

LIAJA

Library and Information Association of Jamaica



ANNUAL REPORT 2020-2021

The logo for the Library and Information Association of Jamaica (LIAJA) is displayed in a blue rounded rectangle. It features the acronym "LIAJA" in a large, bold, serif font, with the full name "Library and Information Association of Jamaica" in a smaller, sans-serif font below it.

LIAJA

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The background of the cover is a photograph of a group of people seated at round tables covered with white cloths in a formal dining room. In the foreground, a table is set with white plates, silverware, and glasses. A smartphone is placed on the table. The people are dressed in formal attire, and the atmosphere appears to be a professional or social gathering.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE LIBRARY AND INFORMATION ASSOCIATION OF JAMAICA

February 2020-January 2021

Library and Information Association of Jamaica
12 East Street Kingston
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 was indeed an honour and a privilege to have served the members of this noble Association for the February 2020- January 2021 administrative year. As President, I sincerely thank you, the members, for your vote of confidence and support. I want to thank the members of the Executive who collectively “lifted where they stood and stood where they lifted.” Their efforts and contribution made it possible for us to explore and realize the true potential of a cohesive team.

To the general membership; I say thank you for your engagement in activities that sought to advance knowledge and awareness of library and information services. Thank you for participating in our activities this year that sought to provide new and innovative ways for training and development of staff in library institutions. I applaud all our members who despite the challenging circumstances of the year, continued to serve as beacons of light and hope to libraries, the information profession and information professionals in Jamaica.

Once again, I thank you for selecting me for this 2020 executive term and for all your continued guidance and support throughout the year.

Thank you

Sincerely,



.....

Mark-Jeffery Deans
President

Introduction

To say that the year 2020 was challenging would be an understatement. The year presented some very interesting events and unforeseen challenges. The COVID 19 pandemic took us by surprise; but, we undauntedly moved forward in our charge to dedicate our time and effort in forwarding the cause and associated intentions of LIAJA.

For this year 2020, the Executive; sought to accomplish the following:

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.

Our set objectives were affected by the ongoing impact of the pandemic; however, the Executive members boldly started the year with an information session and a panel discussion via Zoom in response to the threat of the pandemic on our members and on the profession in particular. Subsequently, a letter was sent, inquiring about the status of our members. Our efforts in training were realized, as we focused on engaging our members on the use of the technological platform of the period. Subsequently, training efforts continued as we engaged the Ministry of Education, Youth and Culture in equipping teacher/librarians with the necessary skills and attitude needed to function effectively. We were also blessed to have had a number of successful dialogue and partnership with local institutions and organizations whose mandates fuelled our efforts in representing our members.

We maintained our membership with our international partners, such as the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA) and the Association of Caribbean University, Research and Institutional Libraries (ACURIL). Understandably, our fundraising efforts were not as impressive as we had anticipated at the beginning of the year. However, we stayed the course. The major accomplishments for the period will therefore be highlighted in the next sections.

Highlights from 2020

Annual General Meeting and Luncheon and Awards Ceremony

On February 14, 2020, approximately 65 members gathered at the Alhambra Inn for the Annual General Meeting, Luncheon and Awards Ceremony. Members were briefed on the activities of the past year and also the upcoming plans for the new administrative year.

The 2020 Executive members are listed below:

Officers

President:	Mr. Mark-Jeffery Deans
Immediate Past President:	Mr. Nicholas Graham
1 st Vice President/Treasurer:	Mrs. Kerry Rodney Wellington
2 nd Vice President	Dr. Ruth Baker-Gardner
Honorary Secretary:	Ms. Simone Harrison

Section Chairs

Academic Libraries:	Mrs. Marsha Crawford
Records and Archives. Management:	Mrs. Kaydene Duffus-Dacres
Retired Members Section:	Ms. 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	Ms. Tracey-Ann Ricketts

Working Parties

Education and Training:	Mr. Joseph Kerr
Fundraising:	Ms. Debbie Smith
Information Technology:	Mr. Kevin Bushay
Membership & Conditions of Services:	Mrs. Nicoleen Saunders
Public Relations:	Mrs. Monique Forgie-Scott
Research and Publication:	Ms. Stacey Morant

Sub-Committees

Advocacy	Mrs. Tricia Lawrence
Awards:	Ms. Juliet fuller
Functions:	Ms. Chantal Cousins
70 th Anniversary:	Mrs. Jessica Lewis

Members of the 2020/2021 Executive



From left to right, front row: Ms. Keisha Walton, JLS Representative; Ms. Simone Harrison, Honorary Secretary; Mr. Mark-Jeffery Deans, President; Mrs. Kerry Rodney Wellington, 1st Vice President/Treasurer; Ms. Leleka Johnson, Chair of Special Libraries Section; Mrs. Marsha Crawford, Chair of Academic Libraries Section.

From left to right, back row: Mr. Nicholas Graham, Immediate Past President; Mr. Kevin Bushay, Chair of IT Working Party; Mrs. Jessica Lewis, Chair of the 70th Anniversary Committee; Mr. Joseph Kerr, Chair of the Education and Training Working Party; Mrs. Nicoleen Saunders, Chair of Membership & Conditions of Services; Ms. Debbie Smith, Chair of Fundraising; Ms. Chantal Cousins, Chair of Functions Committee.

Executive Meetings

For the most part, the meetings of the Association were held on the second Friday of each month. However; due to unforeseen circumstances there were occasions where meetings were not held on the designated Friday, but were deferred to a subsequent date in the month. All meetings of the Association for the year were held online via Zoom.

Regular Meetings

Two Regular Meetings were held for the year via Zoom. One on June 26, 2020 and the other on December 11, 2020. The first meeting in June was preceded by a panel discussion “COVID 19: Libraries and Information Centres...” The second Regular Meeting was preceded by a Special General Meeting where proposed amendments for the Constitution were presented for review and ratification. The attendance for both regular meetings was commendable.

Special General Meeting

A Special General Meeting was held on the same day as the Regular Meeting, December 11, 2020 and was convened specifically to deal with matters related to the proposed amendments to the constitution. Several amendments that were made by the Constitution Sub-Committee chaired by Mrs. Winsome Hudson, were presented to the membership for ratification.

Library and Information Week 2020

Library and Information Week 2020 was successful, as various organizations undertook initiatives to celebrate and showcase their achievements. The week was celebrated October 25–November 31, 2020, under the theme **"Use Responsibly: Information Ethics and You"** The following sub themes were highlighted:

LIAJA's support for the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) initiative "Media and Information Literacy for everyone by everyone"


LIAJA's consideration for the International Federation of Library Association's (IFLA) stance and support for access to information and freedom of expression as basic human rights.

LIAJA's support for Libraries and Information Centres contribution to improved outcomes across the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

LIAJA as an important partner in the creation of a knowledge-based economy; supporting libraries and information centres and national entities in their efforts to educate citizens on issues of information disorders (mis-information, dis-information, mal-information).









The table below gives an overview of the activities that were done for library and information week:

SUN. 25	MON. 26	TUE. 27	WED. 28	THUR. 29	FRI. 30	SAT. 31
Church Service: Victory Family Centre 1a Hope Boulevard Kingston 6. 8:00am	NLJ Webinar: “Building Bridges Not Walls: My British Library Journey” 1:00pm	JARD/NLJ/PIOJ/ UNESCO Virtual Memory of the world Forum for Caribbean Member States: “Your Window to the World: Preserving Audio Visual Heritage (AVH) for Posterity” 11am-1:00pm	Office of Utilities Regulation Symposium: “OURIC Untapped: Unlocking the Resources of the OUR Information Centre” 10:00am-12:00pm	LIAJA: GLEANER SUPPLEMENT PUBLICATION	DLIS Student Seminar: “Misinformation and Media Literacy in Jamaica” Part of the Global Media and Information Literacy Week 2020 Celebrations 10:00am-11:30am	
Portland Parish Library Presentation: Virtual PowerPoint Presentation “Information Ethics and You” Oct 25-31	St. Ann Parish Library :Virtual Library Tour	St. Ann Parish Library: Virtual Quiz/Games/Poster Competition “Information Ethics” Oct. 27-29	LIAJA Education and Training Workshop: Zoom for Library and Information Professionals Rescheduled for Nov. 27	NLJ Seminar: Legal Deposit Sweet 16: Publishers’ and Authors’ Seminar 1:00pm-2:30pm	St. Ann parish Library: Panel Discussion “Your Library and Information Ethics: Change in a Digital World”	
All Parish Library Network: Virtual Exhibition “Copyright Law and Plagiarism” Oct 25-31		Manchester Parish Library: Virtual Guide to Research Process (Big Six Model)	Manchester Parish Library Presentation: Virtual PowerPoint Presentation “Information Ethics and You” Oct. 28-31	Kingston and St. Andrew Parish Library Presentation: “Lookbook”: Digital Exhibition and Annotated Bibliography		
			Hanover and St. Thomas Parish Library: Virtual Quiz/Games/Poster Competition “Information Ethics”	LIAJA School Section Seminar: “School Libraries on the Information Superhighway” Rescheduled for Nov. 5		
			Hanover Parish Library: Panel Discussion “Your Library and Information Ethics: Change in a Digital World”	Westmoreland Parish Library: Virtual Quiz/Games/Poster Competition “Information Ethics”		


 Mark-Jeffery Deans
 President
 Library and Information Association of Jamaica

The Association thanks all those organizations/institutions which answered the call to contribute to the Gleaner Supplement on October 29th. Your participation was paramount to the success of the supplement. We invite and encourage all to join us in future publications.

2020 Gleaner Supplement Contributors

-  The Department of Library and Information Studies, UWI
-  HEART Trust NTA
-  Jamaica Archives and Records Department
-  Jamaica Library Service
-  Management Institute for National Development
-  National Library of Jamaica
-  Office of Utilities Regulation
-  The University of Technology, Calvin McKain Library

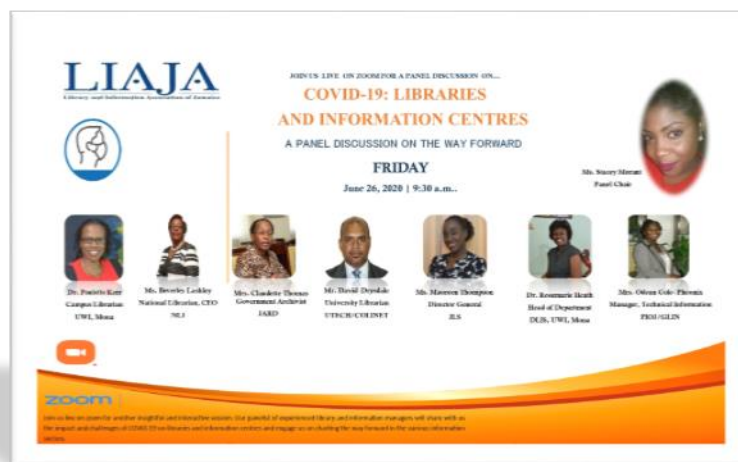
General Advocacy

The Association has always been effective in responding to issues that are in direct contradiction or are subtle misrepresentation of the roles and responsibilities of libraries and information centre or the profession in general. This year was no different as the Association responded to Dr Andrew Wheatley's article titled "Culture and Wi-Fi in daily life", published in The Gleaner on Thursday, December 24, 2020. The President's response was merited by the Gleaner Editor as the ***Letter of the Day***, under the heading "Libraries are not dormant, they are valuable resources". The President's letter in response to the article was published on Monday, December 28, 2020 at 12:08 AM.



General Membership Outreach Activities

In response to the COVID 19 pandemic, the Association proactively sought to inform members on issues related to the pandemic and educate them on how to effectively deal with the pandemic on a personal level as well as professionally. To this extent an information session was organized which provided the members with the opportunity to listen to and ask pertinent questions related to the pandemic. Over 40 members were in attendance for this session, which was titled “COVID 19: Promoting a Culture of Informed Decision-Making” The Guest presenters were Dr. Shalini Banhan, Medical Doctor, The University Hospital of the West Indies and Mrs. Patrice Whitehorn-Smith, Clinical Psychologist, Curtin University Western Australia .



Subsequently, a panel discussion was organized on June 26, 2020 under the theme “COVID 19: Libraries and Information Centres” Members of the panel included Dr. Paulette Kerr, Campus Librarian UWI, Mona; Ms. Beverley Lashley, National Librarian, CEO NLJ; Mrs. Claudette Thomas Government Archivist JARD; Mr. David Drysdale University Librarian UTECH/COLINET; Ms. Maureen Thompson, Director General JLS, and Mrs. Odean Cole-Pheonix, Manager, Technical Information PIOJ/GLIN. Dr. Rosemarie Heath, Acting Head of the Department DLIS, UWI, Mona was unavoidable absent for the session. Ms. Stacey Morant, Chair of the Research and Publication Working Party was the moderator.

The panel discussion highlighted various safety measures put in place to prevent the spread of the COVID-19 virus in the respective libraries and information centres. The panellists provided their responses, modified modes of operations, services and procedures going forward. Some of the responses included, providing library services virtually, adhering to Government protocols, and managing remote working for staff members.

Report from Sections

Academic Libraries

Submitted by: Marsha Crawford, Chair, Academic Libraries Section

Introduction

The year 2020 saw Academic Libraries Section continued with chair Marsha Crawford. As in the previous year, the recruitment of members for the section proved to be futile.

The following initiatives were proposed:

- ▶ *April - June*
- ▶ Inclusion for all – Disabled but still able(Create survey for all academic libraries re-disabled services) Present outcome to institutions (this can stimulate change in same)
- ▶ Academic Writing Workshop (two - days)
- ▶ *July – September*
- ▶ Academic Libraries Section social media – The Loud Librarians (Start a blog)
- ▶ Standardization of College Libraries Salary Package
- ▶ *October – December*
- ▶ Webinar on “Engendering a culture of Research within Jamaican Tertiary Institutions.”

Conclusion

The year proved to be very challenging one not only due to the Pandemic but also personal issues that took a toll on getting the business of the Association done and therefore the above-mentioned initiatives did not come to fruition. The outgoing Chair will support anyone who heads the Section in getting any proposals or initiatives that will be put forward.

Records and Archives Management

Submitted by: Dr. Kaydene Duffus Dacres, Chair, Records and Archives Management Section

Introduction

The following are the activities undertaken by the RAM section during 2020:

Section Meeting:

For 2018, the RAM Section team consisted of the following individuals:

1. Dr. Kaydene Duffus Dacres, *Section Chair; Records Manager, JN Bank*
2. Mrs. Nicolene Saunders-Grant, *Campus Librarian, HEART Eastern Institute*
3. Ms. Venecia Robertson, *Director, Documentation, Information and Access Services, Ministry of Justice.*
4. Ms. Deborah-Ann Christie, *STATIN*

Unfortunately, with the current COVID-19 crisis, the team was only able to meet twice on Zoom in October 2020, to discuss the way for the section and some plans to support practitioners in the Records and Archives Management professions. Persons also shared occasionally in the WhatsApp group established for the section.

Section Strategic Plan for 2019/2020: The strategic plan was developed with input from the RAM Section team members however, none of the activities presented was materialized due mainly to time constraints of team members and current set-back with the COVID-19 pandemic.

LIAJA Records: The Survey of six boxes of LIAJA records collected from Mrs. Jollette Russell and Mrs. Claudette Thomas was completed for the period. Three boxes have been deposited to the President, Mr. Deans, by the Chair, RAM Section, Dr. Kaydene Duffus Dacres and the others are to be submitted later.

Retired Members

No report submitted.

School Libraries

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

Introduction

This past year has been a challenging one for everyone concerned, and the school section was not exempted from the challenges.

Sensitisation Seminars

The section launched a sensitisation seminar on Tuesday December 8, 2020 under the theme “School Libraries on the Information Superhighway.” This was the section’s first move to offer support to school libraries since the beginning of the pandemic. The purpose of this session was to seek “buy in” from the principal regarding the introduction and implementation of online service for school libraries, and to sensitise school library personnel about the upcoming series of workshop.

A total of 393 persons, including principals, vice principals, senior staff and school library personnel registered for the workshop. Below are the topics which were covered in this seminar:

- The Importance of the School Library in the Digital Age
- Implementing a FREE Library Management System
- Acquiring the EBSCOhost database
- Available FREE Online Resources for Primary and Secondary Schools

The seminar was well received, and the section has kept in touch with the attendees providing them with ongoing updates regarding the upcoming workshops.

Workshops in partnership with Jamaica Library Service

A series of workshops dubbed “School Libraries on the Information Highway” is planned in partnership with the Jamaica Library Service. This series is slated to run from Wednesday, February 24, 2021 to Thursday March 25, 2021 *via Zoom*, and will comprise 12 workshops. This is a follow up to the sensitisation session held on Tuesday, December 8, 2021, and the topics were selected based on a needs analysis.

This series is being offered free of cost and is designed to help school libraries to tailor their services to the online environment so that they can offer at least minimal service. The workshops topics and dates are displayed on the table below.

TOPICS	DATE	TIME
1. The Role of School Libraries	Wednesday, Feb. 24, 2021	12:00 noon to 3:30 pm
2. Developing a Plan for ICT Implementation	Thursday, Feb. 25, 2021	12:00 noon to 3:30 pm
3. Free E-reading Resources for Primary Schools	Friday, Feb. 26, 2021	12:00 noon to 3:30 pm
4. Free Curriculum Resources for Secondary Schools	Wednesday, Mar. 3, 2021	12:00 noon to 3:30 pm
5. Steps in Acquiring Ebsco Database	Thursday, Mar. 4, 2021	12:00 noon to 2:30 pm
6. Acquiring Koha (Integrated Library Management System)	Friday, Mar. 5, 2021	12:00 noon to 3:30 pm
7. Cataloguing with RDA	Wednesday, Mar. 10, 2021	12:00 noon to 3:30 pm
8. Developing Subject Bibliographies	Thursday, Mar. 11, 2021	12:00 noon to 3:30 pm
9. Teaching Information Literacy Online	Thursday, Mar. 18, 2021	12:00 noon to 3:30 pm
10. Proposal Writing	Friday, Mar. 19, 2021	12:00 noon to 3:30 pm
11. Writing Library Reports	Wednesday, Mar. 24, 2021	12:00 noon to 3:30 pm
12. Evaluating Library Impact	Thursday, Mar. 25, 2021	12:00 noon to 3:30 pm

School librarians, library assistants and teachers in charge of school libraries are encouraged to register only for those workshops that are relevant to them, as each session can only accommodate 100 persons.

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 activities and functions of the section were tremendously hampered by the COVID-19 pandemic. The section did not do any activity for the year.

Majority of the libraries in the Section were closed to the public for an extended period of time, because of the virus. Most had re-opened with restrictions and limited access. 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.

Reports of Working Parties

Education & Training

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

INTRODUCTION

At the commencement of the Administrative year, the following strategic plan was proposed:

- 1. The promotion of lifelong learning, knowledge creation and professional development;*
- 2. The staging of at least 2 sessions relating to current trends and issues in Library and Information Studies;*
- 3. Ensuring that one workshop covers either Constitutional Review (LIAJA) or Chairmanship and Basic Parliamentary Procedures (Meeting Management);*
- 4. Collaboration with training institutions and groups to provide training;*
- 5. Periodically sharing with our members and non-members current library trends and issues and available training opportunities via email, social media, website etc.*

MISSION: To develop a training programme to address the training needs of the membership”.

MATTERS COMPLETED

1. COMMITTEE

The commencement of the year a five (5) member committee was named and confirmed. For the reporting period a total of five meetings (face-to-face and on-line) were held.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS & PORTFOLIO ASSIGNMENTS

Joseph A. Kerr – Chairman

Marie Mullings (BMC) - Secretary/Public Relations

Tamara McCrea (SJTC) - Logistic

Tara Blackwood (MBCC) - Assistant Secretary / Events Coordinator

Marsha Crawford (MBCC) Advisor

2. WORKSHOP

Based on continuous request, the decision was taken to focus on the area of Records Management, coined “**Managing Records**”. The first workshop for the year was primarily geared towards central Jamaica, and was implemented on Friday, January 31, 2020. *The main objective of the Workshop was to guide functionaries in the management of records, and how to carry out their duties in a knowledgeable way with the intention of reducing possible risks associated with litigation, fraud, safety and security breaches.*

The Main Presenter was Mrs. Donna LynFatt, Quality Assurance Officer at the MBCC, she covered the areas of safety, security and conforming to regulations.

Other presenters were:

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

As a committee, we initially targeted forty (40) participants, and ended up with five-five (55) including presenters. Participants came from the Parishes of St. Elizabeth, Manchester, Clarendon, and the Corporate Area. The St. Elizabeth Parish Library and Denbigh High School led the way with five (5) participants each.

The Cecil Charlton Hall, in Mandeville, Manchester was the venue. This workshop was a collaborative effort with LIAJA colleague Denise Hunter then Chair of the Membership and Conditions of Service Working Party.



Certificate of participation awarded to Ms. Marie Mullings by Mr. Joseph Kerr, Chair of the Education and Working Party.



Certificate of appreciation awarded to Mrs. Marsha Crawford by Ms. Denise Hunter.

3. TRAINING SESSION

The Working Party's second training session for the year was held under the theme **"Using Zoom for the delivery of Information Literacy: In light of Covid 19 pandemic"** and was successfully implemented on Friday, November 27, 2020. The session was initially scheduled for Library Week.

The facilitator was Dr. Alicia Palmer, Institutional Design Specialist at the UWI Main Library, Mona Campus. We had forty-four (44) devices connected to the platform.

The session was implemented in light of Coronavirus where stakeholders have been forced to find alternative methods in delivering instructions for students and faculty. The session focused on how to use various strategies of **facilitation** and the identification of tips and tools to improve the delivery of Information literacy. Additionally, members were able to actively participate in demonstrations.

Feedback received indicated that most participants thought it was indeed a timely implemented session and was extremely pleased with the presentation and high levels of interaction facilitated. Access to the presentation may be gained through the link below: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=js6ozDODDbk>

4. LIBRARY RELATED WEBINARS.

Information on Library 2.0 and World Health Organization's webinars was circulated to the general membership (via PR Working Party).

CONCLUSION

The proposal to formulate collaboration with IT Working Party for the implementation of virtual training sessions did not materialize. Additionally, the development of Membership questionnaire was not done.

I must publicly thank my colleague at work; Library Assistant, Ms. Tara Blackwood who assisted with correspondences and Mr Yannick Haughton of the IT Department with the provision of technical support and who captured the day's activity on camera a big thank you.

Sincere appreciation to all our presenters and members of the planning committee for your invaluable assistance, without your support I am positive the Education and Training Working Party would not have had the successes it did. Thanks to our membership, special invitees and friends for your continued support and fulsome participation.

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

Fund Raising

Submitted by: Mark-Jeffery Deans on behalf of Debbie Smith, Chair, Fund Raising Working Party



The onset of the COVID pandemic posed serious challenges to the efforts of the working party, nevertheless much planning was done initially with the prospect of having a successful year. Although much was not accomplished; the working party hopes that the incoming administration will implement some of the plans that were already set in motion by the Chair.

The main objectives of the working party were:

- To raise the profile of the fund raising committee
- To secure sponsorships at least two years
- Plan and execute fund activities/ventures
- Ensuring that all eligible members are aware of the various fund raising activities
- To assist working parties and committees secure sponsorship for ventures

The working party had targeted some major stake holders, these included:

- All eligible members of LIAJA
- All chairs of working parties / Committees/Sub / Sections
- NLJ, JLS/SLN, COLINET Rep,
- Funds to assist in completing tasks / ventures
- Activities which engage the membership
- Timely communication of the fundraising activities

In order to achieve the targeted objectives and work closely with our stakeholders, the following had to be done:

- Work closely with working parties during their planning process to identify and gain possible sponsorship
- Engage in social activities which have income generating capacities

Strategically, the working party intended to:

- *Generate income for the Association*
- *Secure 2- to- 5- year partnership with sponsors*
- *Link sponsors to specific working parties/ committees and sub-committees*

Below are the initiatives and programmes that were set in place for the administrative year:

- Running event *Guardian Run* – income we get a percentage of whatever amount our group has generated.
- Pop up gyms – Duration - six months to a year – subject to the running event & pandemic
- Raffles – 2 or 3 per year. Dinner for two/LIAJA luncheon, weekend or day pass, gadget or appliance (to be donated by a sponsor).
- Benefit Play – we get a percentage of the cost

To the extent that the incoming administration will be successful in implementing the above suggestions for income generation, the chair recommends that there needs to be more collaborative work done with Membership and working parties and sub committees to encourage an aggressive membership drive. Additionally, there needs to be greater emphasis on a robust promotion of the fund raising activities.

Information Technology

No report submitted.

Membership & Conditions of Service

Submitted by: Nicoleen Saunders-Grant, Chair, Membership and Conditions of Service Working Party

Committee members: Nicoleen Saunders-Grant - Chair

Denise Hunter

Genevieve Jones-Edman

The committee started the year with the objective of improving membership experience through various actions. The planned actions included updating the membership planet database; implementing birthday/ special occasion greetings initiative; conducting a needs assessment survey; ensuring the membership list is current and up-to-date; keeping the executive abreast of the membership needs. The planned actions were affected by the COVID -19 pandemic; however, the committee was able to update the database and the membership list with the help of the treasurer. Some unplanned actions were taken to migrate the impact of the pandemic and encourage persons to renew their membership, these actions included:

Migrating the membership application form to the survey monkey application to facilitate online submission of applications.

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1ZtsHR-D_yrHVKXcKEPbAFzQH5e3CHgupq0Ts3cxn-zo/edit



Creating a flyer that offers a twenty percent (20%) discount to school section members.

The Association lost a few great members during the period, these persons were:

- Professor Claudette Fay Durrant who served as the President of the Association in 2005-2006. Prior to that in 2004 she served as First Vice President and President Elect. As an Executive member in 2001, she chaired the Information Technology Working Party.
- Rosemarie Scott, Librarian at the Jamaica Theological Seminary.
- Ouida Lewis contributed to librarianship in Jamaica for over 45 years. Mrs. Lewis graduated from the DLIS in 1975 and over the succeeding years made an indelible contribution to library development in Jamaica serving first as Technical Information Officer at the Scientific Research Council and then as a librarian at the UWI Library, Mona.

There were also a few reasons to celebrate:

- Ms. Chantelle Richardson who is completing a Chevening FCDO Scholarship at the British library gave an interview with DDX channel on why she became a librarian, libraries and importance of archiving.
- Rosemarie Scott, Tracey-Ann Ricketts and Nicoleen Saunders-Grant earned their Master of Arts degrees.

Public Relations

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

Introduction

Committee Members:

- Monique Forgie-Scott, Chair
- Kay-Ann Miller
- Kimone Frazer

For the 2020-21 reporting period the PRWP Team's three (3) major initiatives were to:

- Engage the public through press releases and statements, Letters to the Editor and the Gleaner supplement.
- Support the Boys' Town Primary and Infant school library.
- Team up with the Jamaica Environment Trust as a volunteer for the International Coastal Clean-up Day 2020.

Due to the coronavirus pandemic, only some of our plans were executed. The Party however continued to circulate, through its communication channels, notices and announcements that were of interest to, and for the benefit of, members. These included:

- LIAJA Revised Constitution
- Meetings, lecture
- Publications, call for papers
- Statements/press releases on Covid-19
- Library and Information Week 2020 information
- Training and employment opportunities
- Congratulations, wishes, condolences, thanksgiving services, etc.

Library & Information Week 2020 | October 25-31

Church Service

Library & Information Week (LIW)2020 was held under the theme, ***Use Responsibly, Information Ethics & You***. The Week started off with a church service held at Victory Family Centre, 1A Hope Boulevard. The service was also live streamed. The President

delivered his message for LIW 2020 encouraging citizens of Jamaica and the rest of the world to consider their responsibility in using information ethically.

Physically attending the Service were:

Mark-Jeffery Deans, President

- Kerry-Ann Rodney-Wellington, 1st VP & Treasurer
- Monique Forgie-Scott, Chair Public Relations Working Party
- Simone Harrison, Honorary Secretary
- Ruth Baker-Gardener, Chair, Schools Section



Civic Service

The LIAJA registered as an organiser with the Jamaica Environmental Trust (JET) for International Coastal Cleanup Day 2020. The programme was scheduled to run throughout the months of September and October. Twenty-seven (27) LIAJA volunteers signed up to clean up along the Palisadoes on the Sunday and Saturday of Library and Information Week 2020. However, due to health and safety concerns caused by the increasing number of Covid-19 cases, JET postponed the exercise and when a new date was announced, the volunteers did not respond to the call and as such the LIAJA did not participate in the exercise.

Outreach

With the closure of schools, the Working Party was unable to conduct its outreach activity at the Boys' Town Primary school.

Despite the setbacks, there were a few achievements for the year.

LIAJA's Philanthropy

To honour its commitment to education, LIAJA Executive Members assisted primary school student Rickayla Scotland with books and other school supplies following a request for assistance from her mother, Rushelle Scotland. On October 2, 2020, LIAJA President, Mark-Jeffery Deans and Chair, Public Relations Working Party, Monique Forgie-Scott, rendezvoused by the beautiful Kingston waterfront to present Rickayla with her school supplies in time for the October 5 reopening of school. Mom and daughter expressed their gratitude to the Association. In 2019 the Association presented Rickayla with five book vouchers valuing \$25000 to offset her back-to-school expenses following a fire which destroyed her family home.



We Honor You | Honorary Members

There are currently seven (7) honorary members of the Association, namely:

- Mr. John Aarons
- Mrs. Norma Amenu-Kpodo
- Mrs. Beatrice Anderson
- Dr. Hazel Bennett
- Professor Daphne Douglas
- Miss Stephney Ferguson
- Mrs. Albertina Jefferson



John Aarons poses with his gift



Mrs. Amenu-Kpodo accepts her gift
from Mark-Jeffery Deans

Like we did in 2019, the Executive continues to pay respect and gratitude to our honorary members for their contribution to the library and information profession. On Saturday, February 6, 2021 the Chair delivered pre-Valentine's Day gifts to each member as tokens of appreciation and to wish them well. Mrs. Kpodo will receive hers in the coming week when she returns to Kingston. The Honorary Members expressed their appreciation to the LIAJA for the gifts and for being thought of.

LIAJA in the Media

On December 28, 2020, the Gleaner published an article written to the Editor by LIAJA president, Mr. Mark Jeffery Deans titled, ***Libraries are not dormant they are valuable resources***. The article was in response to one written by Dr. Andrew Wheatley, Member of Parliament for South St. Catherine, titled ***Culture and Wi-Fi in daily life*** which was published on December 24, 2020. President Dean's article was the Letter of the Day and can be viewed at <http://jamaica-gleaner.com/article/letters/20201228/letter-day-libraries-are-not-dormant-they-are-valuable-resources>.

Engaging Our Members

To further connect with our members a new social media account was created on Instagram for the Association. Members are being encouraged to follow all our social media platforms and like, share and post comments. We continue to disseminate information through the LIAJA group mail and social media platforms:

Research and Publications

Submitted by: Stacey Morant, Chair, Research and Publications Working Party

The Working Party started the year with the goal of promoting research and information Sharing initiatives through:

- Capturing and sharing ideas and experiences regarding research relevant to the field of Library and Information Management; and
- Encouraging and supporting further research and innovations in the field Library and Information Management.

To this extent the four pointed objectives were formulated:

- ✚ Publishing of LIAJA Bulletin; once per month or on a needs basis.
- ✚ Publishing of LIAJA Magazine on or before September 30, 2020
- ✚ Publishing of a LIAJA Blog quarterly; June, December and March.
- ✚ Publishing of LIAJA Journal once per year; January 31, 2021.

We thank Dr. Sasekea Harris, for spearheading work being done on the LIAJA Journal, which is on track for publication May 31, 2021. Although most of our objectives were never fully realized for the year; the Working Party is optimistic that 2021-2022 will be a better year in fulfilling its mandate.

Reports of Sub-Committees

Advocacy

Submitted by: Tricia Lawrence, Advocacy Sub-Committee

Advocacy Chair Report (2020)

The Advocacy team was led by Tricia Lawrence Powell and deputized by Jollette Russell. The team was marred by impact of the Covid-19 pandemic. Despite same, the main accomplishment for the team was to commence discussions for the review of the “Librarian Series”. A document is currently being drafted after which key stakeholders will be re-engaged to make it final and submitted to Ministry of Finance for consideration and implementation.

The advocacy team also engaged the International Federation of Library Associations & Institutions (IFLA) on matters relating to the library of the world map, and our plan to engage our local library and information network to have Jamaica, once again, emerged on the library map of the world. The advocacy chair also engaged in conversations and training where her input was requested to advise on approaches to write reports against the sustainable development goals as well as Jamaica’s National Determine Contribution (NDC). Engagement was also had with the Chair of LIAJA, Mark Jeffrey Deans to consider a preservation protocol for digitized collection with a copy being retained at the National Library of Jamaica for preservation and posterity.

The advocacy chair admits that more work was required throughout the year and, therefore, proposes that more attention in the coming year be focused on training and development, partnerships (locally and internationally), and strategies to increase visibility using new and emerging media. The team has already made recommendation to the Chair of the Schools Library Section of LIAJA to support in training its cohort on “library impact assessment”.

Awards

Submitted by: Juliet Fuller, Chair, Awards Sub-Committee

The Awards Committee assist in the process of recognizing outstanding achievements and involvement in the Library and Information profession. This is done by:

- raising the profile of the awards committee
- overseeing the awards process,
- planning and executing awards ceremony,
- ensuring that all eligible members are aware of the various awards on offer, and
- circulating all relevant awards documents (forms, criteria etc.)



The committee aids in the process in order to foster transparency and inclusion based on eligibility and other criteria outlined and required for selection of award/s.



The Section **aims/initiatives** for the year were to compliment and further engage stakeholders to commit to fostering a long-term partnership with the section. These initiatives are:

- Long Service Award (in tandem with the 70th Anniversary)
- Mentorship Award
- Internship Award – targeting new Librarians/Records.
- Most Outstanding Library Week Initiative/Activity (Both group and individual award)

In addition, the section had ambitiously wished to undertake and collaborate with sections and working parties. The section also intended to target external stakeholders in a bid to gain their commitment through cash or sponsorship to further attract and compliment the list of awards categories available.

However, due to the *coronavirus (COVID-19)* pandemic the Committee was unable to implement and undertake initiatives planned. It is my hope that 2021-2022 will be a better year for the section to fulfill its mandates.

Building and Property Development

Submitted by: Mark-Jeffery Deans, on behalf of David Drysdale, Chair, Building and Property Development Sub-Committee

A special general meeting was held on December 11, 2020; where proposals for amendments to the constitution were presented for review and ratification.

There were several suggestions as to how we could utilize the LIAJA property as an income generator for the Association, which included utilizing the premises as a parking lot and possible sale of the property itself.

Subsequent to this, we were informally approached by the previous owner (Vivene Sterling) of the property, who said she would be interested in purchasing the land from us. That wasn't readily entertained because of a number of reasons. Among those reasons were the fact that the Building and property sub-committee needed to be reactivated. Additionally, in order to rent or even consider sale, the property needed to be valued. This is still to be done.

In December 2020, the property was de-bushed and debris removed and trucked.

Constitution Review

Submitted by: Mark-Jeffery Deans on behalf of Winsome Hudson, Chair, Constitution Review Sub-Committee

A special general meeting was held on December 11 2020; where the amended constitution was presented for ratification.

The Constitution had been under review for the last five (5) years, and so this Special General Meeting was critical to the finalization of the same. Following the presentation and discussion of the amended changes, a motion was moved for the amendments to be accepted and seconded. The voting then proceeded where 20 members voted on the acceptance of the amendments.

Although the number of members who were present at the meeting was less than anticipated. We must note that the process was constitutionally guided and the amended changes were accepted by 100% of those who attended and were eligible to vote.

I want to thank the members of the constitution amendment committee for the hard work and dedication that they placed into amending the constitution itself. I want to also thank all those members who responded to our requests for their input/comments on the recommended amendments.

Major areas of revision included:

Article 8.3: The retired member's special interest group is represented on the executive and should continue to have a representative from the group. However, any other special interest groups hereafter should not exist beyond five years as a SIG.

Article 10.3: Meetings of the Association may either be face to face or by any medium available as determined by the Executive and communicated to the membership.

Article 14.5: Sections and working parties are required to remit all moneys generated from fund raising to the Association.

Article 14.6: Special interest groups are required to contribute 15% of their earned income towards the Association's expenses.

Section 1, under the By-laws 6: Institutional Membership of the Association shall be open to organizations operating in the library, archive and records management, gallery, museum and related fields.

Functions

Submitted by: Chantal Cousins, Chair, Functions Sub-Committee

The year 2020 started as a promising one filled with many plans of keeping the Library and Information Association of Jamaica on the high momentum that was built up in 2019. Unfortunately, the novel Coronavirus (Covid 19) detoured those plans, due to the lockdown of the country, restrictions on the social gathering, and a strict embrace of the online platforms for meetings and events. As such workshops became webinars and Library and Information Week was celebrated with a host of virtual activities. We wish to thank the members of the Association who committedly participated in the events during what was a challenging time. This experience has taught us a lot and those lessons will be brought forward in making the Association stronger.

We are optimistic that the Executive year 2021-2022 the Subcommittee will be better able to execute the other plans of the Association by adapting to change of events planning and management.

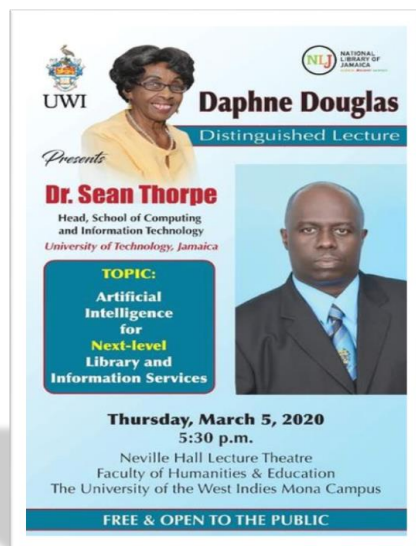
Reports from Institutions

DLIS/Library Training Institutions

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

The Department of Library and Information Studies, UWI, Mona had a number of activities throughout the year. The activities were all well represented and attended.

The Daphne Douglas Distinguished Lecture



The Daphne Douglas Distinguished Lecture organized by Department of Library and Information Studies took place on Thursday, March 5, 2020 at 5:30 pm at the Neville Hall Lecture Theatre, Faculty of Humanities and Education.

The Lecture was delivered by Dr. Sean Thorpe, Associate Professor and Head of School of Computing and Information Technology in the School of Computing and Information Technology

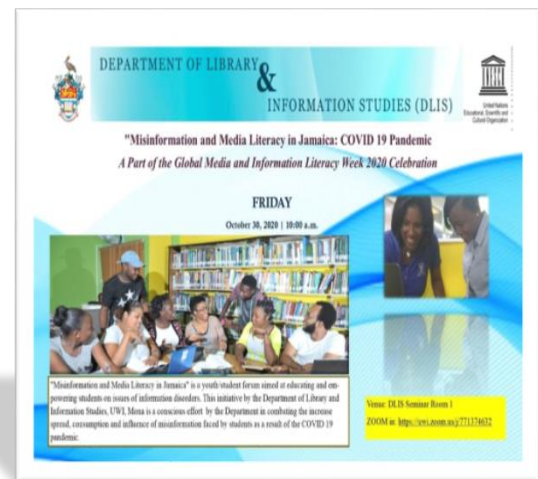
The Lecture was in honour of Professor Emerita Daphne Douglas for her contribution to Library and Information Science in the Caribbean and the development of the Department of Library and Information Studies at UWI, Mona.

Professor Douglas is the first Jamaican woman to be named professor and only one of three

female professors, when she attained the title in 1974. Before she joined UWI, Douglas served the Jamaica Library Service for 15 years. Throughout her career as a librarian, she has served many international organizations dedicated to library science. In 1992, she was given the Order of Distinction for her work and was also honoured with the Institute of Jamaica's Silver Musgrave Medal in 2005.

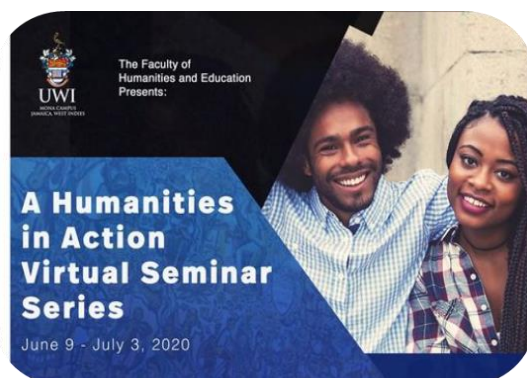
Students' Forum

October 30, 2020 the Department hosted a Students' Forum on Misinformation and MIL Literacy. The forum was in celebration of the upcoming Library and Information Week and UNESCO's Global MIL Week. The forum aimed to educate and empower students on issues of information disorders.



This initiative by the Department of Library and Information Studies, UWI, Mona was a conscious effort by the Department in combating the challenges of misinformation faced by students during the pandemic period.

The Humanities in Action Virtual Seminar Series



From June 9th to July 3rd, the Faculty of Humanities and Education (FHE), UWI, hosted a number of seminars under the theme "The Humanities in Action Virtual Seminar Series."

The Department of Library and Information Studies was represented by Mark-Jeffery Deans and Dr. Stanley Griffin. Presentations in the series were geared towards using the FHE's respective disciplines to assist local, regional and international communities affected by COVID-19.

On August 8th, 2020 the Department of Library and Information Studies welcomed Professor. Jeanette Bastian, Honorary Fellow to the Department. Dr. Paulette Stewart, HOD led the staff in welcoming Professor. Bastian who will be in the MPhil/PhD programme.

 **THE UNIVERSITY OF THE WEST INDIES**
AT MONA, JAMAICA
THE DEPARTMENT OF LIBRARY AND INFORMATION STUDIES

APPOINTMENT OF HONORARY FELLOW, INFORMATION STUDIES

The University of the West Indies is pleased to announce the appointment of Professor Jeanette Bastian, Professor Emerita, School of Library and Information Science, Simmons University, Boston, USA as Honorary Fellow, Information Studies, attached to the Department of Library & Information Studies (DLIS) for the initial period of September 1, 2020- August 30, 2022. Her duties are as follows:

- Serve as lead supervisor for Master of Philosophy/Doctor of Philosophy (MPhil/PhD) candidates, approved for registration for the academic year, 2020/2021, in accordance with The UWI Graduate Studies Guidelines for Research Students and Supervisors
- Help strengthen the Departmental structures to enhance and sustain a research culture in Information Studies in conjunction with the Department's Coordinator for MPhil/PhD Studies
- Contribute to the Departmental overall academic life, as well as the Faculty of Humanities and Education, by facilitating research methodology sessions, workshops and delivering lectures as requested.


Image Courtesy: Simmons.edu

A former Territorial Librarian of the United States Virgin Islands and later Director of the Archives programme at Simmons University in the United States of America, Professor Bastian has had a close association with The UWI, from where she holds a MPhil. Degree in English Literature. She served as the chair of the group of archival experts who recommended the introduction of the graduate studies degree programme in Archival Studies and later assisted with the development of its curriculum. She has published widely and among these publications is *Decolonizing the Caribbean Record: An Archives Reader* (2018) which she edited along with John Aarons and Stanley H. Griffin. The Department of Library and Information Studies will benefit significantly from Professor Bastian's academic leadership experience and will provide an enabling environment for the Honorary Fellow as she engages with students and faculty to promote scholarship in Information Studies.

Professor
Jeannette A.
Bastian,
Professor
Emerita
School of
Library and
Information
Science,
Simmons
University.

The Department of Library and Information Studies (DLIS), Seminar Series

The Department of Library and Information Studies, had a number of seminar series, under the theme “Info Talks” The series were an integral part of the Department’s drive to create an active and robust environment for research and research output. The sessions were coordinated by Dr. Stanley Griffin, Postgraduate Coordinator.



*Ms Lorraine Nero, UWI
St Augustine*



*Ms. Monique Oats, JP
College of Agriculture
Science and Education,
Portland*

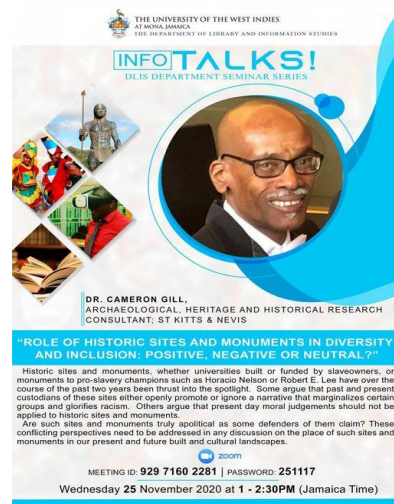


*Dr. Ruth Baker-Gardner,
The Department of
Library and Information
Studies, The University of
the West Indies, Mona.*

Dr. Suzanne Francis-Brown, Founding Curator and Honorary Research Fellow, UWI Museum



Dr. Thera Edwards, Curator/Lecturer, Department of Geography and Geology, UWI Mona.



Dr. Cameron Gill, Archaeological, Heritage and Historical Research Consultant; St. Kitts & Nevis

Jamaica Library Service

Submitted by: Keisha Walton, JLS Representative

The Jamaica Library Service continued the delivery of a range of programme and service offerings throughout the year 2020 and demonstrated resilience in the present COVID-19 pandemic. Since the first case of the Corona virus in Jamaica, March 10, 2020 and the restrictions implemented thereafter, the Jamaica Library Service (JLS) made several operational adjustments which were continually amended in compliance with the enforcement measures under the Disaster Risk Management Act.

The organization adopted a blended approach in providing resources to satisfy the needs of library patrons and embraced a new frontier of service delivery. Although contact hours for face-to-face programmes and services to public and school library patrons were reduced, virtual service offerings were expanded, new partnerships formed and others renewed. The JLS developed an interim guide for the reopening of its public libraries and after a period of islandwide closure effective March 20, 2020, phased reopening activities to the public commenced on June 8, 2020.

The experience of the JLS in meeting the challenges of the pandemic was also shared with members of the library and information industry in a virtual panel discussion organized by LIAJA on June 26, 2020 on the topic *“COVID-19 and Libraries: A Discussion on the Way Forward.”*



Staff of the St. Ann Parish Library ready for re-opening to the public; encouraging the need to practice physical distancing and wearing of masks to slow the spread of COVID-19.

All public library locations were closed to the public between March 20, 2020 and June 5, 2020.

PROGRAMMES & SERVICES

A significant achievement for the period was the JLS website accessible at www.jls.gov.jm being made **data free** and **virtual services** offered for all ages including:

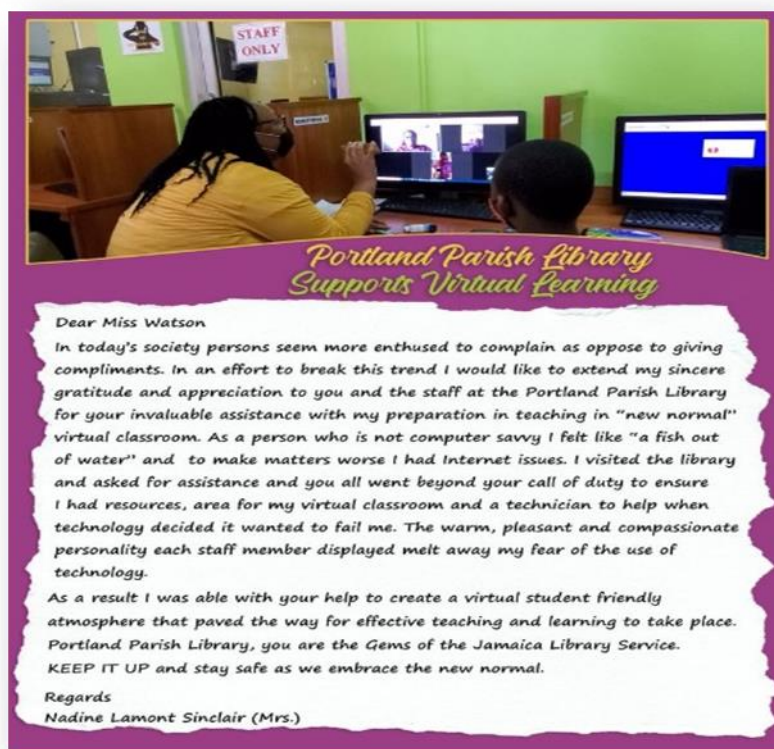
- E-books, audiobooks
- Online Reference/ Homework Assistance
- Online registration for membership
- *Ask A Librarian* live chat service
- Remote access to EBSCO research database
- Recorded Storytime online

Online Learning

As an agency of the Ministry of Education, Youth and Information the JLS supported the Ministry's approaches to ensure that teaching and learning continued despite the COVID-19 pandemic. Students, parents and teachers were provided with access to ICT resources, reading and research material and on-the-spot-training to utilize various learning platforms at JLS locations across the island. Over 1,200 students accessed the service throughout the new school term beginning September 2020 and over 4,000 on-the-spot-training /point-of-need support was provided for library users.



*Students at the Trelawny Parish Library
using the JLS WIFI to attend Online
Classes*



Mrs. Nadine Lamont Sinclair, teacher from the Randolph Lopez School of Hope, Port Antonio, thanks library staff at the Portland Parish Library for services rendered in supporting her online classes.

The St. Mary Parish Library was **featured in Television Jamaica Prime Time News on Sunday October 18, 2020**, highlighting how public libraries provided opportunities for students without access to the required resources, such as computers/tablets and the internet, to be able to attend online classes.

The Hon. Fayval Williams, Minister of Education in her back-to-school address for the 2021 Easter Term also highlighted the role of the JLS locations as access points for after school/classes in communities at library locations islandwide.

SCHOOL LIBRARY NETWORK

Supporting Literacy in the Caribbean

The School Library Network, Regions 2 and 3 partnered with the Richmond Hill Preparatory school in the Turks and Caicos Islands to conduct a series of series of virtual workshops for 22 grade four (4) students from the school. The first session was held on Monday September 21, 2020 and sessions continued on Mondays from 12:00 to 1:00 throughout the school term.

PROGRAMMES & SERVICES



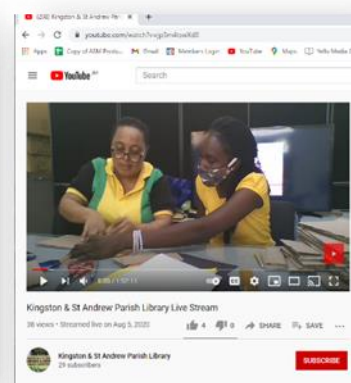
National Reading Competition 2020

Registration for the 2020 season of the National Reading Competition themed “**Get**

Reading Right from the Start” commenced in March 2020 with over 400 competitors registering online for participation. The Organizing Committee revised the testing methodology for the Competition to 100% written work and suspended face-to-face engagements such as the National Quiz Finals and the Awards Luncheon. The JLS received with appreciation a commitment from LIAJA to sponsor the National award for the best letter in the 6 -8 age group category.

Virtual Summer Programmes 2020

The JLS partnered with the National Environment and Planning Agency and hosted a Virtual Summer Programme at the Manchester and Kingston & St. Andrew Parish Libraries for the period July 20 – 31, 2020



T.J. Gooden (left) emerged as the 6-8 category winner of the Poster Competition at the Manchester Parish Library summer programme. A participant (centre) at the same location is absorbed in doing art & craft while the JLS staff (right) demonstrate activities online

The JLS partnered with the National Museum of Jamaica to host a Virtual Summer Workshop under the theme *“Come learn about the journey of the Jamaican people and our amazing heritage”* for the period August 3 – 14, 2020. The programme of activities included:

- Virtual tour of the National Museum Collection specifically the artefacts of Tainos and Ubuntu tribes
- Virtual tours of a number of Heritage Sites and a local company
- Lectures by representatives from the Ministry of Culture and Natural History Museum

Summer programme activities were coordinated in other public libraries across the island in collaboration with community stakeholders and government agencies. Over 30 summer programme videos of stories and a range of activities were made available on the JLS YouTube channel.



Storytelling – a staple on the menu of JLS programmes, was made available online (read by staff pictured online). Participants in a face to face storytelling session at the Petersfield Branch Library summer programme in Westmoreland while observing social distancing protocols

BRANCH LIBRARY RE-OPENING

A highlight of the year was the re-opening of the Green Island Branch Library in the Hanover Parish Library Network, which was closed in 2011 due to structural damage. The renovation of the library was made possible by the Sandals Foundation which funded the project through a significant investment of over \$14 million. The branch library was reopened on June 23, 2020 and on the occasion of the opening ceremony, Mr. Adam Stewart, President of the Sandals Foundation affirmed that *“Libraries are at the heart of community development. They continue to be the gateway to information and connects people to the rest of the world; and they are the bridge that connects its residents to each other.”*

The attractively renovated facility was welcomed by residents of Green Island and surrounding communities including Cave Valley, Kendal, Orange Bay, Rock Spring and Cousins Cove.



Pictured at the official re-opening of the Green Island Branch Library are (from left) Paul Lalor, Chairman, Jamaica Library Board; Adam Stewart, Chairman, Sandals Resorts International and President of the Sandals Foundation; Maureen Thompson, Director General, Jamaica Library Service; Heidi Clarke, Executive Director, Sandals Foundation and Marveta Stewart-Richards, Regional Director, Jamaica Library Service, Region 4



The Green Island Branch Library facility in disrepair.



The Renovated Green Island Branch Library

Observances

International Literacy Day

In observance of International Literacy Day on **September 8, 2020** the JLS in collaboration with the Ministry of Education, Youth and Information Regions 2, 3, 4 and 5 participated in a series of virtual activities hosted under the theme *"Literacy Teaching and Learning in the COVID-19 Crisis and Beyond."* The activities included two virtual seminars and 19 recorded video discussions.

Library and Information Week

The JLS joined in the celebration of Library and Information Week which was observed from **October 25-31, 2020** under the theme *"Use Responsibly Information Ethics and You."* Libraries across the island hosted virtual tours and activities in keeping with the theme to celebrate the event. The JLS contributed to the LIAJA Library and Information Week Supplement published in the Gleaner on October 29, 2020 with a message from the Director General and an advertorial.

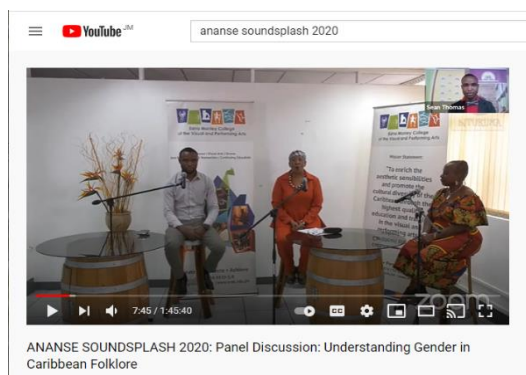
The **Portland Parish Library Network** also launched its **'ProjectPro'** initiative to offer guidance to students, on how to conduct research. The programme also assists students in managing how they utilize sources to avoid plagiarism and copyright violations.

Ananse Soundsplash 2020: Storytelling Conference and Festival and National Storytelling Day

The Jamaica Library Service continued its annual collaboration with Ntukuma Storytelling Foundation of Jamaica and launched the ***Ananse Soundsplash 2020: Storytelling Conference and Festival***, with an International Opening Gala on November 17, 2020 featuring Storytellers from across the world. Over 3,000 viewers participated in the opening gala.

The Festival was observed from November 17-22, 2020 under the theme: *Ananse Websight*. As part of the Festival, National Storytelling Day was observed on November 20, 2020. The series of events were hosted online on the JLS Facebook and Youtube Social Media pages.

Highlights included the following events:



- Panel Discussion titled “Understanding Gender in Caribbean Folklore” hosted in observance of International Men’s Day on November 19, 2020.
- National Storytelling Day was observed on November 20, 2020.
- A Children’s Storybook ‘That’s a Good Idea’ by Dr. Amina Blackwood Meeks was launched on National Storytelling Day and also marked the observance of Universal Children’s Day.
- ‘Ananse on the Air Waves’ - Radio Show was broadcasted at 6:00 p.m. on November 20, 2020 on FIT 97 FM, with host Beverley Edwards.
- Closing Gala held on November 22, 2020 themed: *Will the Real Ananse Please Stand up? Ananse Demands Reparation*.

All events were streamed live on the Jamaica Library Service YouTube Channel from November 17-22, 2020 and are still available for viewing. **The series of events generated over 21,000 views.**

International Association of School Librarianship Newsletter (IASL)

The JLS was featured in the January 2021 International Association of School Librarianship (IASL) newsletter released on January 13, 2021. The article featured the expansion of online service offerings and the partnership with NTUKUMA Storytelling Foundation of Jamaica in observance of National Storytelling Day. Programmes and services initiated to bridge the digital divide and support schools in the delivery of quality education in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic was also mentioned.

PARTNERSHIPS

The JLS partnered with University of the West Indies Mona Library to support the distribution of tablets to students participating in the distance learning programme. Over 150 tablets were issued on loan, to university students, to facilitate participation in online classes. The tablets were distributed to students' island wide at their nearest public library and were returned at the end of the semester.

DONATIONS

Book Donation

The JLS benefitted from several book donations throughout the year. A few of these are highlighted below:

- A copy of the book titled ***"The Will to Overcome: Reflections, Circumstances, Vision"*** by M. Audrey Stewart Hinchcliffe was presented to the Director General at the book launch held at the Manpower and Maintenance Services Limited Office on December 1, 2020.
- The JLS received a donation of West Indian material at a combined valued of over \$3 million from the CHASE Fund and the University of the West Indies to support development of the collection of local publications.



National Library of Jamaica

Submitted by: Tracey-Ann Ricketts, NLJ Representative

COVID 19 and its Impact on NLJ

Despite the global and local challenges presented, many rewards and opportunities were realized and driven by the COVID-19 pandemic. The National Library of Jamaica chose to benefit from the challenges that affected the core elements of the operations ranging from budget cuts to adjustment in the delivery of traditional services. Since early March 2020, the Corona virus has compelled a response to the uncharted adjustments. Fortunately, the NLJ has augmented existing services into a virtual/digital format, explored new initiatives and practices to support research and fulfil the information needs of the user. Major signature events such as World Poetry Day celebrations were cancelled, and other events rescheduled due to the Disaster Management Risk (Enforcement Measures) Order. Between March 14, 2020 and December 31, 2020, the NLJ was closed to the public for physical visits while remaining open with a virtual service delivery model. However, the library has been in a unique position to operate as an essential building with hours different from its normally schedule. By January 4, the NLJ reopened conditionally to accepting research visits by appointment. These added services were adapted and evolved to become part of the standard operations.

Continuous communication forms a key part of the strategy in informing the stakeholders of changes to the operations and service delivery, especially those arising from the pandemic. Updates were delivered using a mix of channels, ranging from NLJ's website - <https://nlj.gov.jm> to the use of the social media platforms (Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter).

Internal Operations

Flexible Work Arrangement has become the new balanced approach to achieving a safe workspace without compromising the output of the team members. Through flexi-work scheduling, team members were allowed to work remotely where their jobs could be executed using tools provisioned by the Technical Services and Networks division. This

included a combination of computers, Microsoft 365 and VPN for accessing special applications.

Service Delivery

With the closure of the NLJ to the public, came a reliance on increasing the use of electronic/ digital services:

1. Virtual Reference Services to address users query (Email & Telephone). The online chat feature using Lib Answers virtual reference platform was activated on the NLJ website.
2. Online ISBN Services. Supporting the social and physical distancing programme, NLJ has implemented an online ISBN service to keep providing ISBN service through digital applications via an ISBN Webform on the website and providing email and telephone responses and follow-ups.
3. Information Literacy Sessions were conducted online for CSEC and CAPE History students. Eight (8) sessions were held in total with 15 teachers and **217** students from 9 schools.
4. KOHA. The NLJ has extended aspects of data collection, system implementation and training virtually. Three (3) new implementations were completed for the year to include:
 - a. Ministry of Finance
 - b. Office of Utilities Regulation (OUR)
 - c. IUC
 - d. IOJ (extended)

Marketing and Branding of the NLJ

1. The NLJ was featured for staff engagement activities in the *HRMAJ Newsletter* Issue #70, September 2020.
2. Shortlisted in the Ministry of Health and Wellness, Social Media Competition. Public votes determined the winner. The organization received two gift baskets on October

20, 2020 as the consolation prize. Special recognition is given to the Hugh Bowman, Director, Technical Services and Network, Royane Green, Director, Special Programmes and Ms. Vanessa James Public Relations and Marketing Officer, who were instrumental in the preparing the video.

New Equipment

The NLJ, received 2 donations to assist with digitizing and thus preservation of the national collection.

1. **Document feeder Scanner (Wide-format).** Mr. Robert Stewart, Managing Director, Geophysx Jamaica Ltd donated a scanner to the NLJ on September 17, 2020. He was accompanied by Professor Simon Mitchell, Professor of Sedimentary Geology, UWI Mona. The handover was published in the Gleaner on October 1, 2020 and on NLJ's social media platforms.
2. Ms Justine Henzell, Board Member secured the **cables and connectors** for the telecine machine and we are grateful for the effort of Ms Henzell in this regard. The telecine machine has been out of commission for over three years and is now operational. The Audio-visual Team has already digitized four films as a test run.
3. A **SMA scanner** was acquired for oversized documents and a drying rack was also purchased during the period under review.

Events

Despite the challenges due to the pandemic, the NLJ has managed to host some successful events such as:

'In Honour of Lorna Goodison'

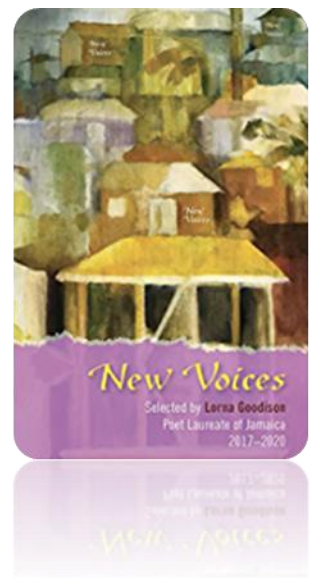
This dual modality celebration saw both Ministers of Culture, Gender, Entertainment and Sport as well as the honoured guests and members of the media convening at the Jamaica Pegasus Hotel to celebrate Ms. Goodison's work as Poet Laureate of Jamaica 2017-2020. An event highlight is available on the NLJ's YouTube Channel: <https://youtu.be/j7qT3QLhKgQ> The Poet Laureate of Jamaica and Helen Zell Young Writer's Prize for Poetry – Awards were given to the top 4 contestants after a gruelling selection from approximately 200 contestants. Four awards were given in the sum of USD \$1,000 each.



Figure 1- 2020 Poetry Prize Winners (first row from left) Delano Frankson, Gail Hoad, Demoy Lindo and Romardo Lyons share a photo opportunity with Executive officers of the National Library of Jamaica (second row from left) Beverley Lashley, Professor Edward Baugh CD, Joy Douglas OD, Minister Olivia Grange CD, MP and Poet Laureate of Jamaica, Lorna Goodison.

The Launch of “New Voices: Selected by Lorna Goodison, Poet Laureate of Jamaica 2017-2020”

New Voices is the NLJ’s newest publication. The proceedings saw remarks from the Library’s publishing partner, The UWI Press, as well as readings from Minister of State in the MCGES, The Hon. Alando Terrelonge MP. The book features the work of 26 young Jamaican poets whose works were selected and edited by Ms. Goodison.



New Voices wins Caribbean Readers’ Award 2020

The National Library of Jamaica (NLJ) and the Poet Laureate Programme by extension now celebrate the winning of the Poetry category for the newly instituted Caribbean Readers’ Award for 2020 for the publication “New Voices: Selected by Lorna Goodison, Poet Laureate of Jamaica 2017-2020”. The Library’s publication competed against 5 other Poetry anthologies and came out on top by way of popular vote having been nominated by the franchise holders of the competition.

Legal Deposit Launch

The official virtual launch of the 16th anniversary celebration of Legal Deposit Month was held on October 11, 2020 – Legal Deposit Day in the Daphne Douglas Reading Room at the National Library of Jamaica. The Hon Minister Olivia Grange, Minister of Culture, Gender, Entertainment and Sport launched the event with a virtual message while Minister of State Alando Terrelonge MP, delivered remarks. Trophies were given to the top Author, Collector/Depositor of Jamaica music, Film Maker, and Publisher who have been donating with the NLJ since the passing of the Act. The following persons and organizations were recipients of awards:

- Top Collector / Depositor for Jamaican Music: Mr. Teddy Laidley
- The Author with Most Deposits Over 16 Years: Mrs. Valerie Brown
- Top Depositor in Film: R. Kanhai Condison, Jollywood Jamaica
- Top Depositor in Book: Ian Randle Publishers.

Leading up to this event the NLJ had interactive engagements with the public on social media including but not limited to exciting memorabilia giveaways. The fun filled event featured upcoming artists, book readings and a short film.



Figure 2 - (from left) Ian Randle CEO Ian Randle Publishers, Beverly Lashley National Librarian, Alando Terrelonge, Minister of State in the Ministry of Culture, Gender, Entertainment and Sports and Teddy Laidley.



Figure 3 – Teddy Laidley presenting his donation to Monique Forgie-Scott, Manager, Collections Development.

Library and Information Week 2020 (October 25-31, 2020)

Library and Information Week was celebrated under the theme ***“Use Responsibly: Information Ethics and You”***. The NLJ was featured in the special Gleaner Supplement, on October 29, 2020. The feature included messages from Ms. Beverley Lashley, the National

Librarian, Mrs. Monique Forgie-Scott, Manager, Collection Development Branch, the online services, and highlights of the legal deposits that were received during COVID -19.

The NLJ also hosted a webinar titled **Building Bridges not Walls-My Chevening British Library Journey**. Miss Chantelle Richardson, Librarian in the Special Collections Branch shared her Chevening Journey and the research conducted during her tenure with the Endangered Archives Programme (EAP) at the British Library.

World Day for Audiovisual Heritage 2020

In celebration World Day for Audio-visual Heritage 2020 (October 27, 2020) the NLJ partnered with UNESCO, Jamaica Archives and Records Department, the Library and Information Association of Jamaica and the Planning Institute of Jamaica to deliver a webinar under the theme “**Your window to the world**”. Mrs Tricia Lawrence Powell, Director, User Services and Conservation presented on “Preserving audiovisual heritage for posterity” The NLJ showcased its treasure trove of Jamaican audio-visual resources. Remarks were given by Minister Grange and Mrs Christine McKenzie, President of the International Federation of Library Associations, and Institutions. The opportunity was used to revive the Audiovisual Information Network (AVIN) and rename it **Jamaica Audiovisual Information Network (JAVIN)**. An online survey was conducted to ascertain the needs of the JAVIN members. A project proposal was submitted to the U.S. Ambassadors Fund for Cultural Preservation Grants Program under the project working title “Preserving Jamaica’s Audiovisual Heritage for Posterity” which incorporated the JAVIN members.

Publishers and Authors Workshop

This was held on October 29, 2020 and included self-publishers and specialist from Jamaica’s book industry. Topics covered included Copyright management: the role of collective management organization; digital publishing: digital rights management; selling eBooks through eVendors; how to sell more books: marketing, design, title, contents, bio; NLJ services to publishers, ISSN, ISBN, and CIP. This was a free event.



Figure 4 - NLJ staff members and presenters were engaged during a feature presentation at the workshop.

JAMLIN

EBSCO Database / Resources

The National Library along with five (5) other participating libraries have received a reactivated extended free trail to access databases and other EBSCO resources. The extension period started October 2020 and will expire in February 2021. The databases have been added to the National Library of Jamaica's EBSCO account. The EBSCO Discovery Service and the Stacks resource have not yet been enabled however the full text content can be accessed by the NLJ along with the other libraries that previously provided IP addresses to EBSCO.

The participants are:

1. National Library of Jamaica
2. African Caribbean Institute of Jamaica
3. Scientific Research Council
4. Trench Town Polytechnic College
5. National Works Agency
6. Bureau of Standards Jamaica

EBSCO Database Training

This database training session was held on Wednesday, December 2, 2020 at 10:00 a.m. on the Webex Platform. This was a partnered event with the NLJ and EBSCO Information Services. The theme for the session was **"EBSCO undaunted by COVID-19: Connecting Jamaicans to full text resources."** The session was chaired by Damien Satterthwaite, Regional Representative for EBSCO and the database training was conducted by Lisa Jones, Senior Training Manager. There were participants from high schools, colleges, universities

and library and information professionals from government libraries and other libraries in Jamaica. The session was well received, and the participants actively participated as 101 persons were tuned in.

Exhibitions

Seven virtual exhibitions were mounted (Two are expanded on below). Heritage Week is celebrated annually to highlight Jamaica's history and to preserve its culture, under a theme that promotes Jamaica's heritage. The 2020 theme was: **"Celebrating a Heritage of Resilience and Pride"**. The Heritage Week Virtual Exhibition ran from October 12-19, 2020 on the National Library of Jamaica website (<https://nlj.gov.jm/exhibition/>)

A Christmas virtual exhibition under the theme **'We Nuh Have No Snow' Virtual Christmas Exhibition** was showcased from December 1-31, 2020 on the National Library of Jamaica website (<https://nlj.gov.jm/exhibition/christmas-ja/>).

Staff Engagement Activities

For the entire summer, Staff Engagement Activities were organized every Friday from July 24 - August 28, 2020 under the theme "Motivational Activity Friday – Extravaganza". Staff were encouraged to dress according to the theme for the day and staff were awarded prizes.

Key events were labelled as follows:

1. Tie & Sneaker Day - July 24, 2020
2. Hat Day - July 31, 2020
3. Jamaica Day – August 7, 2020
4. Black & White Day - August 14, 2020
5. Goofy Glasses - August 21, 2020
6. "Rep Your School" Uniform – August 28, 2020



Figure 5- NLJ staff members representing their schools on uniform day.

The NLJ celebrated Library and Information Professionals Day and presented a gift basket to all library and information professional staff.



Figure 6 - NLJ librarians were treated to gift baskets for Library & Information Professionals Day.

At the general staff meeting held on Thursday, November 17, 2020, a sensitization session was facilitated by Reverend Gladstone Warner from the Caribbean Graduate School of Theology. He made a presentation under the theme ***“Coronavirus Anxiety: Coping with Stress Fear & Worry”***. Staff attended via a blended format of face to face in the Daphne Douglas Reading Room and virtually from workstations throughout the Library building as well as from home.

On December 18, The NLJ hosted its annual Staff Incentive and Long Service Awards Ceremony to acknowledge long serving staff members as well as top performing employees for the period April 1, 2019 to March 31, 2020. This event was held virtually with technical support being provided by the Technical Services and Networks Division.



Pictured are the long service and high performing members of staff who were recognized at the end of year event.

Reports from Associations

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

Submitted by: Nicholas Graham, ACURIL Executive Council Representative- LIAJA



The year 2020 began with great promise, which quickly evaporated into great uncertainty, as the world was rocked by a pandemic that threatened the very foundation of human existence. As is customary, the ACURIL Conference 2020, was scheduled for June 2020 in the Bahamas. However, with the advent of the Corona Virus Disease – 2019 (COVID-19) entering our shores, this plan to stage the normal in person conference, was quickly halted, as the conference in that format had to be postponed. As a result of this very contagious and deadly virus, social distancing, mask wearing, and sanitization became the norm. World travel also came to a halt and with it, the possibilities of hosting an in-person conference. Additionally, the need to maintain the protocols set in different Caribbean territories to reduce the spread also meant that the conference could not have continued in its usual format.

Consequently, ACURIL 2020 had to move to an online space, where persons while physically distant, were still able to virtually connect and share best practices and experiences for the advancement of Libraries, Archives and Museums. The online conference under the theme “*Design Thinking in Libraries, Archives & Museums: Revolutionizing the Way We Do Business*” was held on November 18 and 19, 2020. The following sub-themes also evolved out of the overarching theme:

Design Thinking – Global and Caribbean Context

Key Topics: Design Thinking and its applications in libraries, archives and museums;

Design tools for rebuilding libraries, archives and museums in the aftermath of natural disasters;

Turning Challenges into opportunities through collaborative designs.

Design Thinking - Innovation and Trends

Key Topics: Assessing the needs of our users: Designing Spaces and Innovating using Technology; Experiences of information professionals and other stakeholders in managing Design Thinking projects in libraries to design workflows, reconfigure spaces; offer an innovation service/new service; new IT systems/applications.

Design Thinking - Professional Development

Key Topics: Creating cultural change through design thinking; Changing Times, changing minds; engaging the Human Resource factors; Improving Employee Engagement, Creativity and Productivity through design thinking.

Design Thinking – User Needs and Community Engagement

Key Topics: Assessing the needs of our users: Designing for problem solving; Design Thinking and community Engagement; and marketing and offering innovative service.

The plans that were well underway for the staging of the annual conference in Jamaica in 2021 also came to a screeching halt as it was anticipated that a return to face to face normalcy would not have been achieved in order to successfully stage the conference. At a Council meeting, Mr. David Drysdale, University Librarian at the University of Technology, Jamaica, was elected as Second Vice President/President Elect for the year 2022/2023. However, with the inability of Anne Pajard, the First Vice President/President Elect 2020/2021 to take up the presidency, he was elected as the First Vice President/President Elect for the year 2021/2022. He now joins an esteemed list of Jamaicans who have assumed the role of president of this prestigious organization.

International Association of School Librarianship (IASL)

Submitted by: Dr Paulette Stewart, IASL Representative



The 49th Annual Conference of the International Association of School Librarianship and the 24th International Forum on Research on School Librarianship under the theme ***"A Rich Tapestry of Practice and Research around the World"*** was postponed last year due to the COVID-19 Pandemic. It will be held online this year on 12-16 July 2021 with the same topic.

Dr Paulette Stewart served as the Director for Latin America and the Caribbean from 2013-2019 (7 years). Her term came to an end in 2020 and she was succeeded by Laura Vilela Rodrigues Rezende of Brazil.

International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA)

Submitted by: Mark-Jeffery Deans, President, LIAJA



As a member of International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA), the Library and Information Association of Jamaica (LIAJA) was invited to IFLA's extraordinary General Assembly 2021. The General Assembly is being held today, the 12th of February 2020 in Melbourne, Australia.

However, because of current restrictions still in place in so many parts of the world, The LIAJA was invited to vote via proxy. We voted for the adoption of the minutes of the last General Assembly of 5 November 2020 (*Resolution*) and the adoption of new Statutes as it relates to areas of IFLA's governance.

Our involvement via a proxy vote was necessary in order to establish a quorum, a required minimum number of participating Association Members that will allow the vote and proceedings of the meeting to be valid.

It is my hope that LIAJA will have greater participation in IFLA's upcoming events and activities in the ensuing 2021 administrative year. Therefore, lending a stronger voice to issues relating to the library and information services internationally.

Conclusion

As we look to the future of this noble Association, there is much to be considered by the members of the Association, as it relates to our commitment in seeking to accomplish LIAJA's stated aims and objectives. Ours is the responsibility to seek to address matters related to library and information work through the unification and engagement of all stakeholders. We must continue to seek plausible ways in which we can promote sustainable development and maintenance of libraries and information centres. The pandemic has reminded us that despite the undeniable strength and resilience of libraries and information centres, and their staff, here in Jamaica; we are not immune to the challenges faced globally in our rapidly changing pluralized society. I therefore charge all here today, with the responsibility to continue to offer your guidance, support and membership to the Association; whether through education, training or works of advocacy. I have no doubt that as you do so, the fruits of your labour will be recognized as the Association collectively moves forward in its role in shaping new ideas and perspectives that are central to a creative and innovative knowledge society.



FACULTY OF HUMANITIES AND EDUCATION DEPARTMENT OF LIBRARY AND INFORMATION STUDIES

POSTGRADUATE PROGRAMMES

Master of Arts in Library & Information Studies: The objective of this programme is to provide graduates of the BA (Library and Information Studies) programme with the opportunity to upgrade their qualifications to meet the demands of the modern information environment.

Masters of Arts in Archives and Records Management: The principal objective of this Programme is to equip students for professional leadership roles in Archives and Records Management. This includes defining and appraising records, managing recordkeeping systems, processing archives, preserving materials in tropical environments, managing audio visual materials and curating digital assets. More importantly, this programme will provide a dedicated space for the academic analysis of Caribbean memory and recordkeeping practices, which are emerging out of the realities of the Caribbean experience.

Master in Library and Information Studies: This programme sets out to equip graduates with a bachelor's degree in other disciplines with professional education in the field of library and information studies in order to prepare them to effectively manage library and information units and organizations in different types of environments.

MPhil in Information Studies: The Master of Philosophy (MPhil) in Information Studies is designed to facilitate the student's review of the knowledge of the field. The student will evaluate seminal and current theories and models, as well as relevant literature and research findings, while developing an area of study which makes an independent contribution to knowledge or understanding of the subject area.

PhD in Information Studies: The Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) programme is designed to facilitate the pursuit of scholarship of an original, independent and seminal nature in any of the disciplines within the domain of Information Studies. The programme will facilitate the student to evaluate seminal and current theories and models, as well as demonstrate a rich understanding of the literature and research methodologies in the field. Through the programme, the student will be assisted in honing the research problem, developing the investigation with competence and rigour, and presenting the achievements and findings with intellectual maturity.

For further information please contact us at:

Website: <http://www.mona.uwi.edu/dlis/> Email: dlisadmin@uwimona.edu.jm Tel: 927-2944 / cell: 876) 796-4333/ fax: 970-4903

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