPT and Education: Classroom Risks and Rewards”

- Media Literacy workshop themed “When Less is More: Integrating Media Literacy Into Your Practice”.
- ACURIL Movement is Medicine Challenge
- University of the Commonwealth Caribbean Library event “ Education and Beyond”

May

- DLIS/UWI Mona Library Research Forum
- ACURIL Fundraiser – Oliver Samuels in Patrick Brown’s “Guilty with Explanation”.
- Mico University Library Webinar
 - May 16, 2023 -featuring Dr. Chen Wenli and Dr. Wesley Hughes. The theme was “ ChatGPT and Education: New Frontiers in Developing Students 21st Century Skills”
- National Library of Jamaica Windrush 75 Celebrations in Jamaica
 - A series of activities starting May 23 ending June 22, 2023. This included a festival, church service, panel discussion and a travelling exhibition.
- ACURIL Registration
- Press Release- Caribbean Library Conference

June

- ACURIL Jamaica Pre-Conference Workshops
 - The theme was “Preserving Our Post for the Future: Protecting and Promoting Documentary Heritage in the Caribbean – UNESCO’s Memory of the World Programme and the MOWLAC Regional Register”. The presenters were Paul G.C. Hector, Joan Osborn, John Angus- Martin, and Richenel Asano

July

- Passing of Dr Vivienne Kerr, Past President of LIAJA 2014 and 2015

August

- Congratulation on Achievements of Members –
 - UWI Mona 2023 Principal’s Research Award for Best Research Publication (Article) Mona Library
 - Dr Sasekea Harris, Mrs Cheryl Folkes and Mrs Karen Tyrell (2021). Nurturing Customer Service Culture in an Experience Economy: Employee’s Assessment of the UWI, Mona Library Service Model
 - Dr Paulette Kerr and Jessica Lewis Marshall (2021). Framework and Context: Refocusing Information Literacy at a Caribbean University.

- Dr Sasekea Harris (2022). COVID-19 Impact on the Caribbean Academic Library: Jamaica’s Preliminary Response to People, Place, Product and Services.
- Dr Sasekea Harris (2023). Building and Entrepreneurial Caribbean University Library: Practice, Possibilities and Lessons.
- Free Online Course – Introduction to AI for IT and Non- IT Professionals
- Badge of Honour for Long Service (BH[L]) awarded to Dr. Paulette Stewart
- The University of the West Indies Preservation Awareness Week Call for Papers
 - October 23, 2023 themed “Mapping our Future in Uncertain Times”

September

- A repeat broadcast of The University of the West Indies Preservation Awareness Week Call for Papers

November

- Library and Information Professionals Day celebration
- LIAJA 2nd Regular meeting and presentation session for 2023 flyer
 - Held November 24, 2023, presenters were Micheal Dowling (IPO of ALA) and Monique McIntosh (Marketing Specialist)

January

- Call for presenters for Web Conference 2024

Research and Publications

Submitted by: Dr. Sasekea Harris, Chair, Research and Publications Working Party

Biographical Database of Librarians

Goal is to develop a biographical database of librarians in Jamaica. A data input form will be sent to the membership for completion. Fillable form is in process and will contain the following items:



Biographical Input Sheet for Jamaican LIS Professionals

1. Name:
 - a. First Name:
 - b. Middle Name:
 - c. Surname / Family Name:
 - d. Title (Prof, Dr, Mrs, Ms, Miss):
2. Photo
3. Background (Significant Personal History):
 - a. Date of Birth
 - b. Place of Birth
 - c. Parents' Name:
 - d. Parents' Place of Birth:
 - e. Parents' Occupation:
 - f. Number of Siblings
 - g. Marital Status & Partner's name
 - h. Number of Children
 - i. Notes / Comments
4. Educational History:
 - a. Early Childhood School (Name, Address & Years of Attendance):
 - b. Primary / Preparatory School (Name, Address & Years of Attendance):
 - c. Secondary School (Name, Address & Years of Attendance):
 - d. College/University(Name, Address, Years of Attendance, Programme completed / Degree Earned):
5. Employment History

Start Date-End Date	Position	Name of Organization
List of Achievements		
Start Date-End Date	Position	Name of Organization
List of Achievements		
6. Other Professional Activity & Experience
7. Special Skills
8. Awards & Honours (Names & Dates)
9. Professional Memberships
10. Outreach & Public Service
11. Publications

Please see link below for the above information:

<https://mail.yahoo.com/d/folders/1#:~:text=2%3A10%20PM-.https%3A//docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeO11iLhmLg8vUsCXpYJVOsWm40cuwV52YDd9ZYVfKVV3ShvQ/viewform%3Fusp%3Dsharing,-Reply>

Publication

- a) LIAJA Journal:
 - Forthcoming Special Issue “DLIS Reader”: Awaiting outstanding papers from authors
 - Forthcoming Special Issue “ACURIL Conference Proceedings”: ACURIL is yet to send the papers
- b) Library Week Supplement: What’s in Librarianship. *The Gleaner*, November 2, 2023, p. A10.

What's in librarianship?

Dr Saesha Harris/Coordinator

THIS ARTICLE provides a simplified overview of what is involved in librarianship for the purpose of awareness. As such, it begins with an unorthodox definition of the profession, illustrated by a matrix of topical activities of the profession, broad categories of practice and a non-exhaustive list of specialisations for the libraries below; the article ends with a straightforward hierarchy of the profession.

Librarianship is an interdisciplinary profession centred on using universal standards to organise and disseminate information for a specific community, for the purpose of literacy, access, management, and use.

SOME BROAD CATEGORIES OF PRACTICE FOR LIBRARIANS INCLUDE:

- University/academic libraries:
 - Tertiary level
 - School libraries: Primary/secondary and secondary levels
 - Public library/community library: Community level
 - National libraries: Country/national level
 - Corporate/special libraries: Industry/business/organisation
- Within the aforementioned broad categorisation, the following categories are a non-exhaustive list of specialisations for librarians:
 - Teacher librarians/instructional librarians
 - User experience (UX) librarians
 - Metadata and discovery services librarians (cataloguer)
 - Rare books and special collections librarians
 - Systems librarians
 - Outreach/youth services librarians
 - Digital resources librarians
 - Acquisition/collection

development librarian

- Medical/health librarians
- Science technology engineering and mathematics (STEM) librarians
- Law librarians
- Humanities and social sciences librarians
- Outreach and engagement librarians
- Interpersonal/interpersonal librarians
- Data manager/leader
- Library administrator/manager
- ILL engagement librarian
- Digital humanities librarians
- Children/youth/young/adult services librarians
- Research librarians
- Open relationship librarians
- Reference librarians
- Knowledge services librarian
- Knowledge services manager

No course marking in a library is a librarian. Librarians usually have a bachelor's degree in Library & Information studies (LIS). University librarians typically hold a master's degree in LIS. Within the Caribbean, the Department of Library & Information Studies, The UWI, Mona, is the chief recognised/accredited trainer of librarians, from the bachelarante through to doctoral level. Librarianship is a clandestine rewarding profession on many levels.

Dr Saesha Harris PhD, MSc, MEd, MEd is a senior librarian in SPAD, senior subject librarian. The University of the West Indies, Mona (UWI) Research & Publication Working Party, Library & Information Association of Jamaica. Email: saesha.s.harris@uwimona.edu.jm



Fig. 2. Librarianship Hierarchy (Simplified)

Public Sector	Non-Profit Sector	Private Sector
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Primary/secondary/tertiary education • Reference/academic libraries • Special collections libraries • Corporate/special libraries • National libraries • Public libraries • University libraries • Research libraries • Outreach/youth services librarians • Metadata and discovery services librarians • Rare books and special collections librarians • Systems librarians • Outreach/youth services librarians • Digital resources librarians • Acquisition/collection 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research libraries • Reference/academic libraries • Special collections libraries • Corporate/special libraries • National libraries • Public libraries • University libraries • Research libraries • Outreach/youth services librarians • Metadata and discovery services librarians • Rare books and special collections librarians • Systems librarians • Outreach/youth services librarians • Digital resources librarians • Acquisition/collection 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reference/academic libraries • Special collections libraries • Corporate/special libraries • National libraries • Public libraries • University libraries • Research libraries • Outreach/youth services librarians • Metadata and discovery services librarians • Rare books and special collections librarians • Systems librarians • Outreach/youth services librarians • Digital resources librarians • Acquisition/collection

Table 1. What's in Librarianship Simplified & Non-exhaustive

Transforming libraries: The impact of AI

LIBRARIANS HAVE been an enduring symbol of knowledge preservation and dissemination, but the landscape of these institutions is evolving rapidly. In the digital age, libraries are embracing artificial intelligence (AI) to enhance their services, streamline operations, and offer an enriched user experience. This transformation is a testament to the adaptability and resilience of libraries, ensuring they remain relevant in an ever-changing world.

One of the most significant applications of AI in libraries is in cataloguing and data management. AI-powered algorithms can efficiently categorise and tag materials, making it easier for librarians and patrons to locate resources. This reduces the burden on library staff, allowing them to focus on more complex tasks such as curating collections or providing personalised assistance to patrons.

AI-driven recommendation systems have also become invaluable tools. These systems analyse user preferences, borrowing history, and reading patterns to offer tailored suggestions, much like the popular streaming services. For librarians, this means offering a more personalised service, fostering engagement, and helping patrons discover hidden gems within the library's vast collection.

Moreover, chatbots and virtual assistants have revolutionised patron interactions. AI-driven chatbots can answer routine inquiries, guide users to using digital resources, and provide assistance around the clock. This not only enhances user satisfaction but also enables librarians to dedicate more time to assisting with research and complex information needs.

The integration of AI in libraries also extends to data analysis. AI tools can mine vast amounts of data to identify trends, usage patterns, and areas for improvement. This data-driven decision-making empowers librarians to allocate resources more effectively, curate collections based on user demand, and improve services.

In conclusion, AI is reshaping libraries in fundamental ways, offering librarians powerful tools to enhance user experiences and streamline library operations. By embracing artificial intelligence, libraries are not just preserving their legacy, but they are also ensuring their continued relevance in an increasingly digital and data-driven world. Librarians, as the gatekeepers of knowledge, play a pivotal role in harnessing the potential of AI to create the libraries of the future.

Ruffi Foster-Robson

University of Technology, Jamaica
Accredited by the University Council of Jamaica (UCJ)

Calvin McKain Library

Imagine, Discover, Connect @

YOUR LIBRARY

FIND RESOURCES

- Print Resources
- E-books & e-journals
- Databases
- Services Income
- Videos & DVDs
- Digital Managerial Archives
- Computer Workstations

SERVICES INCLUDE

- Information Literacy Sessions
- Loan & Reservation of Materials
- Licker Service
- Self Check Machines
- Virtual Reference & Research
- Thesis Consultation
- Photocopying & Web Printing
- Photography Video Recording & Design
- Loan of Tablets
- Custom printed materials
- WALK study table for UTMH, JLS, students

24/7 READING ROOM

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LIBRARY & INFORMATION WEEK 2023
OCTOBER 29 - NOVEMBER 3

The Role of GLAM/Rs in Critical Thinking: from Ancient Scrolls (AS) to Artificial Intelligence

PUBLIC EDUCATION

- Reference, Research, Information Service and Lectures
- Service to Special Users
- Career Awareness Development Programs
- Reading and Literacy Support

CURRENT AWARENESS

- Exhibitions
- Panel Discussions
- Presentations

LIBRARY DEVELOPMENT

- Professional and Technical Advice
- Teacher-Librarians' Training

Reference/Homework Assistance

Submit your research questions/queries via ask@ju.edu.jm

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- Audiobooks
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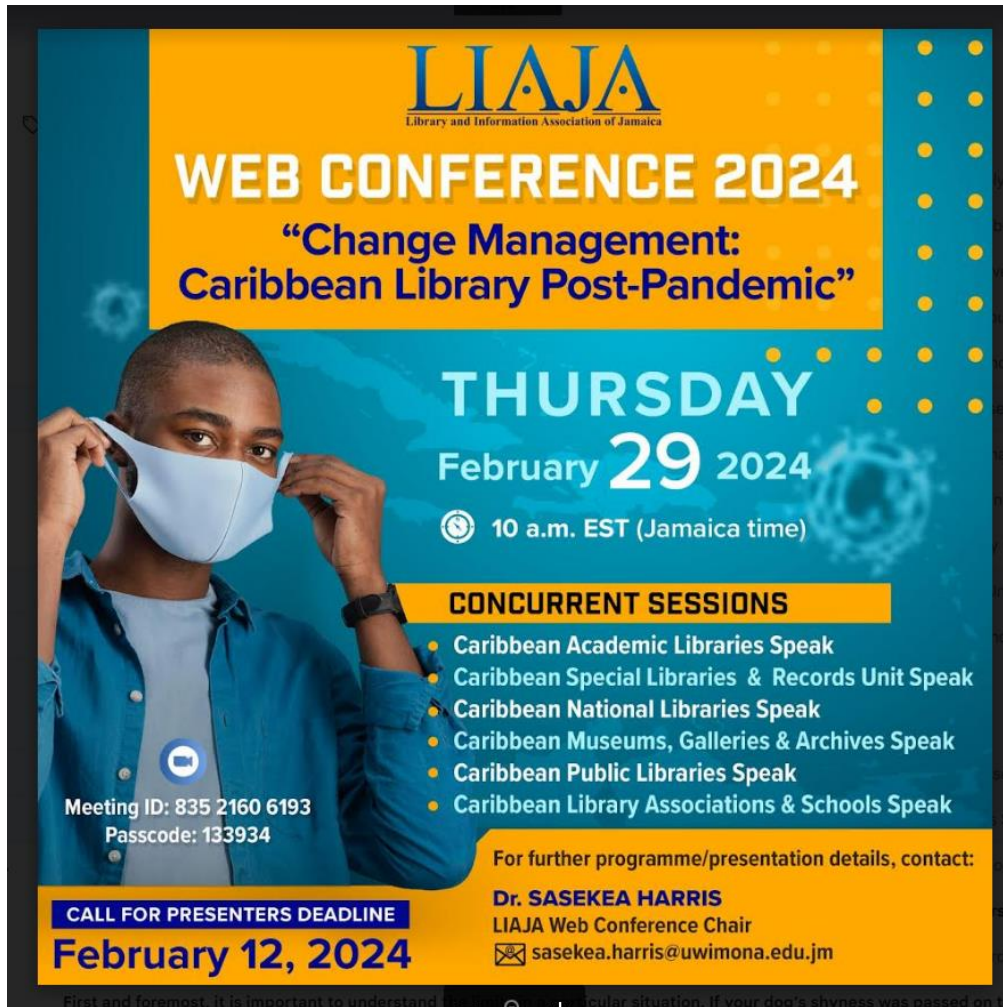
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Web Conference



LIAJA
Library and Information Association of Jamaica

WEB CONFERENCE 2024
“Change Management:
Caribbean Library Post-Pandemic”

THURSDAY
February **29** 2024

🕒 10 a.m. EST (Jamaica time)

CONCURRENT SESSIONS

- Caribbean Academic Libraries Speak
- Caribbean Special Libraries & Records Unit Speak
- Caribbean National Libraries Speak
- Caribbean Museums, Galleries & Archives Speak
- Caribbean Public Libraries Speak
- Caribbean Library Associations & Schools Speak

Meeting ID: 835 2160 6193
Passcode: 133934

CALL FOR PRESENTERS DEADLINE
February 12, 2024

For further programme/presentation details, contact:
Dr. SASEKEA HARRIS
LIAJA Web Conference Chair
✉ sasekea.harris@uwimona.edu.jm

REPORTS OF SUB-COMMITTEES

Advocacy

Submitted by: Jessica Lewis Marshall, Advocacy Sub-Committee

The LIAJA Advocacy Subcommittee of 2023 was committed to fulfilling the directive inherited from its predecessor, which prioritized advocacy training during this period. The training session was held during the November General Meeting, conducted online on November 24, 2023. This virtual advocacy segment aimed to empower members, who are increasingly called upon to demonstrate the value and impact of our libraries. Notable professional advocacy presenters included Ms. Monique McIntosh, Digital Marketer/Strategist from Jamaica, and Mr. Michael Dowling, Director of the International Relations Office and Chapter Relations Office at the American Library Association (ALA). Although a Call to Action on Climate Change for Librarians Webinar was initially planned for January 2024, it was postponed due to the unavailability of the presenters.

The Subcommittee acknowledges the urgent need for greater engagement in media outreach, interaction with Ministry/government officials, and continuous training for library professionals. It is proposed that the model of the ALA's Libraries Transform Campaign be adopted or adapted to suit the local landscape and serve as a template for future advocacy planning. This campaign was specifically designed to raise public awareness about the value, impact, and services provided by libraries and library professionals.

Building and Property Development

The sub-committee has not met since July 2021, thus no report was submitted.

Functions

Submitted by: Marsha Jack, Chair, Records and Archives Management Section

Executive Summary:

In the pursuit of celebrating the invaluable contributions of Library and Information Specialists, the Functions Sub-Section of the Library and Information Association of Jamaica (LIAJA) planned the "Information Specialists Evening of Excellence" scheduled for November 2, 2023. Unfortunately, despite meticulous planning and venue selection, the event faced a significant setback due to a lack of funding. This report provides an overview of the intended event, challenges faced, and the status of the Functions Sub-Section's efforts to recognize the outstanding work of its members.

Event Overview

Event Name: Information Specialists Evening of Excellence

Scheduled Date: November 2, 2023

Objective: Celebrate and honour Library and Information Specialists within LIAJA.

Venue Selection

Quotes were secured from various prestigious venues to ensure an optimal experience for attendees. The following venues were considered:

1. ROK Hotel
2. Courtyard by Marriott
3. District 5 (R Hotel)
4. Terra Nova All Suites Hotel

After careful evaluation, Terra Nova All Suites Hotel emerged as the most cost-effective option, offering a package at approximately \$10,000 per person.

Financial Implications

Despite securing favourable quotes, the realization of our event was impeded by a shortfall in funding. The Functions Sub-Section encountered challenges in securing the necessary financial resources to execute the Information Specialists Evening of Excellence. As a result, we regret to inform our members that the event could not proceed as planned.

Collaboration and Future Endeavours

While facing this setback, the Functions Sub-Section wants to highlight its collaboration with Mrs. Natoyna Garwood and her team at the Kingston and St. Andrew Parish Library. Together, we are working diligently to ensure the success of the Annual General Meeting scheduled for February 9, 2024. Additionally, a partnership with the Fundraising Section has been forged to host a Silent Auction, highlighting our commitment to finding alternative avenues for financial support.

Conclusion

While the Functions Sub-Section was excited about the prospect of hosting an Information Specialists Evening of Excellence, financial constraints have regrettably forced us to postpone the event. We acknowledge the disappointment this may cause among our members and extend our gratitude for their understanding during these challenging circumstances. Moving forward, the Functions Sub-Section is steadfast in its commitment to exploring alternative avenues for celebrating and recognizing the outstanding work of our Library and

Information Specialists. The team will actively seek additional funding opportunities and partnerships to ensure the success of future events.

REPORTS FROM INSTITUTIONS

DLIS/Library Training Institutions

Submitted by: Mark-Jeffery Beans, Chair, DLIS/LTL

DLIS/Library Training Institutions

DLIS Library

The Department of Library and Information Studies (DLIS) library was closed and the library's stock is being moved to the Main Library of the University. This is due to the fact that "traffick" in and out of the library has dwindled to almost nothing. In addition, most of our students are online and with the departure of the last Department librarian there was really no need for the physical library anymore.

We are now in discussion to look closely at the physical movement of the stock and the repurposing of the librarian position. We hope to have the librarian position repurposed to become a programme support officer (PSPO). This person will be in charge of providing support to our online students, in terms of registration, examination, fieldwork and any other support systems.

The position will be advertised shortly as soon as the official paperwork is sorted out. The proposal is that the person should have training in library and information studies, training as a teacher and has worked in an academic environment before. It will require a Master's degree in the field. The person will also be a part of the academic staff.

Library Week

The Department of Library and Information Studies (DLIS) supported the Library and Information Association of Jamaica's Library and Information Week 2023 Gleaner Supplement. The Department of Library and Information Studies submitted an advertisement which was placed in a special Gleaner Supplement that was published on November 2, 2023, by The Library and Information Association of Jamaica (LIAJA) in recognition of Library and Information Week 2023. The commission of the Gleaner Supplement was aimed at raising the profile of GLAM/R (Galleries, Libraries, Archives, Museums and Records Centres) in Jamaica and to provide the Department with the opportunity of showcasing our programmes.

Graduate Awards

Four students from the Department of Library and Information Studies (DLIS) received awards at the Annual faculty of Humanities and Education Student Awards Ceremony on Thursday, November 9, 2023. The Ceremony was in honour of students who excelled scholastically during the 2022/2023 academic year.

Jamaica Library Service

Submitted by: Keisha Walton, JLS Representative



JAMAICA LIBRARY SERVICE ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE LIBRARY AND INFORMATION ASSOCIATION OF JAMAICA February 2023– January 2024

The Jamaica Library Service (JLS) continued to carry out its mandate to provide public and school library services to the nation, as an agency of the Ministry of Education and Youth, throughout the 2023 reporting period. The continuation of service delivery was also executed with consideration being given to the need for transformation in administrative and user services. Accordingly, much work was undertaken internally towards organizational development, revision of policies and the establishment of committees to advance programmes for the early childhood sector, student support services and culture and heritage. Continued development is anticipated in the coming year.

Highlights for 2023 include:

- The Windrush Exhibition shared by the National Library of Jamaica was circulated to parish libraries from May 27- June 22, 2023 and viewed by 500 adults and children.
- The Jamaica Library Service Research and Publications Committee presented a research paper titled *The power of public and school library collaboration during the Covid-19 pandemic: the Jamaican experience* for the International Association of School Librarianship (IASL) Conference in Rome, Italy – July 17 -21, 2023. The paper was subsequently published in the Conference proceedings –a significant achievement for JLS and the local library and information industry.
- An Awards Ceremony was held at the Jamaica Pegasus Hotel on Friday August 25, 2023 to recognize the 2023 National Reading Competition National Champions and Runners-Up.
- There was continuation of fruitful partnerships, with partners and stakeholders namely, the Accountant General’s Department placement of an electronic dropbox at select parish

libraries, to facilitate the collection of government pensioners' Life Certificates; EduFocal Limited commenced the refurbishing of the Joyce Robinson Hall, Kingston & St. Andrew Parish Library (KSAPL) and VM Foundation, Major Sponsor for the National Reading Competition for a second year, extended its generosity beyond the Competition to the renovation of the Children's Library at the KSAPL, with the assistance of the VM Group Limited.

Association of Caribbean University and Institutional Libraries (ACURIL) Conference

The JLS supported the ACURIL 2023 Conference held in Kingston, Jamaica from June 4-8, 2023 through responsibility for the Conference Secretariat and facilitating the attendance of members of staff islandwide. Thirty-three members of staff attended sessions throughout the Conference held at the Jamaica Pegasus Hotel.

International Association of School Librarianship Conference, July 17-21, 2023



Mrs. Lorraine McLean, Regional Director, Region 5 presented the paper titled *The power of public and school library collaboration during the Covid-19 pandemic: the Jamaican experience*, at the International Association of School Librarianship (IASL) Conference held in Rome, Italy from July 17-21, 2023.

Partnerships - The VM Group Labour Day Project

The VM Group refurbished the Kingston and St. Andrew Parish Library Children's Library on Labour Day 2023 as part of their National Labour Day Project resulting in a more aesthetically pleasing and comfortable environment. Refurbishing included:

- Repair of roof and installation of new ceiling sheets
- Installation of four(4) new ceiling fans
- Replacement of bathroom fixtures and Bags/Porter's Desk



- Replacement of entrance door

Welcome to JamRock Reggae Cruise

The JLS again benefitted from the eighth consecutive annual book drive organized by the Welcome to Jamrock Reggae Cruise (WTJRC) since 2015. Over 1,000 books valued at over \$700,000 were donated to the Ocho Rios Branch Library in December 2023. The partnership is a continued demonstration of the WTJRC’s commitment to supporting the library and by extension reading and literacy for the nation’s youth.

PROGRAMMES & SERVICES



National Reading Competition 2023

The 2023 season of the National Reading Competition (NRC) was successfully staged under the theme “**Reading is LIT!**” The target of 2,500 persons registered was exceeded as 2,676 persons registered and participated islandwide. Sponsorship for the competition was received in cash and kind with VM Foundation being the Major Sponsor.

As part of the sponsorship package a new feature was introduced into the Competition namely, the VM Male and Female Financial Literacy Challenge, targeting competitors in the 9-11, 12-14 and 15-20 age groups. Winners of the Challenge emerged from the parishes of St. Catherine, Clarendon, Kingston and St. Andrew, St. Thomas and Trelawny.

The season culminated with an Awards Ceremony at the Jamaica Pegasus Hotel, Talk of the Town Suite on Friday, August 25, 2023. Ninety (90) persons were in attendance including sponsors, competitors, authors, members of the Jamaica Library Board and special guests, including the LIAJA President who presented the LIAJA sectional prize for Best Letter in the 6-8 age group.





The 2023 National Reading Competition National Champions awarded on August 25, 2023. They are Portland's Quain Raymond (6-8 age group), St. Mary's Denese Chambers (9-11 age group), and Johana McLeary (12-14 age group); Trelawny's Brianna Frater (15-20 age group); and Clarendon's Tashique Gibson (21 and over age group)
 JIS Photo: Rudranath Fraser

Library Promotion and Community Outreach

Marcus Garvey Lecture

The St. James Parish Library collaborated with the Universal Negro Improvement Association and African Communities League (UNIA-ACL) to present a lecture on the Right Honourable Marcus Mosiah Garvey with guest lecturer Mr. Stephen Golding on April 28, 2023. The lecture was followed by a question and answer session and a tour of the new Marcus Garvey 'Empowerment Walkway' at the library.



Promoting Reading

The JLS participated in the *CVM Sunrise* early morning television programme on Thursday, November 16, 2023, to discuss fun books children/families could read leading up to the holiday season.

Mrs. Natoyna Garwood, Regional Director - Region 1 represented the JLS and gave a brief synopsis of the selected titles which were displayed. She also shared information on the continued work of the JLS in promoting reading literacy and cultural identity through the National Reading Competition (NRC), online story telling sessions and other programmes. The hosts were in turn encouraged to share their "Public Library Story." Subsequent to the interview it was suggested to the producers that the engagement be done three (3) times per year at Easter, Summer and Christmas time.

Nine (9) titles from the Children’s Library collection were displayed and shared with the CVM Team as follows:

1. *Boonoonoonous Hair!* by Olive Senior
2. *Jamaica in my tummy* by Jean Hawthorn-DaCosta
3. *Leroy: adventures of a yaad boy* by Jean Hawthorn- Dacosta
4. *Likkle Miss Lou* by Nadia L. Hohn
5. *Festival time* by Adrian Mandara
6. *Bob Marley: get up, stand up* by Cedella Marley
7. *Lucille travels at Christmas: a Jamaican child's story* by Jasmine N'Toutoume
8. *Birthday wish* by Chesand Gregory
9. *Did Santa wear a mask* by Chesand Gregory



OBSERVANCES

National Career Awareness Week February 4 – 10, 2023

The Jamaica Library Service (JLS) observed National Career Awareness Week (NCAW) from February 4 – 10, 2023 under the theme **Conquer Your Future through Career Development** in partnership with the Ministry of Education and Youth, HEART/NSTA Trust and Junior Achievement Jamaica.

On Monday, February 6, 2023 (the day specifically assigned to the JLS) a Career Day/ Expo was held at the Joyce Robinson Hall, Kingston and St. Andrew Parish Library with presentations on the Sixth Form Pathways Programme, trending careers in ICT, resume writing and preparing for interviews.

Exhibitors from six tertiary level institutions providing information on further education and training were in attendance, namely, University of the Commonwealth Caribbean (UCC), University of the West Indies (UWI), Department of Library and



Information Studies (DLIS, UWI), University of Technology (UTECH), HEART/NSTA Trust and Choices Career Education and Advice Limited. Forty-two (42) students and teachers representing eight schools benefitted from the programme.

At the conclusion of the week programme activities such as displays, career talks, presentations, mock interviews, job readiness and career game sessions were held at **65** JLS service points islandwide including **52** branch libraries.

Visits were also made to schools for various career engagements. One hundred and eighteen schools and educational institutions from the Early Childhood, primary, secondary and tertiary level in addition to members of the general public participated with over **4,700** persons being impacted.

Collaboration with agencies and various community partners contributed significantly to the success of the week, with the highest number of participants to date.

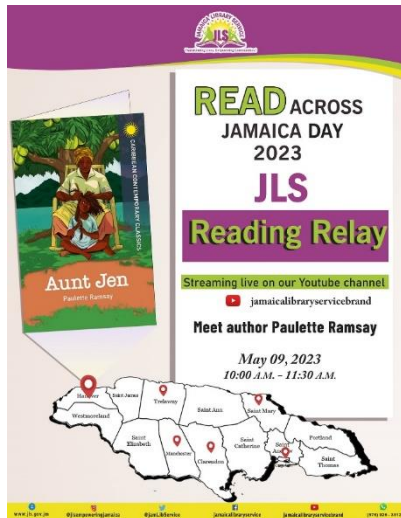


National Reading Week –April 30 – May 5, 2023

On Friday May 5, 2023 the Ministry of Education and Youth in partnership with the Bob & Rita Marley Foundation, facilitated by the JLS, organized a special reading session in observance of National Reading Week, at the Kingston and St. Andrew Parish Library. Minister of Education and Youth, Hon. Fayval Williams along with Cedella Marley and former US Ambassador to Jamaica Mrs. Pamela Bridgewater read to a delighted group of students from various schools at the primary level.



Read Across Jamaica Day –May 9, 2023 (Education Week)



The JLS observed Read Across Jamaica Day on May 9, 2023 in public libraries and school libraries islandwide. Mrs. Kerry-Ann Rodney Wellington, LIAJA President was one of several special guests of the Kingston and St. Andrew Parish Library, who read to students.

Other highlights included collaboration with the Early Childhood Commission and “Young Children Priority” Committee of the Kiwanis Club, Providence, Montego Bay. A special presentation was given to a remedial reading group at Holy Trinity High School. Sponsorship support was received (Restaurants of Jamaica, KFC) for North Street Congregation Primary and Infant.

A special activity targeting young adults, dubbed *Jamaica Library Service Read Across Jamaica Day Reading Relay*, was organized for Read Across Jamaica Day, A virtual relay of readings of six (6) excerpts from the title *Aunt Jen* by Professor Paulette Ramsay was broadcast via JLS YouTube channel. The relay from six libraries began in Hanover and ended in Kingston followed by a live interview with Professor Paulette Ramsay. The various activities in schools and public libraries impacted over 3,000 participants.

Library and Information Week - October 29 – November 3, 2023

The JLS joined in the celebration of Library and Information Week which was observed from **October 29- November 4, 2023** under the theme “*The Role of GLAM/Rs in Critical Thinking: from Ancient Scrolls (AS) to Artificial Intelligence (AI)*” Libraries across the island hosted activities in keeping with the theme to celebrate the event and the JLS contributed to the LIAJA Library and Information Week Supplement published in the Gleaner on November 3, 2023 with an advertorial.

Ananse Soundsplash Storytelling Conference and Festival 2023 and National Storytelling Day

The Jamaica Library Service collaborated with Ntukuma Storytelling Foundation of Jamaica for the 11th staging of the **Ananse Soundsplash Storytelling Conference and Festival**, from November 12 – 20, 2023 under the theme “*First People.*” The



festival continued to highlight storytelling as a powerful tool for education and the sharing of cultural traditions and values.

Activities included interactive sessions featuring life of the First People, sharing Jamaican Proverbs, ring games, sing-along, drumming, and an open floor for children to tell their stories. Ntukuma tellers were able to visit some locations such as Clarendon and Portland Parish Library networks.

National Storytelling Day was celebrated on Monday November 20 with various activities at parish library networks islandwide. This year initiatives were extended beyond November 20 and included visits to children in hospitals to share stories, for a more inclusive target audience benefitting from the planned engagements.



BOOK DONATION HIGHLIGHTS

The JLS received a donation from Mrs. Donette Chin-Loy Chang, Immaculate Conception High alumna, of 100 copies of *From the Heart: Family. Community. Service* by Dr. Mary Anne Chambers, also an alumna of ICBS. The books were allocated to 12 selected high schools as well as 88 other high schools served by the JLS. The virtual handover ceremony took place on Friday, July 28, 2023.

The Director General (centre) received donation of 337 copies of the title *Portia Dreams* by author Opal Palmer Adissa (centre) from the Portia Simpson Miller Foundation on Tuesday May 30, 2023.



A LEGACY OF SERVICE

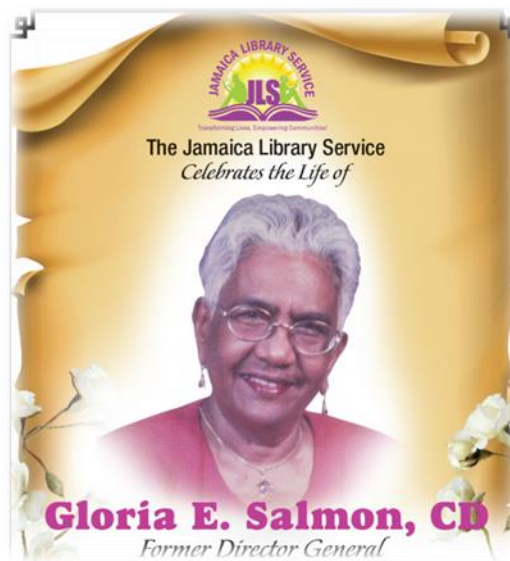
The Board of Directors, Director General, Management and Staff of the Jamaica Library Service (JLS) paid tribute to former Director General, Gloria E. Salmon, who served the JLS with distinction in an illustrious career spanning over 46 years of service culminating with her ascendancy to the post of Director General from 1992- 2002. Mrs. Salmon passed on January 11, 2024.

Mrs. Salmon's journey at the Jamaica Library Service is marked with a significant legacy in public and school library development which continues to impact the library and information industry. Her global influence was evident through active engagement with the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA), which reflected her unwavering advocacy for the profession and dedication to the local and international library and information community.

Mrs. Salmon's commitment to literacy and adult education also shone through her significant involvement and profound contribution to the work of committees under the Jamaica National Commission of UNESCO, the National Book Development Council of Jamaica and the Jamaica Council for Adult Education. Beyond outstanding organizational leadership and volunteerism, her compassion, generosity of spirit and love for people were incomparable.

Her book titled *Beyond My Wildest Dreams* which chronicles her life, career, volunteerism and work in the JLS, was published in 2022 and made available at parish libraries islandwide, represents the latest of her numerous accomplishments.

Her outstanding contribution to the growth and development of the JLS will be indelibly inscribed in the history of the organization.



REPORT

LIAJA ANNUAL MEETING

PREPARED BY: MRS. DESARAY PIVOTT-NOLAN
NLJ, REPRESENTATIVE

February 9, 2024

NATIONAL LIBRARY OF JAMAICA

Report for LIAJA Annual Meeting

February 9, 2024

This report highlights activities undertaken by the NLJ for the period February – December 31, 2023.

INTERNAL OPERATIONS

On March 21, 2023, the NLJ celebrated World Poetry Day Jamaica 60 in a Mixed Mode Event held at the Little Theatre. It received Ministerial Patronage from the Minister of Culture Gender Entertainment and Sport the Hon. Olivia Grange, and the Minister of State, Minister of Culture Gender Entertainment and Sport Mr. Alando Terrelonge. The event featured performances from The Ashe Company and poets from the Jamaica Poetry Society. Also featured was an engaging and informative panel discussion entitled “Writing Jamaica”, as well as the presentation of the Poet Laureate Prizes for Poetry to seven (7) awardees. The event was well attended by high and tertiary institutions and other poetry enthusiasts, by all estimations it was a success and received various media highlights on The Gleaner, as well as the Jamaica Information Service. The full video of the event is available on the NLJ’s YouTube page at the following link <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E9SAF5NMrSs>.

May 7 – 12, 2023 marked Education Week and the NLJ participated in Read Across Jamaica Day on May 9, 2023. The Day forms part of activities to mark Education Week. Under this year’s theme ‘Advancing the Vision: Reigniting the Passion through Equitable & Inclusive Educational Opportunities, Mrs. Tricia Lawrence Powell, Divisional Director, User Services and Conservation, and Mr. Royane Green, Director, Special Programmes participated in Read Across Jamaica Day at the Franklin Town Primary and Tavares Primary School respectively.

On June 14, 2023, in commemoration of the life of Ms. Leonie Forbes, an esteemed trailblazer in the performing arts, radio, and television arena, a formal handing over ceremony of 204 items from her personal collection was hosted at the Daphne Douglas Reading Room of the National Library of Jamaica. This event which also marked the birthday of Ms. Forbes cemented the official donation of the items by Ms. Karen Harriott, which were received by the National Librarian, Ms. Beverley Lashley and the Minister of Culture, Gender, Entertainment and Sport the Hon. Olivia Grange. Minister Grange shared a tribute to Ms. Forbes in her address to attendees.

Free Trial to use Caribbean Newspapers from July 27, 2023 - August 31, 2023

The National Library of Jamaica (NLJ) received a free trial to use the Readex Database and was able to access both the “**Caribbean History and Culture, 1535-1920**” and the “**Caribbean Newspapers, 1718 – 1876**” databases. The opportunity was used to fill some gaps in the collection.

- Caribbean History and Culture, 1535-1920 (more than 1,200 books, pamphlets, almanacs, broadsides and ephemera, both from and about this region) <https://www.readex.com/products/caribbean-history-and-culture-1535-1920-imprints-library-company-philadelphia>
- Caribbean Newspapers, 1718 – 1876 (more than 140 titles from 22 islands of the Caribbean) <https://www.readex.com/products/caribbean-newspapers-series-1-1718-1876-american-antiquarian-society>

Filming at the NLJ

On July 31, 2023, a team from CARIMAC visited the NLJ to interview staff and film footage of the NLJ building exterior as well as CARIMAC staff viewing aspects of the newspaper collection. The CARIMAC Team was producing a documentary on television production in Jamaica that explores the challenges of archiving audiovisual material. The documentary was scheduled to be aired during “ World Television Day”, on November 21, 2023.

Book Buying Fairs to the USA, Germany and the UK

The participation of an NLJ representative to attend Book Buying Fairs stemmed from conversations between Mrs. Tricia Lawrence Powell, Director, User Services and Conservation, and fellow library and information management professionals during ACURIL 2022 in Curacao. The matter of the cost of library resources emerged, and the library colleagues from Trinidad and Tobago suggested that a meeting be convened with Nigel Khan Booksellers who has direct contact with publishers and publishing houses.

One year later in June 2023, ACURIL hosted its conference in Jamaica, the conversation was resurrected and a meeting was held with Nigel Khan, CEO, Nigel Khan Booksellers on July 20, 2023, at the R Hotel with the leadership of the University of the West Indies Mona Library, University of Technology Calvin McKain Library, Jamaica Library Service and the National Library of Jamaica. The representatives were as follows:

1. Tricia Lawrence Powell – Meeting coordinator (National Library of Jamaica)

2. Nigel Khan - CEO Nigel Khan Booksellers (Trinidad and Tobago)
3. Beverley Lashley – National Librarian, National Library of Jamaica
4. Maureen Thompson – Director General, Jamaica Library Service
5. Kishma Simpson – Senior Director, Jamaica Library Service
6. David Drysdale – Campus Librarian, Calvin McKain Library, University of Technology
7. Jessica Lewis Marshall – Acting Campus Librarian, University of the West Indies
8. Ramario Ricketts – Public Relations and Marketing Offices, National Library of Jamaica

This meeting allowed the senior leaders to share the financial constraints being experienced by Library and Information Units and the opportunity that could be derived from participating in book fairs. It was then agreed that Nigel R Khan Bookseller Ltd. based in Trinidad would fund trips to the USA, Germany and the UK. Nigel R Khan Bookseller Ltd. also represents Scholastic which is the world's largest publisher of children's books.

The purpose of the trips is to meet and greet potential vendors in the industry with the hope that the Jamaica Library and Information Network (JAMLIN) can be supported with information resources at low to no cost. It will allow cost-effective arrangements for Library and Information Units across all fourteen (14) parishes. Thus, making JAMLIN financially prudent in this time of severe budgetary constraints. The trip does not initially require any purchases.

- **Meeting Deliberations and Outcomes from the USA Trip**

The first trip was held from August 5-9, 2023, in New York. Mrs. Tricia Lawrence Powell, Director, User Services and Conservation attended. Meetings were held with the following publishers: *Scholastic, Penguin Random House, Simon Schuster and HarperCollins.*

The second trip was held from October 14 - 21, 2023, in Frankfurt Germany. Mrs. Tricia Lawrence Powell, Director, User Services and Conservation, attended the *Frankfurter Buchmesse 2023*, a book-buying fair. The aim is to reignite the passion for reading and make much-needed resources available and accessible to our library and information units at low/no cost.

Each meeting engagement mirrored the same approach. What content was available to the Jamaican market; opportunities for donations to libraries in developing countries such as Jamaica, Trinidad and the rest of the region; what Jamaican contents are available specific to the National Library of Jamaica's needs; and what is the cost against volume purchases and air, freight and customs charges.

The consensus so far is to open the space to allow JAMLIN through Khan Booksellers the opportunity to purchase items in bulk, receive complimentary volumes of resources for

libraries, create active corners in the library for named suppliers who furnish free content for the corners and any other possibilities that can be developed through our active participation in this consortium style arrangement. The third and final book-buying fair will be held in the UK in February 2024.

Presentation at Infotalks

On October 11, 2023, upon invitation by Dr. Stanley Griffin, Seminar Series Coordinator, The Department of Library and Information Studies, UWI, Miss Beverley Lashley, National Librarian made a presentation at INFOTalks focussed on **New Initiatives at the National Library of Jamaica** and attracted 65 participants from the Caribbean but mainly Jamaica.

Seminar on Chinese Culture and Applied Chinese for Officials from Jamaica

From October 24 – November 6, 2023, a Jamaican delegation of 25 persons from the agencies and departments of the Ministry of Culture, Gender, Entertainment and Sport attended the Seminar on Chinese Culture and Applied Chinese for Officials, commissioned by the Ministry of Commerce of the People’s Republic of China. Mrs. Tricia Lawrence Powell represented the NLJ where she made two presentations. Firstly, at the opening ceremony where she was selected to speak on behalf of the delegates and secondly at a subsequent session where she presented on the NLJ and its recent initiatives.

NLJ Incentive and Long service Award Luncheon

On December 15, 2023, staff members were treated to a Met Gala Themed Incentive and Long Service Luncheon held at the Grands Excelsior Hotel in Port Royal.

SERVICE DELIVERY

Research and Information

The NLJ continues to foster its research support roles and hosted one (1) Research visit, three (3) Tours, nine (9) Research workshops with various high schools across Jamaica. Notable tours included:

- June 6, 2023 - Four (4) representatives from the British Library
- June 7, 2023 – Forty nine (49) attendees of ACURIL Library Tour as a component of ACURIL 2023 Jamaica. Highlights of the visit can be found on the NLJ’s Instagram page at <https://www.instagram.com/reel/CtRsY3rrRig/?igshid=MzRIODBiNWFIZA==>

KOHA Integrated Library Systems (ILS)

The provision of hosting services and training in the implementation and use of this system is ongoing and the following represents institutions using KOHA to date:

New	2
Hosted	29
Non-Hosted	9
TOTAL	40

The Koha Support Team conducted seven (7) training sessions.

Collection Development

The NLJ's Collection continues to benefit and grow from items received through Donations, Legal Deposits and Purchases. This period saw the receipt of three hundred and six (306) legal deposit items, consisting of printed books, pamphlets, e-books, and audiovisual material, as well as six hundred and nineteen (619) donations of books, pamphlets, serials, eBooks, eSerials, programmes, Laws and Acts, historical and biographical notes, newspapers, programmes, calendars, photographs and manuscripts. Seventy-six (76) items were acquired through purchases.

SPECIAL PROGRAMMES/EVENTS

The following activities were undertaken:

- March 21, 2023 - Recognition of **World Poetry Day** - NLJ celebrated in fine style with an event at the Little Theatre. Social media was used to publicize the event and through collaboration with Russhaine "Dutty Berry" Berry, the Jamaican populace was engaged with poetry reading items in a YouTube feature entitled "Jamaicans Reading Poems." The full video is available at the link below or visit the NLJ's YouTube page for more videos.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nvaq3uMaLog&t=329s>
- April 18, 2023 - **Talk The Poem: Poetry Recitation** Competition – Mr. Royane Green, Director of Special Programmes was a judge at the National Finals which was held at the University of the West Indies, Mona.
- May 23-June 22, 2023 – **Windrush Celebrations** – The NLJ coordinated the Windrush Celebrations 75 in Jamaica. Members of the Committee included The Ministry of Culture, Gender, Entertainment and Sport, The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade, The Jamaica Music Museum (IOJ), Making Connections

Work Ltd, The Jamaica Library Service and JNC UNESCO. As part of this momentous event, the following events took place:

- May 23, 2023 –**Windrush Five Communities Festival - August Town, Jamaica**
The Windrush Five Communities Anchor Festival included the business, community, civic and faith leaders, and took place in August Town at the August Town Primary School/African Gardens Square under the theme "A United Family at Home and Abroad". The cultural and community economic development activities included entertainment, creative murals, dominoes, football, stories from diaspora families, African Gardens farmers' market, and beautification of the August Town Primary School and August Town Police Station on Labour Day.
- May 24, 2023 –**Commemorative Church Service at the Kingston Parish Church.**
The Anglican Church in Jamaica hosted a commemorative church service at the Kingston Parish Church. The service was held in alignment with the Anglican Church of the UK and provided Christian worship activities used to open the official programme for the national celebration of the Windrush memory. The event received remarks from the Minister of Culture, Gender, Entertainment and Sport as well as the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade. There were also two Windrush sojourners present Lloyd and Pauline Bryan. *(See the NLJ Facebook for Photos)*
- May 25, 2023 - **Distinguished Lecture “Windrush 75: Reflections from Kingston Harbour.”** The NLJ partnered with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade, to produce its biennial Distinguished Lecture Series. The main event was the panel discussion where experts spoke about the impact and trends in Jamaican migration, history of the Windrush experience, intimate stories from the Windrush experience and the relevance of the Windrush to present day Jamaica. This event was held under the patronage of Honourable Ministers Kamina Johnson Smith and Olivia Grange. The event was moderated by Mr. Dervan Malcolm, Communication Specialist, with special entertainment being provided by The Alpharions (Alpha Old Boys band). The activity was broadcasted to members of the public as well as the Jamaican Diaspora in the United Kingdom, Canada, and the USA.

The panelists included:

- Mr. Earl Moxam – Senior Journalist RJR Communication Group and Historical Researcher.
- Mr. Rudi Page – Cultural Heritage Advocate and Communicator based in the United Kingdom
- Dr. Hilary Hickling – Migration Expert

- Rev. Dr. Dave Gosse – Director, Institute of Caribbean Studies (UWI)
- Mr. Herbie Miller, Director, Jamaica Music Museum, Institute of Jamaica

The Collections Development and Research and Information Branches compiled a listing of all Jamaican publications on the Windrush experience. This pathfinder was distributed at the Lecture and will be hosted on the National Library of Jamaica’s website and promoted as a resource to local and international researchers. A Windrush book drive was also promoted. (*See the NLJ Facebook for Photos*)

- May 26 – 28, 2023 – **Calabash International Literary Festival** - Ms. Olive Senior, Poet Laureate participated in the Calabash International Literary Festival, where she engaged in poetry readings and discussions. The NLJ Display Booth featured works of Jamaica’s Literary Tradition and information on the Poet Laureate of Jamaica Programme. NLJ’s Memorabilia were also on sale, while the NLJ Legal Deposit/ Book Donation Drive yielded a few publications. A main feature was the Poetry Tree – a natural space that creatively put on display the prominent poets found within the Jamaica Poetry Archive. In Collaboration with the Forestry Department and the national drive to plant three million trees in three years, 60 saplings with poems were distributed – these were significant to the Poet Laureate eco-poetics focus. On the underside of each leaf was a poem from the Jamaica Poetry Archive. Patrons were able to scan a QR code to visit the Poetry Archive and listen to poets reading their original works at <https://japoetryarchive.nlj.gov.jm/>
- June 4 – 8, 2023 – ACURIL 2023 Jamaica Conference - The NLJ participated in ACURIL 2023 Jamaica held at the Jamaica Pegasus Hotel. The conference which was themed ‘Innovation: Opportunities and Challenges in Libraries, Museums and Archives of the Caribbean,’ saw the attendance of six (6) members of staff on varying days. These Members were Ms. Beverley Lashley, Mrs. Tricia Lawrence-Powell, Mrs. Maxine Jones, Ms. Drusilla Grant, Mrs. Janelle Wilson-Rowe, and Mrs. Desaray Pivott-Nolan. The NLJ also negotiated for a team from the British Library to be part of the ACURIL Conference. They presented on the topic, “Setting up an end-to-end digitisation workflow at the British Library”. This presentation provided the fundamental challenges encountered when digitising varied collections. The British Library Team included:
 - Dr. Xerxes Mazda, Head of Collection Curation
 - Nicole-Rachelle Moore, Curator of Caribbean Collections
 - Andrew Longworth, Digitisation Workflow Manager

- Marcie Hopkins, Head of International Engagement

The NLJ was also nominated and selected to be on the Executive Council of ACURIL for three years as an Institutional member on June 8, 2023.

- September 21, 2023- The NLJ launched the Jamaica Poetry Archive (JPA). The JPA is an online repository that bears information on distinguished Jamaican poets. It offers authorial readings, photographs, biographical information, and the text of selected poems. The Archive will expand to bear outstanding poets of the past as well as poets to watch: the most promising new poet talents. The JPA is a gateway to Jamaican culture and can be used as a teaching tool for students of Jamaican literature and heritage. The Jamaica Poetry Archive is an initiative of the Poet Laureate of Jamaica Programme.

The Archive can be found at: <https://japoetryarchive.nlj.gov.jm/>

- November 23, 2023 -Mary Seacole Floral Tribute and Presentation of Coin Minted in her honour. Through collaborative efforts with the Mary Seacole Foundation, Nurses Association of Jamaica and the Institute of Jamaica, a ceremony commemorating the life of Mary Seacole was held at the NLJ. Mr. Trevor Sterling, Chairman of the Mary Seacole Trust presented a coin minted in honour of Mary Seacole to Mr. Leslie Harrow, Executive Director Institute of Jamaica. Mr. Harrow received the coin on behalf of Dr. Johnathan Greenland, Director, National Museum of Jamaica. The coin will be housed at the National Museum of Jamaica.

The Poet Laureate

The activities of the Poet Laureate during this period were as follows:

- March 12, 2023 - Poet Laureate – Ms. Olive Senior,
The Poet Laureate has gone to His Shed - a BBC Radio 4 Feature Interview with UK Poet Laureate on Jamaican culture with readings of her work which was aired on March 12, 2023 and March 18, 2023.
- March 15, 2023 - Talk The Poem: Poetry Recitation Competition – Ms. Olive Senior made a Guest appearance and talked with the contestants at the Jamaica Library Service Head Quarters.
- March 21, 2023 - Writing Jamaica: A Poet Laureate Panel
 - Discussion - Poet Laureate
 - Ms. Olive Senior hosted special guests Prof. Mervyn Morris, Prof. Opal Palmer Adisa,
 - Topher Allen and Ann Margaret Lim at the World Poetry Celebration.

- April 18, 2023 - Talk The Poem: Poetry Recitation Competition Finals, held at the University of the West Indies
 - May 26-28, 2023 - Calabash International Literary Festival
 - May 30, 2023 – The Poetry Society of Jamaica 34th Anniversary Celebration in honour of Mervyn Morris
 - Poet Laureate and the National Librarian were asked to bring tributes and the NLJ gifted Prof Morris with a scrapbook of all articles that were published by the Gleaner during his tenure.
- June 15-16, 2023 – “In Between Plants: Knowledges, Know-how and Aesthetics” Conference in Paris, France.
- November 29, 2023 - Poet Laureate Keynote presentation at the Sam Sharpe Teacher's College Literature Symposium.

EXHIBITIONS

The NLJ curated/participated in the following exhibitions:

- March 21, 2023 - World Poetry Day Jamaica 60 – an exhibition was mounted to complement the World Poetry Day Celebrations. It featured Past Laureates and various samples of collection items housed at the NLJ.
- April 8, 2023 - The NLJ participated in and mounted an exhibition at the Takyi Festival in the Port Maria Town Square on April 8, 2023, in collaboration with the Ministry of Culture, Gender, Entertainment and Sport (MCGES), Institute of Jamaica (IOJ) and the Jamaica Library Service (JLS).
- May 26 – 28, 2023 - NLJ established a Display Booth at the Calabash International Literary Festival. Highlights of the event can be found on the NLJ’s Instagram page at <https://www.instagram.com/reel/CtJrCRcM8e3/?igshid=MzRIODBiNWFIZA==>
- May 29 – June 22, 2023 - The NLJ in partnership with the Jamaica Library Service created a travelling exhibition in celebration of Windrush 75, which was mounted and promoted at all parish Libraries across Jamaica.
- June 14, 2023 - An exhibition at the Handing over ceremony of the Leonie Forbes Collection was mounted at the NLJ.
- September 7, 2023 – An exhibition was mounted at the St. Joseph Infant School to complement their Miss Lou Day celebrations.
- September 22, 2023 - An exhibition was mounted at 10A West Kings House Road for “Strictly Poets” the official event launch of the Jamaica Poetry Archive.

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

- Launch of the Poet Laureate Prizes for Poetry Competition 2024.
- World Poetry Day Celebration on March 21, 2024.
- Members in the LIAJA network can also look forward to a new publication from NLJ/OLIVE SENIOR early this year.

REPORTS FROM ASSOCIATIONS

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

*Submitted by: Mark-Jeffery Deans, ACURIL Executive Council Representative-
LIAJA*



Innovation: Opportunities and Challenges in
Libraries, Museums and Archives of the Caribbean

On **JUNE 4 – 8, 2023**, Jamaica hosted another ACURIL conference, under the leadership of Mr. Drysdale, ACURIL President and Campus Librarian, University of Technology, Jamaica. This was the 52nd Conference of the Association and of course, the responsibility for spearheading this conference was that of the Association. *LIAJA had “hands on deck”* and the full backing and support of all individual and institutional member librarians was had throughout the planning of ACURIL 2023.

A [call for presentations, workshops and posters](#) was extended to the members under the conference theme: Innovation: Opportunities and Challenges in Libraries, Museums and Archives of the Caribbean. Additional information on the various sub-themes and general conference information was provided via the ACURIL Website <http://acuril.org/tag/acuril-2023>.



International Association of School Librarianship (IASL)

Submitted by: Mark-Jeffery Deans, IASL Representative

Mr. Deans served as the Regional Director for Latin America / Caribbean to fill an unexpired term through mid-2023. As the Regional Director for Latin America / Caribbean through mid-2023, he attended the 50th Annual IASL Hybrid Conference and the 25th International Forum on Research in School Librarianship. The hybrid conference was held under the theme "School Librarianship and the Evolving Global Information Landscape" from July 11-15, 2022. The conference was a collaborative event hosted by *The International Association for School Librarianship, the University of South Carolina School of Information, the South Carolina Association of School Librarians, and the South Carolina Center for Community Literacy*

International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA)

Submitted by: Kerry-Ann Rodney-Wellington, President, LIAJA

The LIAJA has made an application for member for the year 2024. We await the review process and submission of an invoice for membership. This after three (3) years of non-membership.

Conclusion

The opportunity to serve the Library and Information Association of Jamaica has truly been a tremendous and fulfilling blessing. Over the period the executive has maintained its collective vigilance and resilience in ensuring that the Association continues to shape the information ecosystem in the island.

The 2023 Executive team has given invaluable service and support in an effort to accomplish the aims and objectives of the Association, and for this I am truly grateful.

I must express my appreciation to the membership for the undergirding that you have given to us over the period, and we look forward to seeing LIAJA soaring to new heights in the coming year.

APPENDIX 1: LIAJA GLEANER SUPPLEMENT

THE GLEANER, THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 2023 | www.gleaner.com | 48

LIAJA Library & Information WEEK 2023

Theme: "The Role of GLAMRs in Critical Thinking: From Ancient Scrolls (AS) to Artificial Intelligence (AI)."

Continue to strive

On the eve of the 2023 LIAJA Week, it is a good time to reflect on the role of librarians in the digital age. The role of librarians has evolved significantly over the years, from the traditional role of a bookkeeper to a more modern role of a knowledge navigator. Librarians are now responsible for providing access to digital resources, promoting digital literacy, and supporting the use of technology in learning and research.

In the past, librarians were seen as a symbol of wisdom and knowledge. They were the gatekeepers of information, and their role was to provide access to books and other resources. Today, librarians are seen as knowledge navigators, helping users find the information they need in a complex digital landscape.

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Academic integrity and artificial intelligence – the role of the librarian

By [Author Name]

As we navigate the challenges of artificial intelligence (AI) in education, librarians play a crucial role in promoting academic integrity. AI tools like ChatGPT can generate text that is indistinguishable from human writing, making it difficult to detect plagiarism. Librarians can help students understand the importance of proper citation and the consequences of academic dishonesty.

Librarians can help students understand the importance of proper citation and the consequences of academic dishonesty. They can provide resources and support for students who are struggling with writing and research. Librarians can also help students understand the importance of academic integrity and the role of librarians in promoting it.



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The OUR Information Centre – Transforming to meet your needs

By [Author Name]

The OUR Information Centre is a digital platform that provides access to a wide range of information resources. It is designed to meet the needs of students, faculty, and staff. The centre offers a variety of services, including digital literacy training, research support, and access to digital resources. The centre is committed to providing high-quality information services to the community.

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APPENDIX 2: 2023 Pictorial
Montego Bay Library Week Church Service



Kingston Library Week Church Service



LIAJA at the JLS National Reading Competition 2023



LIAJA Fundraiser



Naming Ceremony of the Aaron Matalon Library, UCC

