



"Celebrating The Past: Influencing The Future"





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EDITORIAL

JAMAICA TOURIST BOARD | **Mrs. Christina Stewart-Fullerton**



As we reflect on 70 years of the inception of the Library & Information Association, the theme “Celebrating the Past: Influencing the Future” is a very apt description of what this professional body embodies. We are cognizant that our roles as information professionals are dynamic and ever changing to meet the demands of today’s society.

This publication comprises reflections from LIAJA’s members, milestones over the years, and would not be completed without a bibliography of publications by LIAJA members.

Thank you to the Research & Publications Working Party for the effort expended to have this publication completed and to the LIAJA members who responded to the request for articles.

MESSAGES

of Congratulation

M E S S A G E

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOL LIBRARIANSHIP PRESIDENT | **Katy Manck**

To our esteemed LIAJA colleagues, greetings from the International Association of School Librarianship on your 70th anniversary as you “Celebrate the Past to Influence the Future.” IASL’s 1239 teacher-librarians and professors of librarianship in 51 nations around the world congratulate you on 70 years of dedicated service to the people and communities of Jamaica through library and information services.

IASL enjoys longstanding ties to the Jamaican library community. The inaugural meeting of our Association was held in Kingston in 1971, and we returned to Jamaica to celebrate our 40th birthday with the 2011 Annual Conference at the University of the West Indies – Mona.

The incredible changes in technology and access which our profession has seen over the past seven decades are merely new adornments upon the body of knowledge, heart for truth, and habits of mind shared by librarians as we help individuals, schools, communities, and society improve and grow through excellence in information services.

I personally believe that “every child deserves a great school library and a qualified school librarian,” and as IASL President, I send grateful thanks to all Jamaican library personnel striving to make this a reality for the children and youth of your communities and country!

Your IASL colleagues wish LIAJA much success in the future and look forward to continued sharing of research and best practices for the benefit of all.

Yours in school librarianship,

Katy Manck, President – International Association of School Librarianship

M E S S A G E

COLINET COORDINATOR | **Mr. David Drysdale**

Heartiest congratulations are extended to the Library and Information Association of Jamaica (LIAJA) on achieving this significant milestone of 70 years of existence. Seventy years is a long time in the life of any institution, organization or professional association. So the fact that LIAJA is still around strongly advocating for the welfare and development of library and information professionals is testament to its longevity, and continuing relevance even in a changing world, and a still evolving information environment.

Special mention must be made of the many stalwarts of the profession who have provided direction and leadership for LIAJA for the last seven decades. The LIAJA leadership board is embellished with the names of many of these outstanding library professionals and leaders who are still with us, and I use this opportunity to salute them for their tremendous work.

I am also pleased to salute library and information professionals in the various types of libraries, archives and museums across Jamaica during this special time of celebration. Librarians in Jamaica continue to play a significant role in meeting the information needs of users, supporting the teaching and learning process, and ultimately contributing to national development, often without the recognition or compensation that they deserve.

Despite the many changes or challenges faced, our library and information professionals continue to do their yeoman's work and libraries still remain very relevant. Libraries will in fact continue for a long time to have a critical role to play in ensuring the growth and development of their institutions and the country.

On behalf of all librarians who are part of the College Libraries Information Network (COLINET), I extend congratulations again to LIAJA, and look forward to its advocacy role over the next 70 years!

David A. Drysdale
University Librarian
University of
Technology, Jamaica







MESSAGE

*from the President
Nicholas Graham*



Nicholas Graham

LIAJA PRESIDENT

Reverend Margaret Fowler, members of the Hope United Church, Honorary members of the Library and Information Association of Jamaica, other distinguished members of the Library and Information Association of Jamaica, ladies and gentlemen, boys and girls in the congregation, good morning. I bring greetings on behalf of the Library and Information Association of Jamaica. We thank you wholeheartedly for hosting us on this very special day as we invite the blessings of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ on this special day.

I am pleased to join my fellow Information Professionals across Jamaica in celebrating 70 years of service to the Library and Information Profession and by extension, the people of Jamaica, under the theme; ***“Celebrating the Past: Influencing the Future”***. Ladies and Gentlemen, I happen to be a firm believer that in life nothing happens by chance and therefore it is no coincidence that we are here celebrating our Platinum Jubilee at the Hope United Church. It is no secret friends that Hope United has always been a part of the national dialogue for many years, whether it is through the Emancipation Lecture or presentations through your Reading Circle. I would like to believe that based on what we do as Information Professionals we are like minded, always ensuring that we are a part of the national conversation and in so doing contributing to the development of our country.

Permit me for a few minutes to illustrate the journey of this noble Association, and its impact on the national landscape. Friends, it was a Thursday morning exactly 70 years ago on July 14, that over 40 persons gathered at the St. Catherine Parish Library for the inaugural meeting of the Jamaica Library Association, now the Library and Information Association of Jamaica. Being a true Information Professional, since I was not even a thought at that time, I decided to take a trek back in time to see exactly what that day was like which I will now share with you. If you had two pence to spare you would be able to purchase a copy of the Gleaner which bore the headline “Board Chairman admits he received Free Gifts”. Another article bore the title “More water for South St. Elizabeth”, and yet another one “5 New members on Colonial Economic Development Council.” So, you will see friends that after 70 years, the issues have pretty much remained the same. In terms of advertisements, one that jumped out at me was “When Pain Strikes remember Phensic.” If you had a desire for entertainment “Jesse James Rides Again” was on at the Carib, while at the Ward Theatre you could go and see “The Farmer’s Daughter.” If you were thinking about being mobile then you could purchase a Morris Oxford Minor Saloon for £385.

This, ladies and gentlemen places into context the period of time that this Association has been permeating the landscape of our beloved country. The purpose of the Association includes among other things, providing a forum for Library and Information Professionals to meet to discuss matters related to Library and Information work, to facilitate the training and development of Library and Information Professionals, to promote the development of Libraries and information units and to promote a wider knowledge of library and information work and to form an educated public opinion on such work.

The Association has made many strides over the past 70 years including the acquisition of land to facilitate the development of a secretariat, members of the Library and Information Profession have also received national honours and awards. The first week of November annually was also proclaimed as Library and Information Week and the Thursday of that week, as Library and Information Professionals’ Day by the Governor General of Jamaica. The Association has also established long term partnerships with international organizations such as the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA) such that Jamaica in recent times is one of only two Caribbean countries, the other one being Aruba, to always feature in any international activity undertaken by that institution.

The Library and information units which the Association represents have also been making a tremendous impact on the communities they serve. It is no secret that the schools with functional libraries that are staffed by trained professionals enjoy greater outcomes based on their examination results. This is evident based on the top High Schools in Jamaica on a yearly basis, since they have both a functional library and a trained information professional, copping the enviable results they have come to enjoy in recent times. Our Special Librarians continue to provide access to cutting edge research and information to institutions such as the Bank of Jamaica, the National Housing Trust and the Planning Institute of Jamaica, all key to the economic development of Jamaica. The libraries in our

colleges and universities also facilitate access to cutting edge research and information that ensures that the country is positioned to achieve the economic results it desires based on the caliber of the professional groups emerging from those institutions each year. The Jamaica Library Service also through its expansive network of libraries in 13 parish libraries, including 108 branch libraries, a network of 10 mobile libraries serving over 371 communities, by far has the infrastructure to ensure that every Jamaican citizen is able to access a library in whatever form to satisfy their need for information. In a recent survey several residents in different communities confirmed the importance of the libraries in them being able to access information for their personal and professional development. Additionally, the National Library of Jamaica and the Jamaica Archives and Records Department ensures that current and future generations can connect to their history and cultural heritage as these institutions also contribute immensely to national development.

Based on what I have outlined so far ladies and gentlemen, I am sure you would agree that indeed we as an Association through our various institutions have come a far way in making immense contributions to the national landscape. But sadly, the journey has not been easy, as a number of libraries in our country are at a critical crossroad. This is because several of these institutions are literally fighting for their survival, as in multiple instances they are not being provided with the resources necessary to cater to the information needs of their users. This is against the background that many Jamaican citizens still largely depend on public libraries and the services they provide as their primary source of satisfying their information needs. Since we now exist in a technologically enhanced environment, many have for years predicted the extinction of these intuitions. However, it has become more and more apparent that while the Internet complements the library's collection and enables them to carry out their services more effectively and efficiently, it will never replace them.

There have also been key milestones in our development that have been concluded without the involvement of the Library and Information Community, examples being the amendments to the Jamaican Copyright Act and the implementation of the National Standards Curriculum in schools. Additionally, recently there was the implementation of a an eLibrary software by the Ministry of Education for use by teachers and students and this was also done without consultation with critical stakeholders in the Library and Information Community. In recent times we have also heard of plans to relocate libraries which serve as key pillars of the communities they serve without any consultation with the organization or the Association.

These examples clearly illustrate ladies and gentlemen that while the impact of libraries and information units has been felt downstream, we still have more work to do to ensure that it is felt upstream. I am sure we can all agree that these are serious times for Libraries and Information units. But we remain resolute in our efforts, as our theme states we are celebrating the achievements of the past, but recognize that there is still much work to be done as we influence the future. We must therefore ensure that we never become spectators but always take our rightful roles of influencing the policy and decisions being made at the Executive level. This ultimately will require strong advocacy and all hands on deck, including you the members of the audience. So, I invite each person present on this special day to visit a library near you, become a member where you can, get involved in the development of your community library, advocate for the continued funding of your library and where applicable become a friend of the library, as we all work to make our country the place of choice to live, work, raise families and do business.

Ladies and gentlemen of the congregation I once again thank you for hosting us and I wish you God's blessing and coverage.

Library and Information Professionals, I thank you also for coming out and I pray that God will continue to strengthen us as we continue our work of developing our fellow Jamaicans and our beloved home Jamaica.

Nicholas Graham

President

Speech delivered at the 70th Anniversary Church Service at Hope United Church, July 14, 2019

REFLECTIONS

from past Presidents

Reflection from Hazel Bennett

LIAJA PRESIDENT 1968

THE JAMAICA LIBRARY ASSOCIATION OVER 75 YEARS

In 1948 when A.S.A. Bryant took up office as director of the free public library service for Jamaica the few other professional librarians were located at the University College of the West Indies (just being set up) and at the Institute of Jamaica. This small group of professionals soon needed to join forces if library development was to make any progress in this relatively underdeveloped country. They decided, therefore, that among other things emphasis had to be placed on two areas – public relations through the founding of an association and professional training.

Since Bryant's arrival some months earlier, he had been tireless in sensitizing administrators, influential individuals and cultural groups across the island hoping to jump start public library development. It is therefore safe to say that of the 40 individuals attending the first exploratory meeting called in Spanish Town on 14th July, 1949 the majority would have come from the parishes whose subscription/circulating libraries had been handed over to the JLS and from other parishes showing interest in the new service. Six months later on 26th January 1950, when another meeting was called the 94 individuals in attendance comprised mainly paid and unpaid persons associated with public libraries – volunteers, technical and clerical workers, management, influential members of communities as well as representatives from the University College and the Institute of Jamaica. The meeting's main focus to unite persons interested in libraries was off to a great start but the need for professionally trained local personnel was quickly recognized.

All heads of library systems were then English trained so the new association encouraged interested persons to sit the examinations of the British Library Association which could then be taken in parts. These qualifications fell somewhere between high school and an undergraduate degree. By this route local personnel would eventually obtain certification as professional librarians. The American libraries focused on postgraduates and local libraries then were not employing graduates for financial reasons. Later when overseas scholarships became available some librarians already qualified by the British system took advantage of American training programmes to the benefit of the profession.

The first local training course organized by the Jamaica Library Board was held at the University College in January 1950. Lecturers were drawn from the few qualified personnel who were also willing to teach classes after working hours. As the young employees passed different subject areas of the British examinations they too began passing on their knowledge to the next generation. There was obvious need for fulltime training facilities in the region. In the meantime, in 1954, the JLS and other government libraries began sending students to Trinidad to its part-time school but this was not enough.

The first president of the Association began lobbying for a training facility from as early as 1950 and for the next twenty-one years members of the Association kept making representations to the Government of Jamaica, to the University of the West Indies and to international organizations for funding. Eventually, in 1971 UNESCO, with an undertaking from the Jamaican Government to underwrite funding permanently provided the necessary funds to allow the UWI to establish the Department of Library Studies there. In time other Island Governments came on board. The Library School which today offers a range of specializations from a BA Degree to a Masters Degree in Library Science, computer science applicable to libraries and other specializations has produced hundreds of graduates who are filtering into public and private institutions as libraries become popular in the society. This activism caught the attention of the Government and in 1972 when the People's National Party established an Exploratory Committee on the Arts it in turn set up a sub-committee on libraries under the chairmanship of Mrs. Joyce Robinson. This committee recommended the creation of a national library, the creation of subject related libraries and information centres whose function would be to support national planning and development. The fact that the resulting system worked so well was because of the support of members of the Association; and even after Government funding was withdrawn several years later, the links established continued to work

under the National Library which took over the operating internet systems.

The Association has never been flush with funds but it manages to contribute to library development in significant ways. It has set and published standards for school libraries, brought international conferences to Jamaica and published the proceedings, published a festschrift in honour of one of its outstanding members, regulated the role of different types of membership within the Association while guarding the status of professional librarians. It has continued to organize training courses for special groups regularly and supplements where it can further training for its members.

Its clearly defined objectives continue to unite all persons involved in library work; to enhance the image and status of the profession; attract and retain membership; set and maintain standards of library education; influence government and legislative policies; maintain links with regional and international organizations such as IFLA, ACURIL, IASL, COMLA. Through these contacts some local librarians have contributed with distinction. The Commonwealth Library Association's secretariat was located in Jamaica for many years because the secretary was in Jamaican and the Jamaican Government paid for the accommodation; and the International Association of School Librarians was for many years headed by Mrs. Amy Robertson formerly head of the Schools Library Section of the JLS. Although the Association actively promotes training courses and conferences and holds regular meetings its publications do not today carry a sufficient number of research articles bearing in mind that more research papers could be available from University graduates.

Recently the Association purchased land on which to build its headquarters although this is going to be a very long-term undertaking. Its records have moved from place to place depending on the composition of the executive committee and as a result its records are disorganized and incomplete. It is time to set the records straight.



Reflection from Stephney Ferguson **LIAJA PRESIDENT 1975**

My first interaction with JLA now LIAJA occurred in 1958 or 1959 when as a young library assistant in the St. James Parish Library, Montego Bay, I was privileged to attend a Jamaica Library Association meeting held in Lucea, Hanover. A feature of this meeting was a visit to Historic Fort Charlotte which was built in the mid 18th Century by the British for the defence of the North Westerly section of the island. The Guest Speaker at the meeting was Shirley Field Ridley, then a brilliant young Guyanese Student at UWI who subsequently became the wife of a then young P.J. Patterson (now a former Prime Minister of Jamaica), Shirley Field Ridley herself went on to serve in the Cabinet of the Guyanese Govt.

I feel sure that it was the experience of my attendance at my first JLA meeting, the interaction with other library staff and librarians and the quality of the Guest Speaker's presentation that stimulated my interest in librarianship and its professional association... "and the rest as they say is history"

Submitted by Stephney Ferguson

Reflection from Dr. Paulette Stewart LIAJA PRESIDENT 2010 - 2011



Paulette Stewart (President and Executive Members)

During my tenure as President (2010-2011) LIAJA wrote its 60th chapter which is titled ***“60 Years of Nation Building: Living and Learning in Libraries”***. This chapter focused on advocacy since up to that point in time the Association’s effort in the building of this nation was for the most part unnoticed. There were two advocacy campaign activities. These were ‘@ Your Library Campaign and the Read to Learn-Learn to Read @Your library programme’.

The year commenced with a church service to thank God for the way He led us throughout the 59 years of existence. This service took place at the Sts. Peter and Paul Catholic Church on April 11, 2010. A message was read by the President and other LIAJA members participated in other aspects of the church service. A monetary gift of \$5,000 was given to the church to be used in any area of need.



The Reading of the 60th Anniversary Proclamation by the Governor General was the next major activity. This took place at Kings House on April 16, 2010.

His Excellency the Most Honourable Sir Patrick Allen, ON, GCMG, CD reading the Proclamation



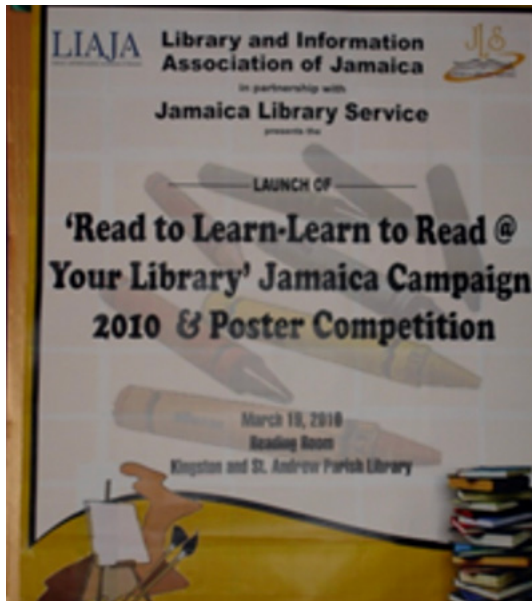
Present were:

Albertina Jefferson, Mavis Williams, Pauline Nicholas, His Excellency the Most Hon. Sir Patrick Allen, Paulette Stewart, the late Leila Thomas, Grace-Carr Benjamin, Mark-Shane Scale

The phrase @your library was coined by the American Library Association as a public campaign to promote the value of libraries and librarians. Jamaica joined this campaign through the Library and Information Association of Jamaica (LIAJA) with the theme: Learn to Read-Read to Learn @Your Library. The theme was coined with the belief that “Reading is like providing the mind with nourishment. Knowledge is the food for the mind and soul, and apart from giving us the basic information about the world around us, it also provides us with the food for thought. It encourages us to think. It increases our hunger for knowledge and our thirst to learn more” [Oak] and the libraries can provide the environment where this can be accomplished.

The activities were integrated and while they were aimed at motivating and developing an on-going interest in reading so that students would become consistent voluntary readers and life-long learners, the objective was to use this programme to promote LIAJA to educators in secondary and primary schools. The American Library Association funded the, LIAJA's Read to Learn-Learn to Read @Your library poster competition and the Jamaica Library Service was integral in the advocacy campaign as its network set the stage for an educational alliance that was able to support students who were learning to read as well as those who were reading to learn. This library network was strategically poised to promote the activities of LIAJA throughout the country.

The first activity held was a Poster Competition which was launched to sensitize the entire nation about the “Learn to Read-Read to Learn” activities. The launch took place on March 19, 2010. Representatives from the Ministry of Education and the Jamaica Teachers’ Association, the Jamaica Reading Association, principals, teachers and students from primary and secondary schools attended and indicated their support for the programme. Participants at the launch also included library and information professional and students. This in itself was advocacy for LIAJA.



Poster advertising the launch of the competition



The criteria for the Poster Competition

The competition was sponsored by the American Library Association, the Gleaner Company of Jamaica, Honey Bun and Tastees Patties. Again, this extended the advocacy for LIAJA.



The above poster was judged the winning poster and the announcement was made at the LIAJA Regular Meeting on June 19, 2010. The creator of the Poster is Natalie Surgeon who was a student at the Holy Childhood High School.

She received \$50,000 and a Book Voucher worth \$15000.00. Other winners were: Kemar Gordon of Mountain View Primary; Anthony Smith of Annotto Bay High School and Keana Wong of Stella Morris Prep. Each received Book Voucher worth \$15,000. One year Gleaner archive subscription along with the book entitled 100 years of Champs was presented to her teacher Sophia McKathy as well as the teacher whose students produced the most entry (Ms. Graham – New Providence Primary). This Poster was reproduced and sent for display in public spaces such as libraries, government offices and institutions in order to promote LIAJA across the island.

The other phase of the advocacy was the reading competition among schools across Jamaica. Participants were asked to write book reviews of the selected books. The writing of book reviews was seen as a necessary part of the programme because readers needed to be trained to become critical thinkers. It was also the intent to build participants' comprehension skills. Participants who were 13 years and over were encouraged to post reviews and comments about what they read on the Library and Information Association of Jamaica (LIAJA) and the Jamaica Library Service (JLS) Facebook Page. This medium was used because it is an attractive communication tool which gave participants age 13 and over an opportunity to express themselves about what they read.



The competition ended with an award function on 26th of November 2010. There were two presenters, Mr. Elkanah Rhule and Ms. Helen Williams. They made interesting presentations to the participants based on the books they had written.

The winners received trophies that were donated by Dr. The Hon. Joyce Robinson, The Jamaica Teachers College and the Jamaica Library Service. Financial assistance came from Dr. Pippa Fray (250 pounds) The Retired Members Section (\$10,000), Mr. Samuel Smiley of First Choice Auto Broker (\$10,000) and LIAJA Executive Members (\$3,000). The winners were:

Hope Valley Experimental won the quiz in the Primary School Section. Lanae Jefferson won the quiz from among the Holmwood students. Lanae Jefferson also won the book review from among the four students who entered from Holmwood High School and Ajay Muschette was the Winner from the Primary Section.

LIBRARY SCHOOL SOCIAL



Dr. Paulette Stewart shared with the students the benefits of being a member of the association. The membership chairperson, Glenda Dalling, explained some of the incentives being offered to members including students.

READING WEEK - April 18 – 24, 2010 (Public Library focus)

During this week, outstanding citizens were involved in reading activities at all the parishes and selected Branch Libraries across the island. The target audience was the younger children. School teachers took them to public libraries for reading and storytelling sessions. Storytelling was conducted in various conducive, well-decorated reading rooms. Stories presented covered all types of genre. Students were attentive and in some instances they laughed, screamed, and rolled in excitement on the carpet. Librarians from LIAJA attended the various reading sessions.



Mr. Roy Black- Radio Personality, reading at the Shortwood Branch Library.

The Genesis of the Archives and Records Management Section and Academic Library Section

Archives and Records Management Section

The Archives and Records and Management section was voted at the June 18, 2010, general meeting in Mandeville. Their executive body elected at the inaugural meeting of October 14, 2010 include Claudette Milford-Allen (Ministry of Agriculture) – Chairperson; Dwaymian Brissette (Public Broadcasting Commission) – Assistant Chairman; Michelle Lewis (Jamaica Archive and Records Department) – Secretary; Kevin Senior (Jamaica Archive and Records Department) – Treasurer; Tameka Lee (Scientific Research Council) – Public Relations Officer; and Claudette Thomas (Government Archivist) – Ex Officio Member

Academic Library Section

This Section, was voted into existence at the Association's final Regular meeting on November 19, 2010. An interim Academic Libraries Committee worked throughout 2010 to garner support for the realization of the Section. The anticipated activities and outcomes of the Section were outlined below and submitted by Natalee Deir-Knight in her capacity as Academic Libraries representative for that year.

Conclusion

In reflection, the year 2010 -2011 was an excited. It was full of activities that were fully supported by the members as well as corporate Jamaica and the American Library Association. The activities highlighted LIAJA as an Association we are truly helping to build, Jamaica. As members we need to continue to work hard for this Association so that it will move from strength to strength. Let us continue to support the leadership of the Association as they give of their time and talents unselfishly.

REFLECTIONS ON LIAJA

As a rookie library-assistant at the Clarendon Parish Library, I attended my first LIAJA (then JLA) meeting in 1977. My then boss, Mrs. Gloria Baker Senior Librarian, (now deceased) made it her duty to take along the library-assistants to the meetings. These experiences and the impact of my mentor, Mrs. Baker, had a very positive influence on my decision to pursue librarianship as a career.

In those early years and over the many years, I have enjoyed the numerous spirited discussions and looked forward to the reports that librarians who attended overseas conferences gave at the meetings. This was not only about the conference presentations but also their personal experiences travelling to those countries. Nowadays, we have access to the presentations online but no experiences are shared at meetings, hence, it is not the same as the participants shared their adventures in the various countries. These were very interesting for the most part.

Meetings also provided opportunities to experience travelling to various communities around the country, as the meetings were not only held in Kingston. Persons who were unable to travel to Kingston for whatever reasons also had the opportunity to attend when the meetings were held in their vicinity. In addition, post-meeting tours were very interesting. My family and I also enjoyed the opportunities to attend the President's banquets over the years. Congratulations to the Association on the achievement of 70 years of sterling service to librarians and the wider Community.

Long live LIAJA!

Karen Barton(Mrs.)

Former President and Retired Director General, Jamaica Library Service.

MILESTONES

from 1949 - 2019

MILESTONES 1949 - 1979

Establishment of the Jamaica Library Association



January 26, 1950 - First general meeting of the Jamaica Library Association (JLA)

**Leading role in the establishment of the Department of Library & Information Studies (DLIS)
Submitted by Stephney Ferguson**

In 1966 the Jamaican Government, following a submission from the Jamaican Library Association, made an application to UNESCO for assistance with a Library School. UNESCO agreed to provide certain types of assistance for four years starting in 1971 and, in the same year, the University Grants Council approved the projected library school and agreed to accept responsibility for total financing when the UNESCO grant came to an end. Thus the long negotiations for a viable institution were

1949 - 1979 (cont'd)

Inception of COMLA in 1972 with JLA being the host Association for the meeting that established COMLA

The relationship between COMLA and the JLA dates from the inception of COMLA in 1972, when the JLA acted as the host association for the meetings that established our association. Since then, the JLA has served for two terms as the host association for COMLA's Secretariat. COMLA is deeply indebted to the JLA for its unwavering support and is particularly mindful of its keen supporting role that has contributed to COMLA's own development, growth and success.

The International Association of School Librarianship (IASL) was inaugurated in Jamaica in 1971.

a number of international organisations. Indeed, the IASL was born in Jamaica and its first President was the indefatigable Amy Robertson, who was then head of the Schools Library Service. The JLA was also home to the first headquarters of the Commonwealth Library Association (COMLA) for many years, with Dr Pippa Fray serving as the first Executive Secretary. Some years later, our own Stephney Ferguson was elected President.

MILESTONES 1980 - 1999

Special Libraries section was formed within the Jamaica Library Association - 1982

Change in name from Jamaica Library Association (JLA) to Library and Information Association of Jamaica (LIAJA) - 1999

MILESTONES 2000 - 2019

Hosted IASL Annual Conference, Kingston Jamaica (2011)
ACURIL XXXVIII Conference 2008 in Montego Bay
Acquisition of land at 75 and 77 Hanover Street for future building (2014)



A PROCLAMATION

By His Excellency the Most Honourable
Sir PATRICK LINTON ALLEN, Member of
the Order of the Nation, Knight Grand
Cross of the Most Distinguished Order of
Saint Michael and Saint George,
Commander of the Order of Distinction,
Knight of Grace of the Most Venerable
Order of the Hospital of Saint John of
Jerusalem, Governor-General of Jamaica.

GOVERNOR-GENERAL

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'P. L. Allen'.

WHEREAS Libraries and Information Units are key institutions that have a vital role to play in the development of society:

AND WHEREAS our nation's schools, academic and special libraries have served as trusted and treasured institutions to effect social change through their commitment to provide equitable access to information for all library users:

AND WHEREAS libraries and information sector workers are providing more opportunities for community engagement and the delivery of new services through innovative programming, makerspace, job-seeking resources, recreational activities and the power of literacy for development:

AND WHEREAS The Library and Information Association of Jamaica (LIAJA) in celebration of Library and Information Week seeks to highlight the importance of libraries, records departments, archives, museums and other information units, as well as to raise awareness of the work done by library and information practitioners:

AND WHEREAS the LIAJA has designated the theme: *"Libraries Matters: Harnessing Information for National Development"* and encourages Jamaicans to use information and knowledge as important drivers of economic growth:

NOW THEREFORE, I, PATRICK LINTON ALLEN, Member of the Order of the Nation, Knight Grand Cross of the Most Distinguished Order of Saint Michael and Saint George, Commander of the Order of Distinction, Knight of Grace of the Most Venerable Order of the Hospital of Saint John of Jerusalem, Governor-General of Jamaica, DO HEREBY PROCLAIM the week of October 30 – November 5, 2016 as **Library and Information Week** and encourage all Jamaicans to participate in the many and varied activities which will take place across the island.

Given under my hand at King's House this 21st day of October in the
Year of Our Lord Two Thousand and Sixteen.

MILESTONES 2000 - 2019



A PROCLAMATION

By His Excellency the Most Honourable
Sir PATRICK LINTON ALLEN, Member of
the Order of the Nation, Knight Grand
Cross of the Most Distinguished Order of
Saint Michael and Saint George,
Commander of the Order of Distinction,
Knight of Grace of the Most Venerable
Order of the Hospital of Saint John of
Jerusalem, Governor-General of Jamaica.

GOVERNOR-GENERAL

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "P. L. Allen".

WHEREAS Libraries and Information Units are key institutions that have a vital role to play in the development of society:

AND WHEREAS our nation's library and information units have served as trusted and treasured institutions to effect social change through their commitment to provide equitable access to information for all library users:

AND WHEREAS libraries and information sector workers are providing more opportunities for community engagement and the delivery of new services through innovative programming, makerspace, job-seeking resources, recreational activities and the power of literacy for development:

AND WHEREAS The Library and Information Association of Jamaica (LIAJA) in celebration of Library and Information Week seeks to highlight the importance of libraries, records departments, archives, museums and other information units, as well as to raise awareness of the work done by library and information practitioners:

AND WHEREAS the LIAJA is committed to: "*Harness Information for National Development*" and encourages Jamaicans to use information and knowledge as important drivers of economic growth:

NOW THEREFORE, I, PATRICK LINTON ALLEN, Member of the Order of the Nation, Knight Grand Cross of the Most Distinguished Order of Saint Michael and Saint George, Commander of the Order of Distinction, Knight of Grace of the Most Venerable Order of the Hospital of Saint John of Jerusalem, Governor-General of Jamaica, DO HEREBY PROCLAIM the first week of November annually as **Library and Information Week** and the Thursday of that week as **Library and Information Professionals Day** and encourage all Jamaicans to participate in the many and varied activities which will take place across the island.

Given under my hand at King's House this 1st day of November in the
Year of Our Lord Two Thousand and Seventeen.



CONTRIBUTED

Articles

Northern Caribbean University and the Hiram S. Walters Resource Centre has had the distinct opportunity of being an institutional member the Library and Information Association of Jamaica for over 25 years. During these years, the librarians at NCU have served the Association in varied capacities, whether as chairs of sections, leading working parties, hosting meetings and providing support for events and professional developments sessions or generally making ourselves available to the cause and mission of the LIAJA. It is worthy to note that NCU librarians recognize the advantage and the professional worth of retaining membership in the Association. In recent times, two of our librarians earned affirmation from their fellows in the field, having received the coveted Research and Publication Award in 2018 and the Community Outreach Award in 2019.

The professional development and capacity building tenets of LIAJA are commendable and librarians of the Hiram S. Walters Resource Centre have taken advantage of offerings for improvement and networking that regularly come to institutions throughout any given year. We can confidently say that involvement in the activities planned or enabled by our Association have allowed our practitioners to grow intellectually, gain recognition as information experts within our locale and act as mentors for up and coming young professionals in the field. As a student of Library and Information Studies in the year 2000, I became aware of the worth of LIAJA with the initial sign-up as a student member. Since then, the Association continues to play an integral role in my life as a librarian and in that of my colleagues.

We are proud of the Association and its achievements over the decades. Professionalism remains a hallmark and dedication to the work of the information professional continues to encourage all levels of membership, whether they are retired, student, honorary, personal or associate. The Library and Information Association of Jamaica is comparable to any other library association across the globe and it can only grow stronger. The team from the Hiram S. Walters Resource Centre stands ready to weather the years ahead alongside our Association.

Nicola Palmer
Director, Library Services
Northern Caribbean University



NORTHERN CARIBBEAN
UNIVERSITY
A Seventh-day Adventist Institution



THE ROLES OF A LIBRARIAN: BECOMING AN ENTREPRENEUR

KAREEN BOURNE



It is a truism to say that academic librarians wear many different hats and provide an array of services to patrons. My first introduction to what Librarians do was while I was pursuing a Masters Degree in that field at UWI. Truth be told, it was never an area of interest to me, but a lecturer knowing of my intent to pursue post graduate studies provided a convincing argument that led to my enrollment. I learned early in my programme that there were many different areas of specialization for librarians. The programme also introduced several new skills. I had decided during my training that I wanted to become a manager of “something”. Upon completion, I was excited about prospective job opportunities as I felt empowered to work in several new and interesting areas.

My first library job was as Technical Services and Audio Visual Librarian at a fairly newly established university. The institution itself had a long private education tradition, but was only granted university status approximately five years before I joined the staff. The Library’s professional staff size was small and it was poised to go through several changes to upgrade its offering. It provided the perfect environment to put my new knowledge and enthusiasm to good use. Additionally, loving a challenge, the environment was a good base for professional and personal growth which has left its mark upon me, my children and a community.

My first big task was reorganizing Technical Services to improve the physical work space as well as workflow. I also had to revamp the Audio Visual Department to ensure digitization / preservation of the collection and begin the task of creating metadata on items stored, thereby making them accessible. That department also served the community by loaning, at a cost, certain equipment such as projectors and screens. Policies and procedures were updated for their tracking and handling. The number of available rentals for some equipment was also increased. Staff training, team building, networking became an integral part of what I did. Soon I was asked to help with reorganizing other areas of the library as it prepared to upgrade to self-checkout.

While I went through that process, which was not always easy, it occurred to me that my training and my natural ability could actually be used to establish my own business. The realization of that didn’t come for another three years and two more university libraries later. It was at the library that I first learned to make an actual budget and to execute various financial transactions. Planning and setting goals at the beginning of a period, started in the library. Even identifying materials that were required to make my department run smoothly played its role later on in my business. My job required that I offered service to multiple locations, so managing multiple satellites in my next assignment was just a new level of challenge.

At my second job, the library at first formed only a small part of my duties. I oversaw the library at the Regional Centre, but my primary job description was to manage the administrative aspects of the Institution’s South Middlesex Region. We had a good team that worked well together and the region excelled above all others. My previous job had provided practical experience organizing people and resources to get desired results. Since library work was also methodical and required recording, I implemented systems that would facilitate seamless workflows and introduced forms that were later adopted university-wide that captured vital information. Training in records management during my course of study helped me to establish an efficient filing system which later also became a valuable business skill. The new assignment was an opportunity to expand upon the knowledge and experience gained and to garner new knowledge.

About a year later that University promoted me to Senior Director Library and Information Services. I became responsible to manage libraries at four locations island-wide and to find ways to meet the information needs of clients who were not served by those locations because of the distance of the satellites at which their courses were offered. It also gave me new insight into senior management responsibilities. By the time I had my next Library assignment, which was temporary, as it was a project, my only real adjustment was to working in a new environment and working nights instead of days. My entrepreneurial journey began as soon as my time on the project had ended. Along with my marketing savvy partner, I was emboldened to believe that I could be a fulltime entrepreneur and use the knowledge I had acquired to build my business and to find new knowledge that would be useful to its management and my growth.

My partner and I opened a bookstore which began as a virtual store, but then eventually grew to two locations in two different parishes. My library skills meant that we could also offer document services as an additional income stream. Information skills could be monetized because persons could not or would not try to access information on their own, as well as, complete needed forms or online applications. Our document services were similar to those offered in libraries, including helping persons meet their research needs.

Acquisitions helped me with inventory management and vendor relationship. Instead of seeking information from departments to be able to satisfy my clients' information needs, I had to seek it from schools, private clients, new businesses, corporate Jamaica and even some of the Universities that I had served. May to September were brutal months in planning and executing materials provision and my "accrediting" bodies were the clients I served. Management of accounts were critical to growth and to the business' future ability to cater to customers needs.


Cataloguing helped me know how important it was to organize material for easy retrieval. I even had to have a shelving system. Overall good record keeping was important to my business for various reasons including tracking trends, best and worst performing stock and meeting tax obligations. A most critical part of record keeping that cataloguing helped with however, was my point of sale. I trained staff to standardize data input (authority control so to speak); what kinds of information to capture from packaging, the fields that data should be entered into to facilitate easy retrieval, and of course we also had those items that came with no bar codes and no easy way of identifying them. Key word searches were an important part of our retrieval system. The database had to be of such that items could be accessed quickly at the cash register. The inclusion of articles in the primary search field was discouraged, but could be used in the description field.

The reference interview was an especially helpful part of the training for business. It taught me how not to discriminate or be judgmental. I learned how the right posture and the right set of questions posed could better help me to help the client. It helped me to learn to listen for cues that could help me to help the client who may not be knowledgeable about an item that they were seeking. It was a critical training area for my staff that led to maximization of sales and customer loyalty and retention.

Operating a rural bookstore meant that you would interact daily with people from many different backgrounds. Some were literate some were not. Some were self-assured and knew what they wanted and some did not. Sometimes clients came to shop for an item using a different name than that used in that industry or different from the one you are used to. For instance, 'card board' could be called, "sugar board" or "backing board". You could be asked the question do you have "sugar board"? To simply say no because you don't know what that is could cost you several sales. To ask the right questions to help you to establish what sugar board could be, would likely take you to the place where your only other question then was what thickness is required. Once that transaction was completed, that same customer would possibly tell others that the item is available at your store. It should be noted here that many bookshop sales are trends. Conducting a proper interview of your clients too can lead you to becoming the business of choice.

Library exhibitions lead to the mounting of interesting displays highlighting new arrivals or stock that might not readily be sold. It was unusual for instance, for customers to find motivational and self-help books in other stores in the community. To access or be exposed to certain materials they would have to travel miles. A display alerted them to the presence of those materials as well as provided consideration of other options/possibilities. Customers also appreciated themed displays that supplied information that was relevant to their needs. Examples of these included, Black History and Child Month displays with a focus on local contexts.

Technical Services caused me to become very conscious about workflow and assessing and acquiring materials to aid that process. Clearing the chaos in Technical Services in my first library job and setting up clear areas for



different processes increased our productivity. It was equally important to establish similar processes in business which proved advantageous to our small staff compliment. Other Technical Services experiences and training that proved useful were:

Learning how light affected paper, which helped me to decide where to display items and to choose appropriate filters for glass exposed areas that were necessary for visibility.

Disaster mitigation; knowing what to do when a storm threatened, or even how pests posed a threat and how to manage infestation.

Each year I wrote a strategic plan for my business and ensured that I tracked its progress. That allowed us to make necessary adjustments that would bring economic benefits. We for instance published three books for the early childhood sector that became widely used. Later when I added a café inside one of the bookstores, my library training and experience was still applicable. Even my menus benefitted as I standardized those and the recipes. Standardization ensured that the customer experience was uniformed. The intention was that the food would taste good every day.

I closed my businesses and returned to the library for various reasons, but my outlook on possibilities has changed forever. I am now an outreach librarian, a role that I wasn't aware of eleven years ago when I became an entrepreneur. As society continues to evolve, the roles of the librarian has had to evolve with it. Understanding particular experiences and methods of outreach librarians will be crucial to how well I perform. My business experience however, will also assist me in finding creative ways to reach our target market. Time will tell if my business experience is as useful to the library as the library was useful to my business. Perhaps my new experiences as Outreach Librarian will also positively impact my next big idea.

MY JOURNEY WITH JLA SCHOOLS SECTION

I joined the then Jamaica Library Association (JLA) in 1985, one year after completing my first degree in Library and Information Studies. While at Library School, Mrs. Hazel Bennett had encouraged me to get involved in my Library Association, but I was too busy doing assignments and trying to complete the degree, so I declined. Now that I was free of any “encumbrance” and with lots of time on my hands, I found it possible. Further, I felt that working at a school library from Monday to Friday was not enough to occupy and challenge me. Both Mrs. Beatrice Anderson from Mico Teacher’s College and Dr. Cherrell Shelley-Robinson from DLIS were my mentors and they acted as alternate Schools Section chairpersons, so I committed to that Section and stayed with it for over 15 years. For most of this time, I served as secretary / treasurer, recording the minutes at the general and quarterly meetings as well as collecting membership dues and workshop fees whenever the occasion arose. I still don’t know how I managed to do both at the same time, but I did and enjoyed the experience.

My journey with the Schools Section had me travelling all over Jamaica. I became familiar with the nooks and crannies of almost every parish. Some of the schools visited included Montego Bay High, Munro College, Bishop Gibson, Ocho Rios High, Annotto Bay High, St. Mary High, Garvey Maceo High, St. Jago High and Old Harbour High in St. Catherine, Titchfield High in Portland, Merl Grove High and Excelsior High. The habit of holding at least one of our meetings out of town each year was used to encourage the out-of-town school librarians to participate as they loved playing host to us. On the other hand, the persons from Kingston liked the idea of visiting somewhere new. I think this was one of the reasons why we had such large turn-outs at our meetings.

At the end of each meeting, we would ask another school to accommodate us for the next one. When the confirmation came, I was responsible for sending out the notices to the school librarians, making arrangements for transportation, and asking the library host to prepare coffee break and lunch. Sometimes, we would also request a tour of the facilities at a rural school, if there was time to spare. Our meeting place for the bus was at Mother’s Patty in the Shopping Plaza beside Jamaica National, Half Way Tree. We tried to depart at 7 a.m. for those long journeys, but we never actually did, as there were always persons who always came late. Then, we started picking up persons along the way to save time. I can still recall the coffee breaks at those meetings when we feasted on delicious fruit cake or banana bread and homemade juices supplied by Mrs. Anderson.

The journey itself was always interesting and full of fun. Dr. Rob and Mrs. Anderson kept us in stitches all the way to our destination and back, regaling us with stories of their younger days. They were mainly about life in the country and include things like scary after dark happenings, boarding school escapades, match-making romances and married life. Our older colleagues became our counsellors as they also cautioned us about finding the right partner, buying a house and living a Godly life. The journey also provided an opportunity to meet and interact with many different kinds of people - teachers, principals, the canteen staff, persons in the communities and, of course, the students.

Not everything about these meetings went smoothly. There were times when the accounting did not add up because persons came to the Section meetings and did not pay the workshop fee or some feasted for free on our refreshments. When we were ready to submit the monies, it was not enough and the missing sum had to be taken from the pockets of the committee members. Nonetheless, all of this was an invaluable learning experience and I would not have missed this opportunity to serve, despite the problems I encountered.

My involvement in the Schools Section also paved the way for my many trips to the International Association of School Librarianship annual conferences. Dr. Rob, Mrs. Anderson and I became constant travelling companions as we made our journeys to Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia; Pennsylvania, USA; Vancouver, Canada; and Jerusalem, Israel to represent Jamaica. This we did very well and it resulted in Mrs. Anderson and Dr. Rob, at different times, actually being elected as Caribbean Directors of IASL for many years.

These memories will live with me forever and I will always regard my time as an active member of the Schools Section as a most rewarding one.

Rosemarie Runcie
UWI Mona Library

PIONEERS IN JAMAICAN LIBRARIANSHIP

AUTHOR: ERICA SHAKES

BA, Library and Information Studies (Hons)





Mr. Frank Cundall has captured and preserved all that makes and shapes the Jamaican life with his comprehensive collection of 16th century history research covering all aspects of Caribbean life. He started a small collection of Jamaican books at the Institute of Jamaica from 1891 in his role as Secretary/Librarian until 1937. The Institute of Jamaica was established in 1879 for the encouragement of literature, science and art.

The West Indian Reference Library of the Institute of Jamaica was founded in 1894 as a section of the Public Library.

Point to note: The National Library of Jamaica was established in 1979 under the Institute of Jamaica Act of 1978.

Rev. Dr. Walter Lewis was a Welshman who came to Jamaica in 1935 from Great Britain.

The aim Rev. Dr. Lewis had for the island was for a *"A free library in every parish."* He said, *"Jamaica should keep pace with the rest of the world".*

The Manchester Free Library, now known as a Parish Library, was officially opened by Sir Edward Denham on the 1st August, 1938.

Rev. Dr. Walter Lewis was honoured for being the first person to create public awareness of free libraries in the island.



Dr. Joyce Robinson (nee Lawson) began her career as a voluntary librarian with the St. Elizabeth Public Library in 1946 where she continued until 1950 when she was appointed Senior Assistant, Headquarters, Jamaica Library Service(JLS). She was appointed Director of JLS in April 1957. She contributed to the development of the bookmobile programme, school library expansion, upgrading of all parish libraries and library development training.

Dr. Robinson, a foundation member of the Jamaica Library Association, served for many years on its Executive and the held offices as Vice President and President(1964). She served on several National Government Boards concerned with education and assisted with many voluntary social cultural organizations. She represented Jamaica at the United Nations and other International Assemblies.

Dr. Robinson was the first local staff member to be qualified through private study as an Associate of the Library Association (1954) and subsequently was awarded a British Council scholarship to North Western Polytechnic, London. In 1959 she was elected Fellow of the Library Association.

Dr. Robinson was a Member of the British Council and in 1979 was awarded the Order of Jamaica for outstanding public service.

Dr. Robinson received an Honorary Degree of Doctor of Laws from the Dalhousie University, Nova Scotia, Canada, for outstanding pioneering work in Libraries and Literacy in 1979 and an Honorary Degree of Laws LL.D from the University of the West Indies, Mona for outstanding pioneering work in the fields of Library and Literacy in 1990.



Mrs. Amy Robertson began her library career in 1946 when she became the first Librarian of the St. James Public Library. Under her supervision the St. James Parish Library attained Grade A status with a membership of 13,900 and an annual book circulation of 136,400.

In 1963 Mrs. Robertson was transferred to the JLS Head Quarters and served for 21 years. She was appointed principal Librarian of the Schools Library Service in July 1964. Mrs. Robertson was responsible for the library development programme for the island's 791 primary and junior secondary schools.

She was the recipient of the Jamaica Library Board scholarship to the Eastern Caribbean Regional Library School in Trinidad in 1955. She qualified as an Associate in 1957 and as a Fellow of the Library Association in 1968.

Mrs. Robertson was an active member of the Jamaica Library Association since its foundation she served on its Executive and held office as Vice-President and President in 1974.



Mr. A.S. A. Bryant, a former Chief Librarian of Nuneaton, England, was appointed by the British Council to serve as the first Director of the Jamaica Library Service in May 1948.

Mr. Bryant remained with the Jamaica Library Service for over three and a half years. He was responsible for preparing the detailed scheme for the organization of the Jamaica Library Service as outlined in Miss Nora Bateson's report "Library Plan for Jamaica." During his administration, many of his proposals were implemented.

The Jamaica Library Association (JLA), now the Library and Information Association of Jamaica (LIAJA), was founded by Mr. A.S. A. Bryant at a meeting of persons interested in libraries held July 14, 1949. The meeting was held in Spanish Town where a committee drafted the constitution, which was adopted at the general meeting held on January 26, 1950.

Point to Note: Public Libraries were already in existence in the parishes of Manchester(1938), St. Elizabeth(1944), St. James(1944), Westmoreland (1946) and St. Ann (1947). These formed the nucleus of the new organization.

Mr. Harold Holdsworth contributed to the development of the University of the West Indies Library when it was established in 1948 at UWI Mona as part of the new University College of the West Indies. Initially located in the wooden building, still known as the Old Library, it was moved in 1952 to the current site.

Mr. Holdsworth was chief Librarian of the University College of the West Indies and President of the Jamaica Library Association in 1951. He was the General Editor of the Jamaica Library Association Bulletin from 1951-1953.



Miss Leila Thomas joined the library service in 1948 as a Voluntary Librarian with the St. Catherine Parish Library. In 1950, she was appointed Librarian of the Manchester Parish Library, the oldest and most developed of the parish libraries up to that date.

In 1957, Miss Thomas served as Chief Assistant at the Jamaica Library Service. She was the recipient of one of the first overseas scholarships awarded by the Jamaica Library Board in 1954, and along with three other staff members, attended the Eastern Caribbean Regional Library School.

Miss Thomas was a foundation member of the Jamaica Library Association and has functioned on the Executive Committee as Secretary and as First Vice-President. She was elected President in 1970.



Mr. W.F. Chape, a former British Council Librarian from Argentina, served as Deputy Director of the Jamaica Library Service (JLS) from 1950-1955.

Mr. Chape assisted both Mr. Bryant and Mr. Hockey (a former director at the JLS in the formative years of the JLS and acted as Director from August 1952 to August 1953 in the transitional period between Mr. Bryant's resignation and Mr. Hockey's appointment.

During Mr. Chape's tenure three library buildings were completed and the St. Elizabeth, St. James and Westmoreland Parish Libraries were transferred from their temporary rented premises to new buildings.

Mr. Chape took an active part in the development of the Jamaica Library Association (JLA) and was Editor of Jamaica Library Association Bulletin which was the official publication of the Association.

Mr. Chape served as President of the JLA in 1954.



Mrs. Sybil Iton joined the staff of the Jamaica Library Service in 1950 as a Voluntary Librarian of the St. Catherine Parish Library.

Mrs. Iton served the library for 14 years and during her period of office, the St. Catherine Parish Library was promoted to Grade A status with total membership of 14,900 and an annual book circulation of 99,300. She was appointed Principal Librarian in July 1964 and served in that post at the regional libraries of St. Ann and Manchester. In April 1966, she was transferred to the Kingston & St. Andrew Parish Library which was the largest library in the Service with membership of 108,420 and an annual book circulation of 420,800.

Mrs. Iton received a Jamaica Library Board scholarship to the Eastern Caribbean Regional Library School in Trinidad, in 1955 for four months, and from 1958 to 1960, attended the North Western Polytechnic School of Librarianship, London. She was elected as Associate of the Library Association in 1959. A foundation member of the Jamaica Library Association, Mrs. Iton has served on the Executive and held office as Secretary and was reelected President of the Association in 1985.



In 1958 Miss Norma Kelly worked with the St. Catherine, St. Ann and Manchester Parish libraries. She was appointed Senior Librarian in 1965. Miss Kelly was appointed Principal Librarian in September 1969. She then assumed responsibility for the operation of the Manchester Parish Library which had re-opened in a new and modern library building. The library, which was the Regional Headquarters, now had the second largest book circulation in the island. Miss Kelly was also responsible for the supervision and development of libraries in Clarendon and St. Elizabeth.

Miss Kelly attended the North Western Polytechnic School of Librarianship, London, from 1961 to 1962 and was elected an Associate of the Jamaica Library Association in 1964.

From September 1967 to January 1968, she participated in the Multi-National Librarian Project sponsored by the United States Government. She is an active member of the Jamaica Library Association and served as President in 1982.



Born in Portland, Jamaica, Mrs. Hazel Bennett joined the staff of the Jamaica Library Service (JLS) and served as Deputy Director for 10 years from 1957 to 1967. During Mrs. Bennett's tenure as Deputy Director, she was involved in the planning and administration of the rapidly expanding public library service island wide and school library services.

She qualified as a librarian, firstly as an Associate at the Library Association (UK), then as a Fellow in 1963. Mrs. Bennett acquired her Masters Degree in Library Science (USA) in 1966, and another Masters Degree in English in 1974 and her Doctorate in Library Science in 1987.

Dr. Bennett served twice as President of the Jamaica Library Association in 1962 and 1968. During her presidential address in 1968, she highlighted the need for a National Library for Jamaica.



Born in Scotland, Dr. Pippa Fray spent most of her early life in Canada, and came to live in Jamaica in 1961.

She holds a Masters in Library Science and is an honorary member of LIAJA.

Internationally, she played an important role in the launching of the Commonwealth Library Association (COMLA) in 1972.

An active member of the Jamaica Library Association, she has served on the Executive Committee in several positions, including that of Honorary secretary, in 1966.



Professor Daphne Douglas was appointed Principal Librarian of the Jamaica Library Service Region II area in July 1964. She was assigned to the St. James Parish Library and was responsible for the supervision and development of that library, as well as the libraries of Hanover, Westmoreland and Trelawny.

She worked with the Jamaica Library Service as a qualified and experienced Librarian from April 1956 to 1971.

Professor Douglas, is also a foundation member of the Jamaica Library Association and served on the Executive Committee as President in 1977.

In 1971, Professor Douglas moved to the Department of Library and Information Studies (DLIS), where she served at different periods as lecturer, senior lecturer and she was the first Jamaican to Head the DLIS. Under her leadership, the DLIS, the regional training institution for librarians, began offering post-graduate programmes and pioneered the use of computers at UWI, Mona.

Professor Douglas has received numerous awards. These include the Woman of Distinction Award for the 1976 to 1985, a National Award for distinguished service in librarianship and for which was unbroken service in the field of library education. This was an award from the University of the West Indies.



Mr. Kenneth Ingram served as University of the West Indies Library as Librarian from 1971 to 1981.

Mr. Ingram's research led him to the identification and location of primary historical sources for Jamaica and the West Indies. During his tenure at the University of the West Indies Library, the West Indies and Special Collections Section was established in 1974.

Mr. Ingram served as President of the Jamaica Library Association in 1972. He served as an academic librarian, bibliographer, historian and poet who contributed immensely to the development of librarianship and historical scholarship in Jamaica.



Mrs. Albertina Jefferson, a Trinidadian, holds a Bachelor's of Arts degree in Sociology from the University of Toronto, and a Masters of Science (M.S.) in Library Science from the Columbia University, New York.

She was appointed Deputy Librarian, UWI Mona in 1976, and Campus Librarian, Mona in 1981.

Mrs. Jefferson served the UWI Libraries during the 1990s, coordinating its three campuses.

Mrs. Jefferson is an active professional at the national, regional and international levels. She has been a member of the Executive Council of the Jamaica Library Association(JLA) and also served as President of Jamaica Library Association in 1978.



Ms. Stephney Ferguson was the Director of the National Library of Jamaica from 1980 to 1992. Ms. Ferguson is known best for her wide ranging service in the field of Librarianship locally, regionally and internationally.

Miss Ferguson is recognised for her pioneering work in the development of the Parliament Library at Gordon House and the Library at the College Arts Science and Technology (CAST), now the University of Technology, Jamaica (UTech, Ja.).

Miss Ferguson has received several prestigious awards, including the Order of Distinction for her distinguished contribution to Library Development in Jamaica, the Mutual Security Bank Foundation Outstanding Award in 1988 and the Centenary Medal of the Institute of Jamaica.

She served as President of the Jamaica Library Association in 1975 and President of the Commonwealth Library Association. She has served on the General Advisory Committee of the International Federation of Library Association and was a presidential candidate in 1991.



MEMBERS OF LIAJA AT HOPE UNITED CHURCH SERVICE



HONORARY MEMBERS OF LIAJA

From Left to Right: Mrs. Albertina Jefferson, Mrs. Norma Amenu-Kpodo, Dr. Hazel Bennett, Mrs. Beatrice Anderson, Ms. Stephney Ferguson

PAST

Presidents & Secretaries

YEAR	PAST PRESIDENTS	YEAR	PAST SECRETARIES
1950	A.S. Bryant	1950 - 1953	K.E. Ingram
1951	Harold Holdsworth	1954 - 1955	Beryl Fletcher
1952	H. Haughton	1956	Hazel Gray (Bennett)
1953	J.W. O'Reagan	1957	Daphne Douglas
1954	William P. Chape	1958	Rosalind Davis (McLaughlin)
1955	C. Bernard Lewis	1959 - 1961	Leila Thomas
1956	K.E. Ingram	1962	Ouida Benjamin (Rowe)
1957	Edgerton Richards	1963	Daphne Douglas (resigned)
1958	W. Adolphe Roberts		Sybil Jones (Iton)
1959	Mary Brelmer		Gloria Salmon
1960	William Gocking	1964	Sheila Bacchus-Lampart (Jan.-Jul.)
1961	John Carberry		Rema Falconer (Sept.-Jan.)
1962	Hazel Bennett	1965	Gwen Pottinger
1963	Leslie Robinson	1966	C. Pippa Fray
1964	Joyce Robinson	1967 - 1968	Rose Wright
1965	Gloria Cumper	1969 - 1971	Fay Durrant
1966	William Gocking	1972 - 1973	Albertina Jefferson
1967	Graham Binns	1974 - 1975	Laura-Ann Munroe
1968	Hazel Bennett	1976	Yvonne Graydon
1969	Vic Reid	1977 - 1978	Audrey Chambers
1970	Leila Thomas	1979	Mabel Marsh
1971	C.L. Stuart	1980	Ruby Tyson
1972	K.E. Ingram	1981 -1982	Hermine Salmon
1973	R.L.C. Aarons (resigned)	1983 - 1984	Arlene Onoaiwu
	Joyce Robinson	1985	Gloria Salmon
1974	Amy Robertson	1986 - 1987	Valda Adeyiga
1975	Stephaney Ferguson	1988 - 1989	Gloria Greene
1976	Leila Thomas	1990	Yolanda Mittoo (Jan.-Mar.)
1977	Daphne Douglas		June Vernon (Apr.-Jun.)
1978	Albertina Jefferson	1991	Rita Whittaker
1979	Barbara Chevannes	1992 - 1993	Maureen Kerr-Campbell
1980	Mercedes Joseph	1994	Patricia Cuff
1981	Katie M. Mungo	1995	Frances Salmon
1982	Norma Kerry	1996	June Vernon
1983	Sheila Lampart	1997	Deon Holness-Smith (resigned)
1984	Lilieth Morris		Adele Merrit (Oct. 1997 - Jan. 1998)
1985	Sybil Iton	1998	Adele Merrit
1986 - 1987	John Aarons	1999	Rosmarie Runcie
1988	Norma Amenu-Kpodo	2000	Janet James

YEAR	PAST PRESIDENTS	YEAR	PAST SECRETARIES
1989	Albertina Jefferson	2001	Kevin Samuda
1990	Blossom Mullings	2002	Marva Bradford
1991	June Vernon	2003	Yulande Lindsay
1992	Sonia Reid	2004	Yulande Lindsay
1993	Merline Bardewell	2005	Marva Bradford
1994	Gloria Clarke	2006	Daphney Daley
1995	Paulette Kerr	2007	Daphney Daley
1996	Rita Whittaker	2008	Christina Stewart-Fullerton
1997	Richele Harvey	2009	Natanya Gillard
1998	Patricia Cuff	2010	Marsha Nembhard
1999	Cherrell Shelley-Robinson	2011	Andrea Robins
2000	Hermine Salmon	2012	Kelene Moss
2001	Winsome Hudson	2013	Leleka Johnson
2002	Eva Barnes	2014	Marsha-Gay Robinson
2003	Byron Palmer	2015	Theresa Reid
2004	Pamela Blake	2016	Theresa Reid
2005	Fay Durrant	2017	Chantelle Richardson
2006	Karen Barton	2018	Monique Forgie-Scott
2007	David Drysdale	2019	Chantal Cousins
2008	Marva Bradford		
2009	Mavis Belasse-Williams		
2010	Paulette Stewart		
2011	Pauline Nicholas		
2012	Claudette Thomas		
2013	Matthew Blake		
2014	Vivienne Kerr Williams		
2015	Vivienne Kerr Williams		
2016	Jollette Pinnock Russell		
2017	Jollette Pinnock Russell		
2018	Nicholas Graham		
2019	Nicholas Graham		

