

LIAJA
Library and Information Association of Jamaica

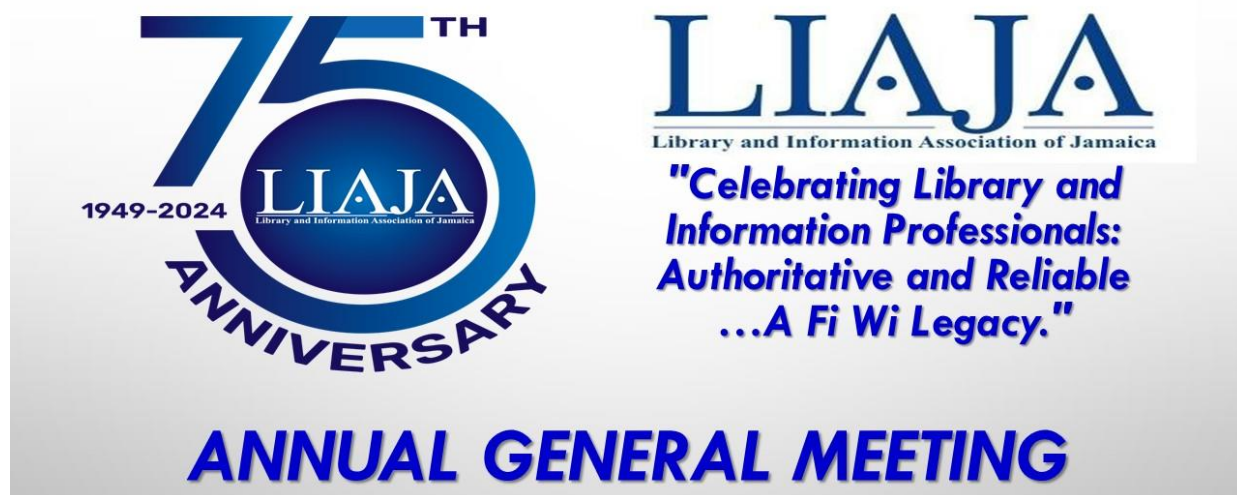


Library and Information Association of Jamaica

ANNUAL REPORT

2024-2025

**2024 – 2025 ANNUAL REPORT TO THE ANNUAL GENERAL
MEETING OF THE LIBRARY AND INFORMATION ASSOCIATION
OF JAMAICA**



THEME:

***“Celebrating Library and Information Professionals:
Authoritative and Reliable ...A Fi Wi Legacy,”***

FEBRUARY 2024 TO JANUARY 2025

PRESENTED AT THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2025

PREPARED BY:

JOSEPH A. KERR, JP. - PRESIDENT

NATONYA GARWOOD - HONORARY SECRETARY



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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.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE FOR 75TH ANNIVERSARY



"Celebrating Library and Information Professionals: Authoritative and Reliable ...A Fi Wi Legacy."



Dear Members, Colleagues, and Friends of LIAJA.

It is with immense pride and gratitude that I extend warm greetings to each of you. As we commemorate the 75th anniversary of the Library and Information Association of Jamaica (LIAJA), this milestone marks a significant moment in our journey one that reflects the resilience, dedication, and transformative power of library and information professionals in Jamaica and beyond.

*Our anniversary theme, "**Celebrating Library and Information Professionals: Authoritative and Reliable ... A Fi Wi Legacy**", resonates deeply with the values and ideals that have shaped our profession for over seven decades. It speaks to the critical role we have played in shaping the information landscape, empowering individuals, and promoting access to knowledge.*

*The work of librarians, archivists, records managers, para-professionals, and information specialists in Jamaica has never been more essential. We have always been the custodians of **authoritative** knowledge, ensuring that information is accurate, trustworthy, and accessible to all. In a time when misinformation and disinformation are prevalent, the responsibility to be **reliable** sources of information has never been more significant.*

*Our collective legacy "**A Fi Wi Legacy**" is one built on the foundation of service, and unwavering commitment to the advancement of information literacy, community engagement, and educational development.*

Over the years, LIAJA has championed the professional growth of its members, advocated for the importance of libraries in the Jamaican society, and made strides in ensuring that library and information services continue to evolve in ways that meet the needs of the emerging users.

This anniversary is not just a celebration of our past achievements, but also an opportunity to reaffirm our commitment to the ever-changing demands of the information world. We are challenged to continue adapting to new technologies, expanding access to resources, and advocating for policies that support the growth of our profession and the vital products and services we provide. It should be our duty to ensure that libraries and information professionals are recognized as key contributors to national development and global progress.

As we reflect on our rich history, it is crucial to recognize the pioneers who laid the groundwork for the association and the profession. Their vision and leadership continue to inspire us today. We owe much to their foresight and tireless efforts in establishing the foundation upon which we stand. As we look forward to the future, let us continue to embrace innovation, inclusivity, and collaboration, so that the legacy of LIAJA remains a beacon of excellence and integrity.

*Colleagues, as we celebrate 75 years of progress, let us remember the incredible impact we have had on the communities we serve. Let us honour those who have gone before us and continue the work they began. The future is bright for the library and information profession in Jamaica, and together, we will ensure that it remains **authoritative, reliable, and accessible** for generations to come.*

I am deeply proud of our collective achievements, and I look forward to the many ways in which we will continue to lead, inspire, and serve.

Congratulations to all of us! Here's to 75 years of outstanding service and to many more years of success in shaping the future of library and information services in Jamaica!

Warm regards,



Joseph A. Kerr

President, Library and Information Association of Jamaica (LIAJA)

PRESIDENTIAL REPORT FEBRUARY 2024 TO JANUARY 2025

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

First and foremost, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the members of LIAJA for entrusting me with this position. Your support and confidence inspire me to work diligently to further our shared mission. To our executive team, thank you for your exceptional leadership, support and the strong foundation you have built. Your commitment to advancing our profession and advocating for libraries across Jamaica has left an indelible mark.

I extend warm greetings to all members, colleagues, and stakeholders of the **Library and Information Association of Jamaica (LIAJA)**. It is both an **honour and a privilege** to have served as your 2024 President. A year ago, I humbly accepted the charge of President for the 2024-2025 administration. This opportunity to serve our community of dedicated library and information professionals was both a privilege and a responsibility that I embraced wholeheartedly.

during this pivotal time in our association's history. As we navigate the evolving information landscape, the **2024 administration** remains steadfast in its commitment to **advancing the profession, empowering our members, and strengthening our national and regional impact**.

During the reporting period, we commemorate the 75th anniversary celebration of our beloved association. Additionally, we adopted the theme: ***"Celebrating Library and Information Professionals: Authoritative and Reliable ...A Fi Wi Legacy"***, it reflects the unwavering commitment of our profession to truth, knowledge, and community service.

Over the past 75 years, LIAJA has played a **pivotal role** in shaping the information landscape. From supporting literacy initiatives to advancing professional development, the association's work has **enriched lives and strengthened access to knowledge**. This celebration reflects not only the **history** of the association but also the **impact** of its members on education, research, and national development.

The anniversary celebrations provide an opportunity where we can **recognize and honour** the trailblazers, past presidents, and members, who have worked tirelessly to **uphold the values** of the association. Their **vision and dedication** continue to inspire future generations of information professionals. As we reflect on the past, let us also **embrace the future** with renewed energy and a commitment to **excellence**.

Thank you, once again, for the opportunity given to serve. Let us continue to strive for the advancement of LIAJA's mission and strengthen the legacy of library and information professionals in Jamaica.

Sincerely,



Joseph A. Kerr

2024 President

HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2024

Annual General Meeting

On February 09, 2024, approximately **59** members attended the Annual General Meeting. The AGM was held at the Jamaica Library Service Headquarters, Joyce Robinson Hall at 2 Tom Redcam Drive, Kingston 5. We were also able to facilitate several of our members via the Zoom platform. Members were briefed on the activities of the past year and the upcoming plans for the new administrative year.

In the absence of a keynote speaker, our newly elected President did a presentation on **“Estate Planning.”** The session outlined the process of organizing and managing individual’s assets and decisions in preparation for incapacitation or death. It involves creating a legal plan to ensure that assets are distributed according to the individual's wishes and that their loved ones are protected and provided for. He further pointed out that *“Good estate planning goes beyond just drafting a will; it includes preparing for possible scenarios and ensuring financial security, and peace of mind.”*

Finally, he said *“Estate Planning should be a thoughtful and essential step for anyone who wants to ensure that their assets are managed according to their wishes and that their loved ones are taken care of in the event of they become incapacitated or die.”*

During the meeting special recognition was given to IPP Kerry-Ann Rodney Wellington.



Installation of 2024 President



Presentation to IPP Kerry-Ann Rodney-Wellington

THE 2024 EXECUTIVE MEMBERS ARE LISTED BELOW:



From left to right: Mrs. Kerry-Ann Rodney Wellington, Immediate Past President; Mrs. Ana Peralta, Chair of the Education and Training Working Party; Ms. Natalee Knight, Chair of IT Working Party; Ms. Jody Ann Sadler, Chair Public Relations; Ms. Kadiesha Grant, 2nd Vice President/Honorary Treasurer; Mr. Joseph A. Kerr, JP. President; Mrs. Desaray Nolan Pivot, National Library of Jamaica representative.; Ms. Marsha Jack, JLS Representative; Mrs. Nicoleen Saunders Grant, Chair of Academic Libraries Section; Mrs. Monique Fergi-Scott, Chair of Membership & Conditions of Services; Ms. Fiona Hutchinson, Co-Chair of the 75th Anniversary Committee; Mrs. Natonya Garwood, Honorary Secretary and Chair of the 75th Anniversary Committee.

Missing: Dr. Sasekea. Harris 1st Vice President/Chair for Research and Publication, Ms. Leleka Johnson, Chair of Special Libraries Section; Dr. Ruth Baker Gardner, Chair of School Section, Mrs. Adele Bernard-Merritt, Advocacy Chair and Awards, Ms. Kay-Ann Robinson, **Chair of Fundraising and Functions Committee.**

OFFICERS

President: Mr. Joseph A. Kerr, JP.

Immediate Past President:
Mrs. Kerry Rodney Wellington

1st Vice President / Research and Publication:
Dr. Sasekea Harris

2nd Vice President / Honorary Treasurer:
Ms. Kadiesha Grant

Honorary Secretary: Mrs. Natonya Garwood

SECTION CHAIRS

Academic Libraries: Mrs. Nicoleen Saunders-Grant

Records and Archives. Management:

Retired Members SIG:

Schools: Dr. Ruth Baker-Gardner

Special Libraries: Ms. Leleka Johnson

INSTITUTIONAL REPRESENTATIVE

DLIS/ Education Institution Rep:

JLS Representative: Ms. Marsha Jack

NLJ Representative Mrs. Desaray Nolan Pivot (Feb 10 to May 29, 2024) Mrs. Janielle Wilson-Rowe (Nov 2024 to Jan 2025)

WORKING PARTIES

Education and Training: Mrs. Ana Peralta

Fundraising: Ms.

Information Technology: Ms. Natalee Knight

Membership & Conditions of Services:
Mrs. Monique Forgie-Scott

Public Relations: Ms. Jody Ann Sadler

SUB-COMMITTEES

Advocacy/Awards: Mrs. Adele Meritt-Bernard

Property: Mr. David Drysdale

Functions: Ms.

Executive Meetings

Meetings of the Association were held on the second Friday of each month. However, there were times that based on extenuating circumstances meetings were not held on the designated Friday, but were deferred to a subsequent date in the month. All meetings of the Executive for the year were held online via Zoom platform. We express deep gratitude to the IPP Kerry-Ann Rodney Wellington and the Burchell Memorial Baptist Church that facilitated us in the usage of their accounts to host our meetings.

Regular Meetings

Two Regular Meetings were held for the year via the Zoom platform. One July 26, 2024, and the other on November 29, 2024.

The first meeting was preceded by a special **“Data Protection: A Practical Approach”** session by Attorney at Law, Ms. Shaniel May Brown from Myers, Fletcher and Gordon Law Firm.

This pre-meeting sensitization session was among the featured events for LIAJA’s 75th year anniversary celebrations. The session was aimed at ensuring that all LIAJAs members and key stakeholders are equipped with valid information to guide their understanding of key aspects of the Data Protection Act in order to effectively apply its principles to safeguard the management of personal data, maintain privacy and prevent unauthorized access in their respective organizations. The presentation was poised to make a meaningful and timely contribution to the library and information profession. This was done in collaboration with the Law Firm - Myers, Fletcher & Gordon.

The second Regular Meeting was preceded by a Special information session on “ Cybersecurity in the Jamaican Banking Sector ” by Mr. John Gibson Assistant Vice President of Information Technology at the VM Group.

Cybersecurity has become a critical priority, particularly in the banking sector. The Jamaican Cybercrimes Act underscores the urgency of implementing robust measures to safeguard digital assets and combat against ever-evolving cyber threats, ensuring the integrity and security of financial and other transactions.

The presentation was poised to make a meaningful and timely contribution to the library and information profession. The collaboration was with the VW Group.



Special General Meeting

A Special General Meeting was convened on Friday, February 7, 2025, this was specifically to ratify the recommendation made at our **Regular Meeting on Friday, November 29, 2024**, to have our **Annual General Meeting (AGM)** moved to **Friday, February 28, 2025**.

Congratulations:

- Dr. Hazel Bennett celebrated her 101st birthday on January 1st
- Mrs. Monique Fergir-Scott - Attainment of Postgraduate Diploma in Education & Training
- Mrs. Ana Peralta moved from UCC to UWI
- Ms. Madalene Chief Librarian at UCC
- The renaming of the UCC library to the Aaron Joseph Matalon Library
- Mrs. Natonya Garwood from JLS to Myers, Fletcher & Gordon
- Ms. Kadeisha Grant from JLS to HEART / NSTA
- Mrs. Desaray Nolan Pivot moved from NLJ to UWI Regional Headquarters
- Dr. Paulette Kerr on her retirement

- Mrs. Jessica Marshall-Lewis on her appointment as Acting Campus Librarian UWI Mona Main Library
- IPP Mrs. Kerry-Ann Rodney-Wellington on her appointment to the Board of Directors for NLJ
- Mrs. Nicoleen Saunders-Grant LIAJA's representative on the DLIS Curriculum Review Committee.
- President Kerr was promoted to Regional Campus Librarian (Montego Bay, Ocho Rios, May Pen and Mandeville) for the University of the Commonwealth Caribbean.
- President Kerr was selected to serve on the Northern Caribbean University's Library Planning Committee. He also successfully completed Lay Magistrate training program.
- Sam Sharp Teachers' College on the observation of their 50th anniversary

Obituaries

- Prof. Daphne Douglas - Past President
- Ms. Laura -Ann Munro - Retired Member
- Mrs. Jean King - Retired Member
- Mrs. Theresa Reid – Past Secretary
- Mr. Michael Humphrey - Librarian Northern Caribbean University (Western Jamaica Campus)
- Ms. Yulande Lindsay - Librarian, UWI Mona



Library and Information Week 2024



"Celebrating Library and Information Professionals: Authoritative and Reliable ...A Fi Wi Legacy."

Library and Information Professionals Week 2024 was celebrated October 27-November 1, 2024, under the theme **"Celebrating Library and Information Professionals: Authoritative and Reliable ...A Fi Wi Legacy"**

Below are the activities that were undertaken for the week: Church Service – This was held at the UWI Chaple, Mona and the historic Burchell Memorial Baptist Church in Montego Bay. We note that this was the third consecutive year the Association had Services in both Eastern and Western Jamaica. Library and Information Week 2024 was indeed a success, various institutions, organizations, and units undertook initiatives to celebrate and showcase their achievements.

A vertical poster for Library & Information Week 2024. It has a blue background with yellow and white text. On the right side, there is a photograph of a Black woman with her arms crossed, wearing a brown blazer over a white shirt. The poster includes the LIAJA 75th Anniversary logo at the top left. The main title 'LIBRARY & INFORMATION WEEK' is in large yellow letters, with the dates 'OCTOBER 27 – NOVEMBER 1, 2024' below it. The theme quote is in white. The schedule is listed in yellow boxes: Sunday, October 27 (Church Services at UWI Chapel and Burchell Baptist Church), Monday, October 28 (School and Academic Libraries Day), Tuesday, October 29 (Public and National Libraries Day), Wednesday, October 30 (Special Libraries, Archives and Records Department Day), Thursday, October 31 (Library and Information Professionals' Day and Gleaner Supplement), and Friday, November 1 (Galleries and Museums Day). Contact information is at the bottom right.

LIBRARY & INFORMATION WEEK
OCTOBER 27 – NOVEMBER 1, 2024

"Celebrating Library & Information Professionals: Authoritative and Reliable...a Fi Wi Legacy"

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 27
CHURCH SERVICES
UWI CHAPEL CATHOLIC SERVICE, KINGSTON - 11:30AM
BURCHELL BAPTIST CHURCH, MONTEGO BAY - 10AM

MONDAY, OCTOBER 28
SCHOOL AND ACADEMIC LIBRARIES DAY

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 29
PUBLIC AND NATIONAL LIBRARIES DAY

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 30
SPECIAL LIBRARIES, ARCHIVES AND RECORDS DEPARTMENT DAY

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 31
LIBRARY AND INFORMATION PROFESSIONALS' DAY; AND GLEANER SUPPLEMENT

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 1
GALLERIES AND MUSEUMS DAY

More information, please contact
liajaprjm@gmail.com

A vertical poster for Library & Information Week 2024. It has a blue background with yellow and white text. At the top is the LIAJA 75th Anniversary logo. Below it, the text 'CORDIALLY INVITES YOU TO SHARE IN THE CHURCH SERVICES TO MARK' is in white. The main title 'LIBRARY & INFORMATION WEEK 2024' is in large white letters. The theme quote is in white. A photograph of a group of about ten professionals, mostly women, standing together in front of a building is in the center. At the bottom left, it says 'OCTOBER 27 2024' with a large '27'. At the bottom right, it says 'BURCHELL BAPTIST CHURCH, MONTEGO BAY - 10AM' and 'UWI CHAPEL CATHOLIC SERVICE, KINGSTON - 11:30AM' with a location pin icon.

LIBRARY & INFORMATION WEEK 2024

"Celebrating Library & Information Professionals: Authoritative and Reliable...A Fi Wi Legacy"

CORDIALLY INVITES YOU TO SHARE IN THE CHURCH SERVICES TO MARK

OCTOBER 27 2024

BURCHELL BAPTIST CHURCH, MONTEGO BAY - 10AM
UWI CHAPEL CATHOLIC SERVICE, KINGSTON - 11:30AM

Library Week Church Services (UWI Chapel and Burchell Memorial Baptist)
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2024



LIBRARY WEEK ACTIVITIES FROM MEMBER UNITS

WE ARE Celebrating 50 years OF ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

WESLEY POWELL LEARNING RESOURCE CENTRE LIBRARY WEEK ACTIVITIES

Sun Oct 27
Church Service UWI Chapel at 11: 00 am

Mon Oct 28
Principal Hour Excelsior Lecture Theatre :
Greetings from LIAJA President - Joseph Kerr
Presentation - Chantal Cousins
Booth Promoters:
Magna
First Class Cultural Travel Experience & More

Wed Oct 30
Presentation Claudette Thomas "National Archives" 10: am
- Visit to National Library

Thurs Oct 31
Sheree Rhoden Gleaner Librarian -
Presentation 10: 00 am
Booth Promoters:
Magna
First Class Cultural Travel Experience & More

Fri Nov 1
Lunch Hour Concert

WE ARE Celebrating 50 years OF ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

Principal's HOUR

**OCTOBER 28, 2024
10:00 AM-11:30 AM**

THEME: PERSEVERANCE IS NOT A LONG RACE; IT IS MANY SHORT RACES ONE AFTER THE OTHER." – WALTER ELLIOT

AGENDA

OPENING REMARKS	- MR. PHILMORE MCCARTHY, PRINCIPAL
DEVOTION	- STUDENTS' UNION EXECUTIVE BODY
PRESIDENT'S REMARKS	- MS. SHEREE-ANN BARTLEY
LAUNCH/INTRODUCTION OF LIBRARY WEEK	- MS. HIRFA MORRISON
BREAST CANCER AWARENESS CHARGE	- DR. VESTER ANCEL
GREETINGS	- MR. JOSEPH KERR, HEAD OF LIBRARY AND INFORMATION ASSOCIATION OF JAMAICA (LIAJA)
MS. CHANTAL COUSINS WITH A PRESENTATION ON AI	- LAUNCH OF LIBRARY WEEK 2024 KEYNOTE SPEAKER
ICE BREAKER	
GUEST SPEAKER	- LAY PASTOR ROGER STEWART
PERFORMANCE	- STRENGTH OF A WOMAN
TEAM BUILDING ACTIVITY	
GIVEAWAYS	
PRINCIPAL'S REMARKS	

Morning Session!

HEART NSTA TRUST

LIBRARY & INFORMATION WEEK ACTIVITIES

OCTOBER 27 - NOVEMBER 2, 2024

THEME - "CELEBRATING LIBRARY & INFORMATION PROFESSIONALS: AUTHORITATIVE AND RELIABLE... A FIWI LEGACY"

Sunday OCT 27
Church services- Kingston and Montego Bay
All Library personnel

Monday OCT 28
Exhibition on history of HEART NSTA Trust Libraries
• Kenilworth
Panel Discussion with staff and students
• NTEI
Open House
• HCBS
Book Tasting
• HCIT
Book scavenger Hunt Library Escape Room
• Stony Hill
VoxPop Presentation
• LSU
Poetry and Dub competition
• HCBS
Library Display
• Old Harbour
Skills Display Competition
• Luidas Vale

Tuesday OCT 29
Customer Appreciation
• NTEI
Library Trivia Games - Kahoot
• Kenilworth
JLS/NLJ Presentation
• Boys Town
• HCBS
Brain teaser competition
• HCIT
Library Craft workshop
• HCBS
Citation Tools Training
• Old Harbour
Sight & Cite Contest
• Luidas Vale
Customer service Video Presentation
• LSU

Wednesday OCT 30
Poster Competition
• NTEI
Scavenger Hunt
• Kenilworth
• Grandville
Hidden Treasure Display
• HCBS
• LSU
• HCBS
• Grandville
PIOJ Tour
• HCBS
• Stony Hill
• Boys Town
• NTEI
Library Jeopardy
• HCIT
PrepStep Information Library Tutorials Online Kahoot Games
• Old Harbour
Information Literacy Challenge Quiz
• Luidas Vale

Thursday OCT 31
Library and Information Professionals Day - Seminar and Team Building Session
All Institutions (Library Staff)

Friday NOV 01
Gaming Trivia
• NTEI
Library Video Submission
• Kenilworth
Essay Competition Art in the Library Display
• HCBS
Digital Literacy Workshop
• Stony Hill
Library Jingle & Video Contest
• Newport
The Courthouse Gallery and Cafe Tour
• HCBS
Library Customer Appreciation Day
• Old Harbour

UPCOMING EVENTS

LIBRARY WEEK 2024

OCT 27 10:00 A.M.	Church Service: Burchell Baptist Church, Montego Bay, St. James
OCT 28 9:00 A.M.	Ivy Townsend Day: • Library Week Talent Competition Opening • Display in-Library centred around theme
OCT 29	• Webinar: A Guide to Publishing with Emerald (Done in collaboration with UTEch & Emerald) 11 a.m. - 12 noon • Library Week Trivia - 1:00 p.m.
OCT 30	Library Student of the Year Award: Official Awardee Announcement (Award ceremony will be held on Wednesday, November 6)
OCT 31	Library and Information Professionals' Day
NOV 01 12:30 P.M.	Movie Screening: Ugliest (Adapted from the Book titled Ugliest by Scott Westerfield) Lecture Theatre

Montego Bay Community College

OTHER ACTIVITIES



THE UNIVERSITY OF THE WEST INDIES
THE DEPARTMENT OF LIBRARY AND INFORMATION STUDIES

Round Two: Academic Integrity Caribbean Workshop
In Collaboration with the European Network for Academic Integrity

Date: Thursday, May 16, 2024
Time: 9:00 a.m.-12:35 p.m. (Jamaica Time)

Topic: Ensuring Academic Integrity in the Age of Artificial Intelligence

SCHEDULE

Time	Session	Presenters	Moderators
8:55-9:00	Administrative Tasks	Dr. Ruth Baker-Gardner	
9:00-9:45	Popular AI tools used in education	Dr. Mike Ready	Dr. Sonja Madden
9:45-10:30	Ethical Concerns with Using AI Tools	Maryam Salari	Mrs. Natoyna Garwood
10:30-11:15	Identifying, Assessing, and Responding to Threats to Academic Integrity	Dr. Teddi Fishman	Mrs. Desaray Pivott-Nolan
11:15-11:25	BREAK		
11:25-12:05	Strategies for Integrity in the Artificial Intelligence Classroom	Dr. Shivadas Sivasubramaniam	Mrs. Ana Peralta
12:05-12:20	Academic Integrity Practices at Leeds University	Dr. Lorna Waddington	Miss Marsha Jack
12:20-12:35	Academic Integrity Practices at Munster Technological University	Dr. Violeta Morari	Miss Marsha Jack
12:35	Closing Off	Dr. Ruth Baker-Gardner	

<https://uwi.zoom.us/j/92759774844>
Meeting ID: 927 5977 4844
Passcode: 561169

TRENCH TOWN POLYTECHNIC COLLEGE LIBRARY WEEK
NOV 30 - DEC 6, 2024
Discover, Learn, Connect at Trench Town Polytechnic College Library!

SAT, NOV 30, 2024 - CHURCH VISIT AND WORSHIP SESSION
A worship session at Trench Town Seventh Day Adventist Church

MON, DEC 2, 2024 - TTPC LIBRARY WEEK ORIENTATION DAY
Conduct guided tours showcasing library resources, study areas, and special collections

TUES, DEC 3, 2024 - APA CITATION AND RESEARCH SKILLS WEBINAR
Learn APA style and research skills for next year's symposium

WED, DEC 4, 2024 - FUN & GAMES IN THE LIBRARY
Book Tasting Event: Sample book genres to discover new titles

THURS, DEC 5, 2024 - CREATIVITY & REFLECTION
Storytelling & Literacy: Share stories, improve research skills

FRI, DEC 6, 2024 - APPRECIATION & CELEBRATION
Recognize and thank library patrons





Sam Sharpe Teachers' College student making a presentation to
Pres. Joseph A. Kerr during Library Week



The Association thanks the Organizations/Institutions which answered the call to contribute to the Gleaner Supplement on October 31st, 2024. Your participation was paramount to the success of the supplement. We invite and encourage all to join us in future publications.

Link to Supplement: <https://liaja.org.jm/addons/blogs/images/news/LIAJA1-1-combined.pdf>

2024 Gleaner Supplement Contributors

- ✓ Jamaica Library Service
- ✓ National Library of Jamaica
- ✓ Planning Institute of Jamaica
- ✓ 2nd Vice President / Honorary Treasurer
- ✓ President's Message

ANNUAL REPORTS

Treasurer's Report for the period: February 2024 – January 2025

The financial operations of the Library and Information Association of Jamaica (LIAJA) for the period February 2024 to January 2025 presented both challenges and opportunities. The association continued its efforts to improve financial management and ensure sustainability for the future.

Membership Payments and Reconciliation Challenges

One of the significant financial challenges this year was the difficulty in reconciling payments received in our National Commercial Bank (NCB) account for both institutional and personal membership. Many deposits were hard to identify, and despite continuous reminders, approximately 80% of members did not comply with the requirement to send proof of payment to the Treasurer's and Membership Chair's email addresses. Consequently, several members were not included in the 2024-2025 membership list due to unverified payments. Moving forward, we aim to implement more stringent procedures to mitigate these issues, including stronger communication strategies.

Financial Overview

✓ National Commercial Bank (NCB) Account (Jamaican Dollars)

The association's NCB account recorded the following transactions:

- **Total Credits:** JMD \$393,006.00
- **Total Debits:** JMD \$270,642.82
- **Balance as of January 24, 2025:** JMD \$577,877.67

✓ Jamaica Money Market Brokers (JMMB)

Smart Investor Account

As of January 31, 2025, the balance in the association's JMMB US\$ Smart Investor Accounts stands at **2,443.81 USD**.

Smart Business Accounts

As of January 31, 2025, the balance in the association's JMMB Smart Business Accounts stands:

- **GBP = 4,134.27**
- **USD = 477.97**

Outlook for the Upcoming Year

With the upcoming **LIAJA 75th Anniversary Awards Luncheon**, we anticipate a significant reduction in our available funds. However, looking ahead to the **2025-2026 financial year**, we are committed to engaging in frequent **fundraising activities, sponsorship drives, and membership growth initiatives**. Our goal is to ensure that by **2026-2027**, the association has a reserve of at least **JMD \$1,000,000** to sustain operations and support our commitments.

Our key financial priorities include:

- Establishing **scholarships for Library Science students**
- Expanding **member hosting and sponsorship programs**
- Strengthening **fundraising and sponsorship partnerships**
- Improving **payment tracking mechanisms** for better financial transparency

Conclusion

While financial challenges persist, the association remains focused on growth and sustainability. With continued dedication to responsible financial management and increased fundraising efforts, we aim to build a stronger financial foundation to support LIAJA's mission and its members.

Prepared by: Kadiesha A. Grant

2nd Vice President & Honorary Treasurer 2024-2025

Library and Information Association of Jamaica - January 2025

REPORT ON ACADEMIC LIBRARIES SECTION

Introduction

The Academic Libraries Section of the Library and Information Association of Jamaica (LIAJA) has established a set of objectives and activities to advance the interests and professional development of academic librarians. This report details these objectives, highlights the stakeholders essential for their implementation, and provides an update on current initiatives.

Objectives

The Section has committed to achieving the following key objectives:

1. **Representation**
 - Represent the interests of academic librarians within LIAJA.
2. **Recommendations**
 - Provide informed recommendations to the LIAJA Executive on matters deemed relevant.
3. **Advocacy**
 - Act as an advocate for academic librarians, promoting their well-being and professional development.

Key Stakeholders

The successful delivery of these strategic objectives depends on collaboration with the following stakeholders:

- COLINET
- Advocacy Working Party
- Education & Training Working Party
- Council of Community Colleges of Jamaica (CCCJ)
- Library staff at various levels within academic libraries
- Administrators of academic libraries

Strategic Objectives

The Section has prioritized the following strategic objectives:

1. **Professional Development**
 - Plan and implement professional development activities for academic librarians and support staff.
2. **Standardization of Compensation**
 - Collaborate with the Advocacy Working Party to standardize salary packages for college librarians.

The following activities were identified as foundational work necessary to achieve the strategic objectives for the 2024/2025 year.

Completed Activity: Needs Analysis Survey

This survey was developed and refined with the assistance of the Executive then sent out to all academic library members on Wednesday January 22, 2025 with a deadline for completion being Friday, February 7, 2025.

Ongoing Activity: Refinement of Terms of Reference

- Updating and refining the Academic Librarians Section Terms of Reference to align with strategic goals.

Prepared by: Nicoleen Saunders-Grant - Chair January 28, 2025

Member: Kevin Samuda

RETIRED MEMBERS SECTION

We are indebted to the Section's Secretary Mr. John Aarons who kept us abreast of the activities and membership of this Section. His timely and detailed reports covered the following:

- Dr. Hazel Bennett's 101th birthday celebration
- Congratulations to Mrs. Merline Bardowell on being awarded the Bronze Musgrave Medal by the institute of Jamaica.
- Death of Prof Daphny Douglas
- Death of Laura-Ann Munro on April 18, 2024

MEMBERSHIP & CONDITIONS OF SERVICE WORKING PARTY 2024-2025 ANNUAL REPORT

Prepared by Monique Forgie-Scott, Chair

This report provides an update on the current status of our membership.

Current Membership Status

Accurately tracking membership numbers has been challenging due to outstanding dues. Some of our members have not paid up for over two years and according to Section 2 of the Bye-Laws of the Association, *Members whose fees remain unpaid for two consecutive years will be removed from the Register*. However, these members remain on our mailing list and continue to receive communication from us and are able to benefit from our offerings, albeit differentially.

For convenience, this annual report will include the total number of honorary members and paid-up members in the various categories for the year 2024 as outlined in the table below.

LIAJA Membership Listing for 2024	
Type of Membership	Number of Members
Honorary	6
Retired	8
Personal	53
Institutional	22
Student	6
Corresponding	2
Total	97

New Members (Personal)

- Annakaye Eccleston - HEART/NSTA Trust
- Kevin R. Gordon - Student, UWI Mona
- Michael Humphrey - Librarian, NCU
- Demar Ludford - Librarian, UWI Mona

New Member (Institutional)

- Jonathan Grant High School

Membership Renewal and Recruitment

Several preliminary listings with the names of members were circulated to members and non-members, along with the banking information to facilitate fee payments as necessary. To facilitate the application process an electronic application form and corresponding QR code have been placed on the LIAJA website.

- Andrea Bailey - Teacher Librarian, Southborough Primary School
- Jessica Courtney Cox - Student, UWI Mona
- Calarine Smith Rance - Student, UWI Mona

Members Who Passed

- Professor Daphne Douglas (Honorary Member)
- Yulande Lindsay - Librarian, UWI Mona
- Michael Humphrey - Librarian, NCU

Challenges

Due to inactivity, membership engagement has been low and the recruitment of new members have also been limited. These are as a result of time constraints and the unwillingness of members to join the working party.

Future Outlook

Despite the challenges faced, we are hopeful that the Working Party can become more active in the future. Current limitations have prevented significant progress, but we believe that with renewed focus and support, the working party can intensify its contributions to our members and the library community. Members are encouraged to consider taking on active roles to help drive our initiatives forward to make LIAJA a stronger, more dynamic organisation that effectively advocates for and supports the growth of library and information professionals across Jamaica.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY WORKING PARTY REPORT

Mission/Objectives of the ITWP

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

Roles & Functions

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

Strategic Priority

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

Proposed Initiatives/Programmes for 2024/2025

- Update the LIAJA website. Areas of Focus: List of current Executive; Past Presidents & Secretaries, Photo Gallery, LIAJA Journal current and back issues, Other Publications, News and Announcements, other.
- Restart “Library Tech Weekly” feature for publishing on LIAJA social media pages (Facebook, Instagram). “Library Tech Weekly” highlights current technology trends in libraries and other information centres.
- Create LIAJA executive email policy to manage email maintenance and handover, creation and verification of email addresses and related issues.
- Revisit LIAJA Executives email signature design and implementation.

Collaborations for 2024/25

1. *Membership WP* - Work with the Membership Working Party to get updated versions of fillable membership forms on the website.
2. *Education and Training WP* - Provide requested IT support to members of the Education and Training Working Party at their workshops.
3. *Public Relations WP* - Submit IT feature “Library Tech Weekly” to the PR team for publication on LIAJA social media platforms.

Tasks Completed

- LIAJA Website updates
 - **About Us** - The LIAJA 2024/5 Executive Members and Past Presidents & Secretaries lists were updated
 - **Publications** - The following were uploaded: **1)** All digitized issues of the JLA/LIAJA Bulletin up to 2022 and index were uploaded, enabling full-text access. **2)** LIAJA Annual Report 2023-2024, **3)** 2024 LIAJA Gleaner Supplement
 - **Gallery** - Pictures of the following were added: **1)** 2024 AGM, **2)** 2024 Library and Information Week Church services, **3)** LIAJA’s award presentation at the JLS Reading Competition

- The **Running banner** on the landing page was updated to include group pictures of the 2023 ACURIL Conference, LIAJA 2024 AGM, and the 2024 Library and Information Week Church services
- Misplaced blog posts on the website was resolved
- An email address was created for the Research & Publications Working Party

Work in Progress

- The following did not materialize during the period:
 1. Collation/creation of the “Library Tech Weekly” features for submission to the PRWP for publishing on the LIAJA social media platforms
 2. Creation of the LIAJA executive email signature
 3. Creation of the LIAJA executive email policy to manage email maintenance and handover, creation and verification of email addresses and related issues.

LIAJA ITWP Members

Chair – Natalee Knight, Systems Librarian, NCU - natalee.knight@ncu.edu.jm

Secretary/Assist. Chair –Denisha Douglas, Kingston Campus Librarian, NCU - denisha.douglas@ncu.edu.jm

Member – Natasha Morgan, Librarian, Trench Town Polytechnic College Library,
library@trenchtownpolytechnic.edu.jm

PUBLIC RELATIONS WORKING PARTY 2024/2025 REPORT

The Public Relations (PR) Working Party is dedicated to its mission of conveying the plans, policies, services and activities of the association to the membership through various media, in keeping the membership up to date with the events of the information industry with accurate, timely and concise information. For this period, the committee was chaired by Ms. Jodi-Ann Sadler.

Circulation of Information:

Information/communication was actively shared within the Library & Information professional network and relevant online groups. However, social media usage was not sufficient due to time constraints and technological barriers.

Summary of Events Shared with Members:

Web Conferences

- LIAJA Web Conference 2024 - “Change Management: Caribbean Library Post-Pandemic” held 29th of February 2024.
- IASL 2024 Annual Conference held October 26 – 29, 2024.

Conferences & Symposiums

- Caribbean Association of Law Libraries 38th Annual Conference – Legal Research, Capacity Building & Innovation for Service Excellence held July 24 – 26, 2024.
- COLINET 13th Biennial Symposium – “Libraries Matter: Trends, Challenges, Futures” held October 3 – 4, 2024.
- DLIS in collaboration with The Graduate School of Library & Information Studies, Queens College 2024 International Conference, November 6 – 8, 2024

Seminar & Lecture Series

- DLIS Seminar Series: Info Talks
 - March 6, 2024 – *Featuring Mrs Natoyna Garwood, (Graduate, Library & Information Studies)* who presented on Social Media Usage in Jamaican Libraries in the Covid-1 Era and *Ms. Shivana Sawh, (Graduate, Archives & Records Management)* who presented on Documenting and Remembering the Barahee in Trinidad: One Practice, Many Records.
 - April 10, 2024, featuring *Dr. Ruth Baker-Gardner* who presented on “Academic Integrity Meets Artificial Intelligence: Is the Caribbean Ready”
- UWI Faculty of Humanities and Education 9th Annual Distinguish Lecture – “Comprehensive Academic Integrity: Ethical Decision-making in and Beyond the Classroom” held on the 18th of April 2024 featuring Dr. Sarah Elaine Eaton.
- IFLA Statistics & Evaluation Committee’s Five-Part Series, “Focus on Impact”
 - Session 1: Panel Presentations held on the 5th of June 2024
 - Session 2: Article Discussion held on the 12th of June 2024
 - Session 3: Forming Your Community of Practice held on the 19th of June 2024
 - Session 4: Let’s Hear From You About Impact held on the 3rd of June 2024

- Session 5: Redefining the Library Experience held on the 10th of June 2024
- Peter Tosh Lecture – “Sound the Drums and Blow the Horns: The Creative Ethos of Paul Bogle’s Morant Bay War and the Music of Peter Tosh was held on October 23, 2024.

Seminars, Webinars & Workshops

- LIAJA’s School Section Academic Integrity Seminar & Workshop on Academic Integrity, held on the 14th of March 2024.
- ALA Webinar – “Unlocking Opportunities: The Benefits of Attending the ALA Conference” held on the 21st of March 2024.
- DLIS Academic Integrity Caribbean Workshop in Collaboration with The European Network for Academic Integrity (ENAI) held on the 18th of April 2024.
- Freedom of Information & Access to Information Legislative Review Report held on the 30th of April 2024 featuring Wesley Gibbings, Toby Mendel, Dionne Jackson-Miller, Jeanette Calder and Kiran Maharaj.
- The American University of Beirut & The British Library’s Endangered Archives Programme
 - Audio Preservation: An Introduction held on the 2nd of May 2024.
 - Audio Collections: Creating A Preservation Strategy held on 9th of May 2024.
- IFLA ENSULIB Webinar Series – “Help Build Impact Indicators for Library-led Climate Action” held on the 8th of May 2024.
- The Aaron Joseph Matalon Library: Education & Beyond was held on 6th of June 2024 featuring Mr. Deron Wilson and Dr. Cecile Dennis.
- SRC Visibility Series
 - July 17, 2024 – The Use of Technology to Mitigate Potentials Risks in the Transportation System, Including Ridesharing Apps featuring Micheal Edwards.
 - September 12, 2024 - Harnessing Atomic Power: The Future of Cancer Treatment Lies in Nuclear Medicine featuring Kern Pemberton.
- EAP HUB Audio Collections Webinars
 - Audio Digitization 101: Building and Operating a Digitization Setup held on the 15th of July 2024
 - Audio Digitization: Magnetic Tape held on the 26th of July 2024
 - Audio Digitization: Compact Cassette held on the 29th of July 2024
 - Audio Digitization: Analogue Disc held on the 2nd of August 2024

- Audio Digitization: Digital to Digital Preservation held on the 5th of August 2024
- British Library Endangered Archives Programme (EAP) Regional HUBS – Digitization Training – How to Plan a Digitization Project Webinars
 - An Introduction to the Digitization Workflow was held on September 19, 2024.
 - Pre-Digitization Condition Assessment/Conservation for Digitization was held on September 25, 2024
 - Copyright Considerations for Digitization Project was held on October 3, 2024
 - Planning a Digitization Project was held on October 10, 2024.
 - Metadata for Digitization Project was held on October 17, 2024.
 - Digitization Equipment and Imaging Standards was held on October 24, 2024
 - (Re)use of Digitized Content for Collections Curation, Computational Research and Digital Engagement was held on November 3, 2024
- Academic Integrity Caribbean Workshop – “Embracing Artificial Intelligence Use with Integrity” was held on October 17, 2024, featuring Dr. Ruth Baker-Gardner and Ms. Heather Thompson
- UTech Calvin McKain Library & The Montego Bay Community College – Emerald Webinar: A Guide to Publishing with Publishing featuring Andre Jun

Employment & Scholarship Opportunities

- UWI, Mona Library
 - Librarian – Information Literacy & Graduate Research (Posted in April 2024)
 - Librarian – Instructional Design Specialist (Posted in April 2024)
 - Librarian – Head, Public Services (Posted in September 2024)
 - Librarian – Head, Cataloguing and Metadata (Posted in September 2024)
 - Librarian/Specialist – Instructional Design (Posted in September 2024)
 - Cataloguing Librarian
 - Acquisition Librarian
- Eastern Caribbean Supreme Court, Headquarters – Senior Records, Archives, and Knowledge Management Officer (Posted in April 2024)
- University College of Dublin – PhD Scholarship (Posted in April 2024)
- Jamaica Library Service (Posted May 14, 2024)
 - Deputy Director, Database and Networking
 - Deputy Director, Library Technology

- Auditor
- Regional Director, Region 1
- Senior Librarian – Hanover Parish Library Network
- Office of the Services Commissions (Posted June 21, 2024)
 - Assistant Registrar, Records – Accountant General’s Department
 - Librarian (Level 8) – Jamaica Tourist Board
 - Librarian – Ministry of Industry, Investment & Commerce
- Jamaica Music Museum – Archivist/Librarian
- Northern Caribbean University (NCU) (Posted November 2024)
 - Library Administrative Assistant
 - Circulation Librarian Assistant
 - Technical Services Librarian
 - Cataloguing Librarian
 - Acquisitions & Serials Librarian
 - Open Stack & Audio-Visual Library Technical Assistant
- National Library of Jamaica (NLJ)
 - Librarian 2

Celebrations & Projects

- Celebration of Special Libraries Week – “Envisioning the Future: Special Libraries Paving the Way” from April 14th – 20th, 2024.
- World Book & Copyright Day – “Creativity Copyright and AI: The New DNA of Writing” held on the 23rd of April 2024.
- JLS Labor Day Beautification Project held on the 23rd of May 2024
- UWI Mona Library Open Week 2024 & Celebration of Books – October 13 – 17, 2024
- Library & Information Week – “Celebrating Library & Information Professionals: Authoritative and Reliable...a Fi Wi Legacy” was held October 27 – November 1, 2024
- The Jose Marti Technical High School received a 2.9 mil upgraded library by the Jose Marti Alumni Association New York Inc. (JMAANY)

Publicity Feature

- LIAJA President Joseph Kerr was featured in the Jamaica Weekly Vol. 6, No. 14, April 11 – 17, 2024, pg. 5a.

NEWS
APRIL 11-17, 2024
JAMAICA WEEKLY

Joe Kerr elected President Library and Information Association

Montegonian Joseph A. Kerr has been elected president of the 75-year-old Library and Information Association of Jamaica (LIAJA). He is Regional Manager/Program Student Support Coordinator of The University of the Commonwealth Caribbean Montego Bay Campus.

Mrs. Kerry-Ann Rodney Wellington is Immediate Past President.

A graduate of the Department of Library and Information Studies of the UWI Mona, Mr Kerr has over 35 years of library management experience including Sam Sharpe Teachers' College, Excelsior and Montego Bay Community Colleges and the Queen's Borough Public Library Network in New York.

He is a certified social worker, holds a diploma in theology and pastoral care, and lectures in Information and Digital Media Literacy. Mr Kerr is also an active member of the College Libraries Information Network (COLINET) in addition to serving as Treasurer of the Association of Caribbean University, Research and Institutional Libraries (ACURIL) 2023 Area Conference, and has Associate membership in the Black Caucus of the American Library Association (ALA).

Accepting the position, Mr Kerr pledged to foster an inclusive environment where every voice will be heard and valued. "We are at a pivotal moment in the journey of our profession. There is AI (ChatGPT), and of course Mis-information, although the challenges ahead may indeed be great. I do believe that we have the tenacity and preservation to thwart off any negatively impacting our profession," he assured members.

"In our collective abilities, with your help, and collective support, we will tackle these challenges head-on and emerge stronger



Joe Kerr

and more resilient," he posited, adding, "Precision, open communication and collaboration will be the cornerstones of my leadership."

Mr Kerr implored the LIAJA membership to embark on this journey with a shared vision, a commitment to their mission and vision, and a spirit of cooperation," noting that he was excited about the possibilities that lie ahead and the potential for the association to make a lasting impact.

Outside of library and information management, Mr Kerr is a life member (Senator) and certified Trainer of Junior Chamber International (Jaycees); is a Justice of the Peace and serves on various local and national boards and associations, including Senior Deacon at the historic Burchell Memorial Baptist Church in Montego Bay, supported his wife Sheron.

Meetings

- LIAJA 1st Regular Meeting & Pre-Meeting Session on Data Protection: A Practical Approach held on the 26th of July 2024

Tributes & Death Announcements

- Credits to Mr. John Aarons for the heartfelt tribute he wrote for:
 - Prof. Daphne Douglas on behalf of the Library & Information Community.
 - Pioneer librarian, Luara-Ann Munro.
 - Mrs. Jean King
- Tribute to Former LIAJA Honorary Secretary, Theresa Reid from LIAJA.

- Death Announcement: Michael Humphrey

Recommendations

- Create and Implement a Social Media Policy
- Recruit sub-committee members and assign each sub-committee member to a social media platform to keep abreast of what's trending on these platforms.
- WhatsApp Business Number for the Association to create a WhatsApp Group/Community/Channel for faster communication with LIAJA active members
- Create/Produce authoritative and relevant media content through photos, videos, & live coverage.
- Identify relevant influential social media personalities in the Library and Information profession or other related industries
- Create and maintain a 'Calendar of Events/Activities'
- Review and update social media platforms
- Save the date flyer for 2024 Library & Information Week
- For 2025, Create a LIAJA Calendar (Include important dates)
- Frequently asked questions feature
- Birthday Recognitions (especially for Honorary Members)

Submitted by: Jody Ann Sadler - Chair

RESEARCH AND PUBLICATION

Biographical Database of Jamaican Librarians (Who is/was Who in Librarianship in Jamaica)

Data input form reviewed and discussed at the Regular Meeting, November 2024; form updated accordingly.

Web Conference

- A successful one day web conference was held, Thursday, February 29, 2024 10am-4pmEST via Zoom, under the theme "Change Management: Caribbean Library Post-Pandemic". Report on data collected forthcoming.
- There were over 100 attendees, of which 74 formally registered. Attendees came from the English-speaking Caribbean: Jamaica, Trinidad & Tobago, Barbados, Saint Lucia, The United States Virgin Islands; with Jamaica recording the highest number of participants.
- There were 14 presentations spread across TWO (2) concurrent breakout sessions:
 - Session 1: Caribbean Academic Libraries (CAL) Speak; moderated by: Dr. Benjamin Branch, CEO, QSBG; 7 presentations ; 56 participants;

- Session 2: Other Caribbean Libraries, Library Schools & Associations et al (OCLLSA) Speak; moderated by: Ms. Kadiesha A. Grant, 2nd Vice President & Honorary Treasurer, LIAJA; and Ms. Ayaana Alleyne-Cumberbatch, Librarian, Medical Sciences Library, UWI, St Augustine; 7 presentations; 41 participants.

LIAJA
Library and Information Association of Jamaica

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

THURSDAY
February 29 2024
10 a.m. EST (Jamaica time)

CONCURRENT SESSIONS

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

Meeting ID: 835 2160 6193
Passcode: 133934

CALL FOR PRESENTERS DEADLINE
February 12, 2024

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

- Date of next web conference: February 2026

Publication

- a) LIAJA Journal:
 - Special Issue “DLIS Reader”: Awaiting outstanding papers from authors
 - Special Issue “ACURIL Conference Proceedings”: ACURIL is yet to send the papers

Presentation on Pioneering Jamaica Librarians

Presentation on Pioneering Jamaica Librarians prepared for presentation at the luncheon:
 The Hon. Joyce Robinson, OJ
 Professor Daphne Douglas
 Dr. Hazel Bennett

JOYCE LILIETH ROBINSON



COLONIAL PERIOD
Date & Place of Birth
 Joyce was born July 2nd 1925 as Joyce Lilieth Lawson to parents Mr. and Mrs. Teddy Lawson in the parish of St. James, Jamaica.

Places of Employment & Activities Engaged
 As a graduate of St. Simon's College, Kingston, Jamaica, Joyce began her professional life at age sixteen and a half years as a teacher at the Black River High School in St. Elizabeth, Jamaica.

DE-COLONIAL PERIOD (PARTIAL) 1944-1962
Places of Employment & Activities Engaged
 In 1946 while she was still teaching at Black River High she served as a volunteer at the St. Elizabeth Public Library. She became very involved in the library and served voluntarily as secretary on the library's committee. During this time, the British Council went into partnership with the Jamaican government and this gave birth to the Jamaica Library Service (JLS). This partnership further aimed to supply qualified librarians in Jamaica to replace the British librarians who govern the impending political changes in Jamaica at the time would be returned to England. In this regard Mr. Baynes was recruited to lead the process.

HAZEL BENNETT



COLONIAL PERIOD
Date & Place of Birth
 Hazel was born January 1st 1924 to Hazel Gray to parents Mortimer and Catherine Gray in the parish of Portland, Jamaica.

DE-COLONIAL PERIOD (PARTIAL) 1944-1962
Places of Employment & Activities Engaged
 With certification from Shortridge Teachers College Hazel began her professional journey in 1947 as a school teacher. With the passage of the Jamaica Library Service (JLS) Act in 1949 and the subsequent establishment of the JLS, Hazel decided to join the staff in 1952 although she was accepted for entry to London University. She recalls: "I took my teacher training there and helped to do the selection of books, the children books as the first instance because I was the only trained teacher in the JLS at those days". In this capacity she made an important contribution to the growth of the children's collection as well as to the development of the schools' library service collection. In 1957 when the last British had left the JLS, Hazel was appointed as Deputy Director, a post she maintained until 1967.

DAPHNE DOUGLAS



COLONIAL PERIOD
Date & Place of Birth
 Daphne was born September 25, 1924 in the parish of Kingston, Jamaica to Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Edison Douglas.

DE-COLONIAL PERIOD (PARTIAL) 1944-1962
Places of Employment & Activities Engaged
 She began her professional career in 1944 with the Jamaican Civil Service as Stenotypist, Secretary and later as the Librarian in the Treasury, Forest Department, Colonial Secretariat. In 1954 after much encouragement from Baynes Burns at the Forest Department, Daphne enrolled herself in the training programme that was being provided by the Jamaica Library Service (JLS). She later earned the Associateship of the Library Association (ALA) from Eastern Caribbean Regional Library School. Upon her return from training she went back to the Forestry Department but shortly thereafter the JLS had developed to the point where Joyce Robinson was the Director and she had space for a catalogue. Accordingly, in 1958 Daphne joined the JLS where she served until 1971. She initially served as a catalogue with responsibility for the entire island catalogue.

Research & Publication Workshop
Save the Date: Wednesday, May 14, 2025.

	Early Bird Registration	Late Registration
Paid up LIAJA members	USD50 per person	USD75 per person
Others	USD75 per person	USD100 per person

Strategic Planning Stakeholder Survey
 Survey instrument prepared to obtain input from the membership on the strategic direction of the association for 2026-27.

Prepared by: Sasekea Harris, EdD
 Feb 2025

LIAJA - ADVOCACY SUB-COMMITTEE REPORT FOR THE YEAR FEBRUARY 2024 – FEBRUARY 2025

The work of the Advocacy Subsection continues to be plagued by the absence of members, other than the Chair, to whom tasks can be delegated if necessary. The situation was further compromised by ongoing changes at the institution of the Chair, which resulted in a significant reduction in the number of staff, even as new teaching discipline was added to the Campus and additional duties assigned. Despite these challenges a work plan was developed under the theme “Focussed on Impact” which sought to empower the LIAJA membership in articulating and highlighting the results of the work of libraries and information units.

To this end, there was a three-pronged approach to advocacy with a mission to

- Coordinate advocacy education and activities;
- Build partnerships; and
- Highlight LIAJA and libraries on the national agenda.

At least one activity was conducted throughout the year for each specific objective.

Building Partnerships

In the spirit of building partnerships, I accepted on behalf of the Section and LIAJA, the invitation to participate in the Kingston and St. Andrew Parish Library Labour Day Project. The focus of the day's activities was on painting both the inside and outside of the library to create a more welcoming atmosphere for patrons.



Adele painting a wall



Adele (centre) with members of the JLS team

Education

In keeping with the theme of Focussed on Impact, invitations were shared with the LIAJA membership to register for the IFLA Statistics and Evaluation Section Seminar Series, *Focus on Impact - Redefining the Library Experience*. The Series sought to highlight different perspectives on demonstrating library impact and consisted of five (5) different seminars of varying format.

1. The first session was a Panel Presentation held on June 5th, 2024. The panel discussed the African Capacity Building Foundation's (ACBF) role in enhancing the community of practice and capacity development in Africa, demonstrated how ISO 16439 acts as a guide for assessing library impact and discussed library assessment methodologies and practices.

2. In the second session held on June 12th, 2024, participants were asked to read the article, Library Data Storytelling: Obstacles and Paths Forward by Kate McDowell, to discuss their insights and hear from the author on how data storytelling might be used to demonstrate the impact of your library services.

3. In the third session on June 19th, 2024 participants were introduced to the concept of a Community of Practice (CoP) and ways in which it can support library assessment activities.

4. The fourth session was held on July 3rd, 2024 and invited attendees to share comments, questions, and success stories focussed on how the IFLA Statistics and Evaluation Section could help librarians learn more about library assessment and promoting our impact.

5. The fifth and final session of the seminar series was entitled Redefining the Library Experience and discussed the findings and implications from the 2023 OCLC Global Council survey. A copy of the survey can be found at <https://www.oclc.org/go/en/publications/gc-survey-2023.html>

Recordings of the five sessions are available on the IFLA Section's YouTube channel at https://www.youtube.com/@IFLA_STATSEVAL

Unfortunately, a follow-up training activity by Mrs. Arlene Alleyne-Regis, IFLA Trainer: Measurement, Evaluation and Demonstrating Impact of Library Services for Latin American and the Caribbean Region was not held because of scheduling conflicts between the trainer and the LIAJA calendar of activities.

Advocacy - LIAJA and libraries on the national agenda

A letter championing the role of libraries and Librarians was sent to the editor of the Jamaica Observer in response to an article printed in that newspaper on October 2nd, 2024. The article entitled, "New jobs emerging, but enrolments in traditional studies hold steady at UWI" stated inter alia, that

"The job functions for librarians is one being cited among a growing list of careers said to be up for extinction in a matter of years. This, as automation changes how things in that industry are done and as the use of technological devices such as Kindles, e-books and other digital advancements bring greater efficiency and reduced operational costs in that field." (See article in full, <https://www.jamaicaobserver.com/2024/10/02/new-jobs-emerging-enrolments-traditional-studies-hold-steady-uwi/> 2 October 2024).

Unfortunately, the letter was not printed, but it is being suggested that LIAJA could implement a letter writing campaign to coincide with the release of PEP and/or CXC and CSEC results to highlight the role and work of school libraries and librarians generally in supporting schools, teachers and students as well as developing literacy and critical thinking skills.

Advocacy – Support to Members

The Section received two direct appeals for intervention from members regarding use of the school library space. Fortunately, an impending change in administration at the school with a more favourable outlook and understanding of the need for the library within the school ecosystem was able to successfully resolve the issue. I was unable to directly follow-up on the second request because of work commitments. I did however liaise with the Deputy Director of the Jamaica Library Service, Mrs. Kishma Simpson and the Director, School Library Network, Ms. Patsy Gordon to discuss further collaboration on the matter. I am happy to report that work has been ongoing to establish the School Library Standards and that after numerous consultations a draft policy document has been completed. See brochure included. We will continue to monitor and look forward to the implementation of School Library Standards across the Jamaican education landscape.

BACKGROUND

The Jamaica Library Service (JLS) is an agency of the Ministry of Education and Youth (MoEY).

It is one of the few library systems in the world which is mandated to provide both a public and school library service.

This is done through an administrative Headquarters, six regional offices and an islandwide network of public and school libraries.

The Public Library Network covers 109 fixed library locations comprised of 13 parish libraries & 96 branch libraries; mobile service to 334 communities and special services to 21 institutions.

The School Library Network serves 898 government schools at the infant, primary and secondary level as follows:

- 29 Infant
- 754 Primary
- 102 High
- 9 Technical
- 4 Special

At the end of March 2024 of the 898 schools served:

- 549 had operational libraries
- 127 had non-functional libraries
- 222 were without libraries



CONTACT

us at:

Region 1
(Kingston & St. Andrew)
Mrs. Patsy Gordon
Director, School Library Network
Tel: 876-926-5310
Email: patsy.gordone@jls.gov.jm

Region 2
(Portland, St. Thomas, St. Mary)
Mrs. Nicola Grant-Dyer, Regional Director
Tel: 876-715-6346
Email: nicola.dyere@jls.gov.jm

Region 3
(St. Ann, Trelawny)
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JAMAICA LIBRARY SERVICE



School Library Standards

Jamaica Library Service Brochure on School Library Standards – outside pages

WHAT

The Jamaica Library Service (JLS) has developed new **School Library Standards** to be used as a strategic tool to guide the administration and delivery of equitable and quality library service to government schools in Jamaica.

There are four standards:

Facilities
A resourced physical, readily identifiable space from which the school community is provided with tangible and virtual library and information resources and services.

Management & Operations
Effective school libraries are planned, organized, coordinated, reported on, and supported by School Board, Principal, Teachers, and Parents for their unique role in teaching and learning.

Services
School library services and programmes are designed and delivered to support teaching, enable information seeking and critical thinking competencies as foundational to learning and lifelong habits which enable a knowledge society.

Staffing
To effectively complement the teaching and learning process of the school community, the school library must be appropriately staffed by teacher-librarians trained and competent in working collaboratively with teachers and administrators to support the process. Given the limited provision for teacher-librarians on school establishments, NCTVET Jamaica certified library assistants may staff the school library as an interim response.

The four Standards consist of indicators which guide the rating of infant through to secondary school libraries based on four levels which range from beginning, developing, proficient and highly

The indicators for each level from the beginning to highly proficient stage increase across the ranges indicating incremental development of the school library.

WHY

The JLS encounters numerous challenges which impact the equitable and sustained access to school library services islandwide.

As a result, the School Library Standards was advanced as a benchmark document to drive change towards the development and sustainability of school libraries required to support student achievement and success.

It supports:

- Leadership and Accountability
- Aspiration/Striving for Excellence
- Professional best practices/Quality Assurance
- Return on Investment
- Technology and Equity in Service Delivery

The Standards align with the vision of the School Library Network as:

“Enhancing teaching and learning in schools; encouraging the reading habit and supporting the development of media literacies for students’ success and life-long learning.”

The School Library Standards are congruent with the vision of the Ministry of Education and Youth’s transformation agenda.

Transforming Education for National Development (TREND), the MOEY’s development campaign, prioritizes early childhood education, infrastructure and technology among other areas. The School Library Standards bear practical guidelines by which school administrators can transform their libraries to fully functional facilities for best

According to the IFLA School Library Manifesto (2021) *The school library program is essential to every long-term education strategy, including literacies, information provision and creation, and economic, social and cultural development.*

By working with the School Library Standards, an effective school library programme is progressively attainable by school administrators, irrespective of school size.

HOW

The Jamaica Library Service will facilitate the administration of the School Library Standards through its Headquarters and six regional offices by:

- Collaborating with key stakeholders and partners in the education sector including Literacy Specialists and teachers
- Conducting technical audits to assess the level of library service at schools served
- Providing individualized consultations, recommendations for improvement and monitoring and evaluation reports
- Training and guidance for school library personnel including sample library policies, reporting templates, plans and resource toolkits
- Preparing and assisting with proposals for school library development
- Tailoring, co-designing and supporting programmes and activities which promote reading for pleasure, multiple literacies and child and youth development
- Keeping abreast of international best practices to inform and benefit service delivery in our local context

Jamaica Library Service Brochure on School Library Standards – inside pages

The Chair, Advocacy Subsection joined other members of the LIAJA Executive at the Department of Library and Information Studies (DLIS) in their first Information Day celebration on Thursday, February 13, 2025, at the Mona Campus. The LIAJA team was able to interact with attendees who included prospective and current students as well as other visitors, to share information about the evolving role of information professionals in the rapidly changing digital landscape and highlighting the critical role we play both in managing information in today's knowledge driven economy and preparing students to effectively participate and thrive in society. Discussions also centered around the skills, qualifications and available career paths for graduates of DLIS and the benefits of becoming a member of LIAJA, their professional association.



Adele chatting with prospective students

Conclusion

Two items on the Section's proposed workplan were not executed, namely a meeting with Dr. the Honourable Dana Morris Dixon, the newly appointed Minister of Education, Skills, Youth and Information and the Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Education to highlight matters related to school libraries and the update to Jamaica's submission to the IFLA Library Map of the World. The service that we offer to LIAJA is voluntary, but benefits us all both individually and collectively, as a profession. As we all continue to grapple with managing the ever-increasing demands of our jobs and creating a balance in our personal lives, the work cannot rest only on the shoulders of the members of the Executive. I implore all information professionals, especially those who are new to the profession to get involved and make a difference in creating change. Our profession and Jamaica deserve nothing less!

Respectfully submitted, Adele Merritt Bernard

Chair, Advocacy Sub-Section - February 20, 2025

Report from LIAJA 75th Anniversary Secretariate

Over the period under review the LIAJA 75th Anniversary Secretariate has remained committed to the execution of our Strategic Priorities. We sought to collaborate internally and externally to promote the importance of Library and Information Services. The Secretariate convened two operational Committees (Awards Selection and Luncheon Planning) chaired by Odean Cole-Phoenix, boasting members and non-members to plan and execute the major celebration for the Associations 75th Anniversary. Kindly peruse with me the accomplishments of the Secretariate for the period February 2024 – February 2025:

1. Identified and secured presenters for the 1st and 2nd **Regular Meetings**:
 - Shaniel May Brown, attorney-at-law at Myers, Fletcher & Gordon – Data Protection
 - John Gibson, Assistant Vice President of Information Technology at the VM Group – Cybersecurity
2. The Secretariate Chair developed a **Concept Note** to guide the operations of the Awards Selection and Luncheon Planning Committees to ensure for the successful staging of the LIAJA 75th Anniversary Awards Luncheon. Both committees committed to weekly meetings prior to the luncheon to ensure smooth execution of the event and real-time updates were relayed in the WhatsApp group
3. Prepared a **Sponsorship Listing** to aid in securing corporate sponsors for the Awards Luncheon.
4. Reviewed and amended **Awards Nomination Criteria** and developed **Awards Rubric**.
5. Share several **event flyers** with PR for circulation among membership
6. Organize purchasing of **LIAJA 75th Memorabilia and Awards**
7. Drafted and submitted a LIAJA WhatsApp Policy that seeks to facilitate ease of communication and idea development among the committee members for reviewed by the Executive Committee and circulated to LIAJA membership.
8. Library Week 2024 - Members were encouraged to share their activities coordinated throughout their libraries for promotion via LIAJA social media platforms.
9. Participation in UWI DLIS Information Day to promote the scope of library and information work and practitioners in varying sectors across Jamaica.

Matters Pending/InProgress

1. The LIAJA 75th Membership Drive Campaign that was supposed to be launched in January 2025 did not materialize due to non-receipt of flyer though details were submitted.
2. GLINJA Networking gatherings dubbed “Sip & Read” deferred to the next quarter
3. LIAJA Legacy Publications (9Children's Picture Book: Little Miss Librarian Series and Special Historical Newsletter)

Prepared by: Natoyna Garwood
Feb 2025

LIBRARY TRAINING INSTITUTIONS

1. The UWI Department of Library and Information Studies (DLIS) reported a marked decline in the number of applicants for the LIS Programme. The Department is currently undergoing major changes in its Undergrad curriculum. Dr. Rosemarie Heath is currently on sabbatical and Dr. Stanley Griffen was appointed HO for the 2024 to 2025 Academic year.
2. The Excelsior Community College has expanded their offerings for the 2024/25 academic year.

ASSOCIATIONS



JAMAICA LIBRARY SERVICE ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE LIBRARY AND INFORMATION ASSOCIATION OF JAMAICA February 2024 – January 2025

The Jamaica Library Service (JLS), as an agency of the Ministry of Education, Skills, Youth and Information, remained steadfast in fulfilling its mandate to provide public and school library services across the nation throughout the 2024/2025 period. The year was marked by the successful execution of transformative initiatives, the strengthening of partnerships, and the implementation of impactful programmes aimed at promoting reading and literacy, education, and community engagement.

Highlights for 2024 include:

- **Successful staging of the Jamaica Book Festival**, held December 6–8, 2024
- **Hosting of the Ananse Soundsplash Storytelling Conference and Festival** in November 2024, under the theme "Find Ananse, Discover Jamaica."
- Participation in IFLA workshop on **Building a Strong and Sustainable Library Field in the Latin America and the Caribbean Region**, held November 20 – 25, 2024 in Buenos Aires, Argentina and Santiago, Chile.
- **Observance of Library and Information Week** from October 27 to November 1, 2024 celebrating the transformative role of library professionals.
- **Observance of International School Library Month in October 2024**, aligning with the theme "School Libraries: Community Connectors," facilitating virtual connections between students and library personnel at primary and secondary levels in the Caribbean.
- **Successful staging of the National Reading Competition 2024**, with over 3,133 participants surpassing the target by 15%.

- **Demonstrated resilience in recovering from Hurricane Beryl** in July 2024, with most libraries operational within a week.
- **Hosting of the 13th Annual Marcus Garvey Lecture** on June 7, 2024, featuring Professor Densil Williams.
- **Peace Corps, Jamaica Engagement Session for New Volunteers** held on May 15, 2024, providing training on school library setup guidelines to new Peace Corps volunteers.
- **Launch of the Seniors Coffee & Conversations initiative** in April 2024, fostering social engagement and learning for seniors.
- **Island-wide celebration of Read Across Jamaica Day 2024**, impacting over 6,264 students.
- **Development of School Library Standards** to guide equitable, high-quality library services in government schools, with stakeholder consultations held between February and April 2024.

PROGRAMMES & SERVICES

International School Library Month



The JLS observed International School Library Month in keeping with the 2024 theme "*School Libraries: Community Connectors*." The annual observance in October is instituted by the International Association of School Librarianship.

Two sessions were organized by JLS through the School Library Network, to virtually connect selected groups of students and school library personnel at the primary and secondary level. The sessions were held on October 28 and 30, 2024 to coincide with ***Library and Information Week***. The first session involved three primary

schools: two from Region 1 and one from Turks and Caicos Islands, while the second session featured three high schools from Region 3, Region 5 connecting with Trinidad and Tobago. School library personnel shared effective practices and exchanged innovative ideas aimed at addressing various challenges which impacted student achievement. Students also gave feedback and asked questions.

The interchange yielded valuable insights and positive feedback from the participating schools. Schools identified important takeaways from the discussions to implement in their own library operations, further enhancing their programmes and services particularly in relation to school curricula, reading, and literacy.

Annual Summer Programme

The Annual Summer Programme, held from July 15 to August 23, 2024, was tailored for junior library members aged 4-14. Under the theme "Read More in 2024," the programme attracted over 1,900 junior library members, engaging them in a wide range of activities, including storytelling, arts and crafts, literacy games, and educational workshops. The programme not only fostered a love for reading but also provided a safe, stimulating environment for children during the summer months.



The 36th staging of the National Reading Competition began in April and culminated on August 30, 2024 with an awards Ceremony held at the Jamaica Pegasus Hotel. The theme for the Competition was, "Read More in 2024," and underscored reading as a cornerstone of personal and societal growth. A total of 3,133 participants registered which represented a 15%, increase in reading engagement over the previous year.

National Champions

- **6-8 age group:** Athena Whyte (St. Mary)
- **9-11 age group:** Yendi Burke (Portland)
- **12-14 age group:** Daniel Lyle (St. Elizabeth)
- **15-20 age group:** Fantasia Edwards (Portland)
- **21 & Over:** Ugochukwu Wilson Durueke (St. Ann)



Mr. Joseph Kerr, President, LIAJA presents a cash prize and trophy to Athena Whyte from the St. Mary Parish Library Network for the sectional award for child who wrote the Best Letter in the 6-8 age group.



The NRC Champions, JLS Executives and Librarians with the Prime Minister, Dr. The Hon. Andrew Holness

The National Champions had the honour of meeting the Governor General and the Prime Minister, accompanied by JLS executives and senior librarians.



The NRC Champions, JLS Executives and Librarians with the Governor General, Sir Patrick Allen

13th Annual Marcus Garvey Lecture

The St. Ann Parish Library in partnership with the St. Ann Homecoming and Heritage Foundation and UWI TV, hosted the 13th Annual Marcus Garvey Lecture on June 7, 2024 at the St. Ann Parish Library, home of a statue of the Rt. Excellent Marcus Mosiah Garvey and the Marcus Garvey Resource Centre. The Lecture titled “*Access Revolution in Higher Education: Making Garvey’s Dream Come True*” was delivered by Professor Densil Williams, Pro-Vice-Chancellor and Principal of the University of the West Indies.

Read Across Jamaica Day 2024

The JLS observed Read Across Jamaica Day on May 7, 2024. The JLS collaborated with various stakeholders, including corporate entities, authors and individuals islandwide. Over 133 schools were visited; 253 reading sessions conducted, and over 6,264 students engaged in reading activities, fostering a love for literature and literacy.



Seniors’ Coffee & Conversations

The *Seniors’ Coffee & Conversations* for persons 60 years and older was introduced in April 2024. The programme aims to contribute to a safe and enabling environment for seniors to live the quality of life they desire and to re-engage the target audience on other library services of interest. Over 1,000 seniors have been engaged islandwide since the programme commenced, fostering greater social connections, interactions and intellectually stimulating engagement among seniors.

Early Literacy Programmes Workshop – March 2024

On March 13, 2024, the JLS hosted an Early Literacy Programmes Workshop at the Joyce Robinson Hall, Kingston & St. Andrew Parish Library. Over 25 librarians were re-engaged on essential skills to promote early literacy practices, engage families, and increase library usage through interactive sessions led by experts. The training supported the introduction of new library programmes such as *Literacy Jumpstart* and *Read and Rhyme Fun Time* designed to focus on the development of literacy skills at the early childhood level.

SCHOOL LIBRARY NETWORK

School Library Standards

The Jamaica Library Service developed new School Library Standards to guide equitable, high-quality library services in government schools. These standards cover Facilities, Management and Operations, Staffing, and Services, with indicators for rating libraries from Beginning to Highly Proficient, allowing for progressive development.

Stakeholder consultations included two meetings with 31 participants from 26 entities, including the Library and Information Association of Jamaica (School Library Section). Sessions were held on



Participants in the School Library Standards Consultation Session held at the Joyce Robinson Hall, Kingston & St. Andrew Parish Library on February 8, 2024

February 8, 2024, at the Joyce Robinson Hall, Kingston & St. Andrew Parish Library, and March 5, 2024, at the Marcus Garvey Room, St. Ann Parish Library. The standards are now piloted in schools islandwide.

PARTNERSHIPS

Second Pension Life Certificate Electronic Dropbox



Representatives from the Jamaica Library Service and Peace Corps Jamaica on May 15, 2024.

The Jamaica Library Service, in collaboration with the Accountant General's Department, commissioned a second Pension Life Certificate Electronic Dropbox at the Manchester Parish Library on March 12, 2024. This initiative aims to provide pensioners with a seamless and convenient method of submitting their pension Life Certificates, thereby preventing the suspension of pension payments due to late submissions. The dropbox has been well-received by the senior community, demonstrating the effectiveness of public-private partnerships in addressing societal needs.



Peace Corps, Jamaica Training of New Volunteers

The Jamaica Library Service (JLS) facilitated an orientation session for a group of thirteen (13) persons; inclusive of eight (8) new volunteers from Peace Corps Jamaica, Primary Literacy Project on May 15, 2024, at the Joyce Robinson Hall, Kingston and St. Andrew Parish Library. The session provided information on the Services/Programmes offered by

the JLS and training on processes for setting up a school library to support teaching and learning and prepare volunteers for success in working within the Jamaican Education System.

The mutually beneficial partnership with Peace Corps Jamaica exceeds ten years and has provided continued support to enrich the programme for school library development in Jamaica.

Expansion of Digital Services through Partnerships

The JLS continued to strengthen its digital service offerings through strategic partnerships with technology providers. This included strategic engagements with partners on expanding internet connectivity at rural branches and increasing the availability of electronic resources for library users. On Tuesday, August 13, 2024, eLearning Jamaica officially handed over a donation of laptop computers to the Jamaica Library Service. This donation will bolster the provision of information services to the public, enhancing access to digital resources and educational materials. The donation aligns with the Jamaica Library Service's modernization efforts and supports the TREND initiative of the Ministry of Education, Skills, Youth and Information. This initiative aims to advance technology integration in libraries throughout the Network, ensuring that all Jamaicans have access to the necessary digital tools for effective learning and personal growth.



(L-R) Senior Director JLS, Kishma Simpson; Principal Director, Ministry of Science Energy, Telecommunications and Transport, Kaydian Smith-Newton; Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Education, Skills, Youth & Information, Dr Kasan Troup; Former Minister of State in the Ministry, Marsha Smith; Chief Executive Officer, eLearning Jamaica, Andrew Lee hosted by Director General of the JLS, Maureen Thompson.

International Federation of Library Associations Regional Workshop Latin America and The Caribbean

The International Federation of Library Associations organized a workshop titled ***Building a Strong and Sustainable Library Field in the Latin America and the Caribbean Region*** from November 20 – 25, 2024 in Buenos Aires, Argentina and Santiago, Chile. Miss Kishma Simpson, Senior Director represented the Jamaica Library Service. The workshop provided an opportunity for the cohort of library leaders to exchange ideas and share significant insights on the work of Latin American and Caribbean Libraries. This included focus on impact stories, local level successes, future goals and common challenges impacting growth and development of the industry and overall contribution to the SDG's. As part of the workshop a United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and

the Caribbean (ECLAC/CEPAL) Conference **was held in Santiago, Chile on November 25, 2024.** Miss Kishma Simpson presented as a Library Respondent on the *Regional Digital Agenda*. She spoke on the JLS Public & School Library System Model; the work on Public and School Library collaboration in supporting education during the COVID 19-pandemic in bridging the digital divide; partnerships for digital inclusion for equal opportunity and infrastructure and connectivity in public libraries. The workshop and conference activities allowed for the strengthening of ties for collaboration and commitment to building a more inclusive and sustainable future for libraries in Latin America and the Caribbean. Over 20 countries and 30 participants were represented which included three (3) countries from the English-speaking Caribbean: Jamaica, Trinidad & Tobago and Curacao. The event organized by IFLA was made possible by a grant from Stichting IFLA Global Libraries (SIGL).



PUBLICATIONS

International Association of School Librarianship Newsletter

The JLS was able to share examples of local advocacy for a methodologically diverse and recreationally supportive learning system for children with the international school library community through a feature published in the September 2024 issue of the International Association of School Librarianship Newsletter, titled “*Jamaica Library Service – Supporting Reading and Literacy in the School Community.*” The article highlighted the National Reading Competition; support for the annual observance of Read Across Jamaica Day and new early literacy intervention programmes such as “Literacy Jump-Start.” The programme is aimed at equipping parents of early childhood students with the skills to prepare their children to develop early literacy skills.

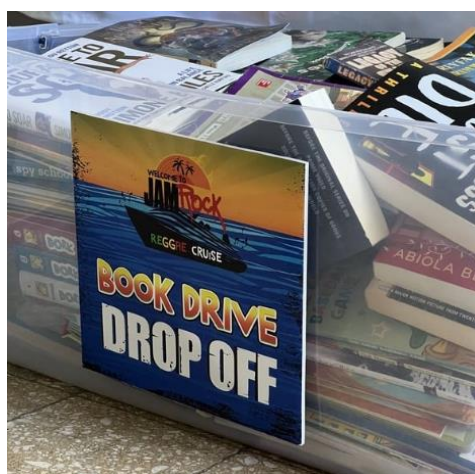
BOOK DONATIONS

"Vantage Point Jamaica: A Reporter's Chronicle" Donated by CHASE Fund



The CHASE Fund donated 100 copies of journalist Earl Moxam's book, "Vantage Point Jamaica: A Reporter's Chronicle," to the JLS in March 2024 at the Manchester Parish Library. This donation underscores the CHASE Fund's longstanding commitment to supporting literacy, education, and cultural development in Jamaica. The books have been distributed across public and school libraries, providing users with access to thought-provoking insights into Jamaican history and journalism.

Welcome to Jamrock Reggae Cruise Book Donation



The Welcome to Jamrock Reggae Cruise has partnered with the Jamaica Library Service for over 8 years, to support literacy and education through its annual book drive. This initiative, encourages cruise passengers to donate new or gently used fiction and non-fiction books suitable for children aged 4-16 and has played a vital role in enhancing our library collections.

The handover ceremony was held on Thursday, December 12, 2024, at the Ocho Rios Branch Library, the primary beneficiary of the annual book drive. Ky-Mani Marley, son of Bob Marley, played a special role in this year's donation efforts. As the Marley family's representative, he led the official handover, alongside Miss Merlene Walker, Regional Director, Region 3 and Miss Dionne Barnett Senior Librarian, Accessions Department. The partnership continued to highlight the importance of collaboration in ensuring that Jamaican children have access to quality educational resources, empowering them to learn, grow, and dream big.

Chinese Embassy Collaboration and Book Donation

On September 20, 2024, the Chinese Embassy generously donated 200 books featuring Chinese culture, history, and language to the JLS. This initiative strengthens cultural and educational ties between Jamaica and China, offering library users a broader perspective on global cultures. A formal handover ceremony was held at the Kingston & St. Andrew Parish Library, where representatives from both nations emphasized the importance of cross-cultural understanding through literature.



Peoples Republic of China Ambassador to Jamaica met with Miss Maureen Thompson, Director General to discuss strengthening of library cooperation between China and Jamaica



From left to right: Senior Director of the JLS, Miss Kishma Simpson; former Minister of Education, Youth and Information, Hon Fayval Williams; Peoples Republic of China Ambassador to Jamaica, Chen Daojiang; and Mr. Feng Lei, Director of the Confucius Institute.

OBSERVANCES

Library and Information Week 2024

From October 27 to November 1, 2024, the JLS celebrated Library and Information Week under the theme "Celebrating Library and Information Professionals: Authoritative and Reliable...a Fi Wi Legacy." Highlights of the week included:

- **Church Services:** Held in Kingston and Montego Bay, where members of the JLS were in attendance to show their support and celebrate the contributions of library professionals.
- **Publications:** The JLS made its annual contribution to the LIAJA Gleaner Supplement, published on October 31, 2024. The supplement highlighted the achievements of library professionals under the theme "Celebrating Library and Information Professionals: Authoritative and Reliable...a Fi Wi Legacy."
- **Team-building Workshops:** Library professionals across the island participated in sessions aimed at enhancing collaboration, morale, and professional development.

This week underscored the vital role of libraries and library professionals in empowering communities through reliable information services.

COLLABORATIONS

Jamaica Book Festival

The Jamaica Library Service in partnership with the Jamaica Book Festival hosted the inaugural staging of the Festival in December 2024. Branded as a ‘festival of ideas’, by Festival Director, Latoya West-Blackwood, the 3-day the event was designed to bring together authors, readers, and veteran members of book industries for discussions, networking and the promotion of reading as a hobby. The Kingston & St. Andrew Parish Library was the festival’s central hub. The location hosted the Festival Launch titled, *Night at the Library* on November 12, 2025; Children’s Day Programme on Friday, December 6, 2024 and the Book Fair/Panel Discussions on Sunday, December 8, 2024.

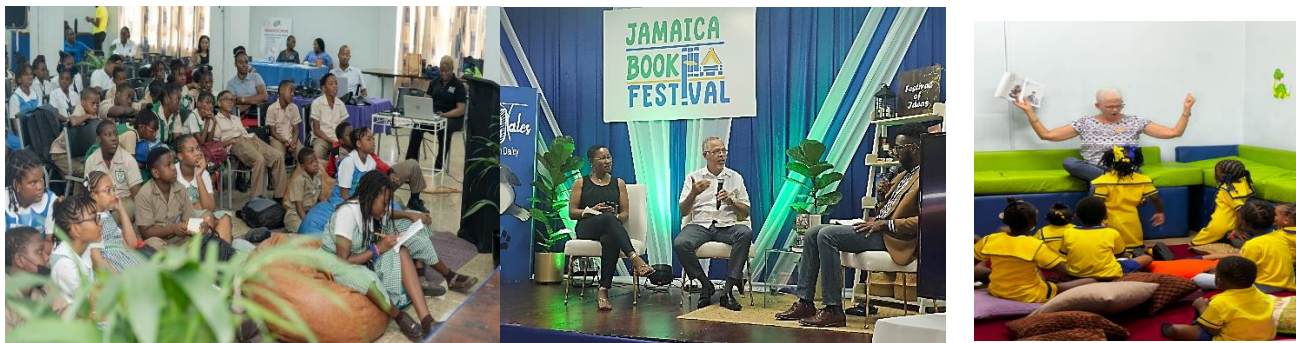
The Children’s Day programme saw over 200 students gathered at the Joyce Robinson Hall and the Children’s Reference Room for readings and discussions and a ‘Production Pod,’ where kids aged 12-16 were introduced to professional training, tools and talent in film, screenwriting, and the wider creative industries. Sunday’s Book Fair showcased industry partners: Kingston Bookshop, Carlong Publishers, Bookfusion, Bookman Express, Sapling Books, and Kozy Korner. The festival wrapped up with the official launch of the children’s book, *Here Comes the Morning* by The Book Boys in collaboration with Protoje.

A pre-festival event held on November 19, 2024, included a special staging of the *Reading and Reasoning with Boys Summit* at the Manchester Parish Library and brought together over 300 boys from more than 10 schools across central Jamaica for a day of literacy engagement, mentorship, and meaningful dialogue.

The Festival which encouraged creative expression while providing a platform for emerging voices in literature was described as a pivotal solution to promoting reading, improving literacy, and fostering a national culture of reading for pleasure.



Snapshots from the Inaugural Jamaica Book Festival



Snapshots from the Inaugural Jamaica Book Festival

Ana

nse Soundsplash Storytelling Conference and Festival

The JLS partnered with Ntukuma, the Storytelling Foundation of Jamaica to host the 13th staging of the Ananse Soundsplash Storytelling Conference and Festival from November 19-22, 2024, under the theme *"Find Ananse, Discover Jamaica."* National Storytelling Day was observed on November 20, 2024 and featured storytelling sessions in libraries, celebrating Jamaica's rich oral traditions. The festival was a resounding success, celebrating Jamaica's rich cultural heritage sites and storytelling traditions, while promoting literacy, creativity, and community engagement. National Storytelling Day at parish and branch libraries islandwide saw over 70 library locations in action; 46 storytellers; 3,311 participants and 131 schools engaged. The event brought together a diverse group of storytellers, artists, educators, and enthusiasts from across Jamaica and internationally.

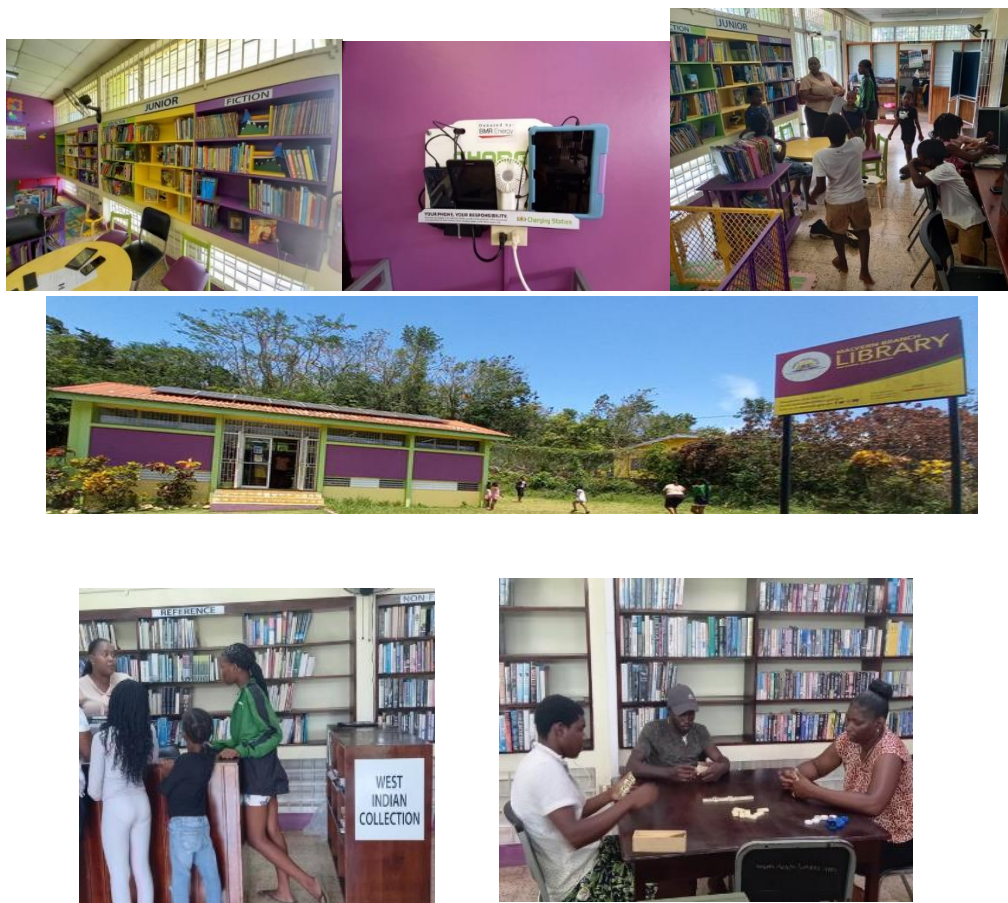


National Storytelling Day: Students gathered at Claude Stuart Park, St. Mary Parish Library with the historic Port Maria Old Court House and War Memorial (Cenotaph) visible in the background, creating a picturesque setting which blended education, culture, and heritage; Albert Town Branch Library with storyteller in Ananse costume; Clarendon Parish Library - Storyteller Hazel Vaz aka "Nana Yamin" performs an item with a student from Effortville Primary School.

Impact of Hurricane Beryl on the Jamaica Library Service

The passage of Hurricane Beryl on Wednesday, July 3, 2024, caused the island network of libraries to shutter its doors early on Tuesday, July 2 to 4, 2024, to prepare for its impact and subsequent restoration. In the aftermath, 24 locations sustained minor to moderate damage due to water intrusion. All parish and branch libraries were fully operational by July 8, 2024, with the exception of the Greater Portmore Branch Library that was significantly damaged.

The Malvern Branch Library, St. Elizabeth was a beacon of hope to members of this community after the ravishing effects of the hurricane on the Parish leaving thousands without electricity, water or telecommunications connection for well over two months. Following the passage of Hurricane Beryl the small community institution stood out for its commitment to sustainability with solar-powered infrastructure, equipped with special LED lights, charging ports, and solar panels. The library accommodated community members daily throughout the period of recovery, engaging patrons in recreational and educational activities including the annual summer programme. The branch library was the beneficiary of a renewable energy system donated by BMR Energy in 2021 enabling the branch library to be Jamaica's first 100% solar powered public library.



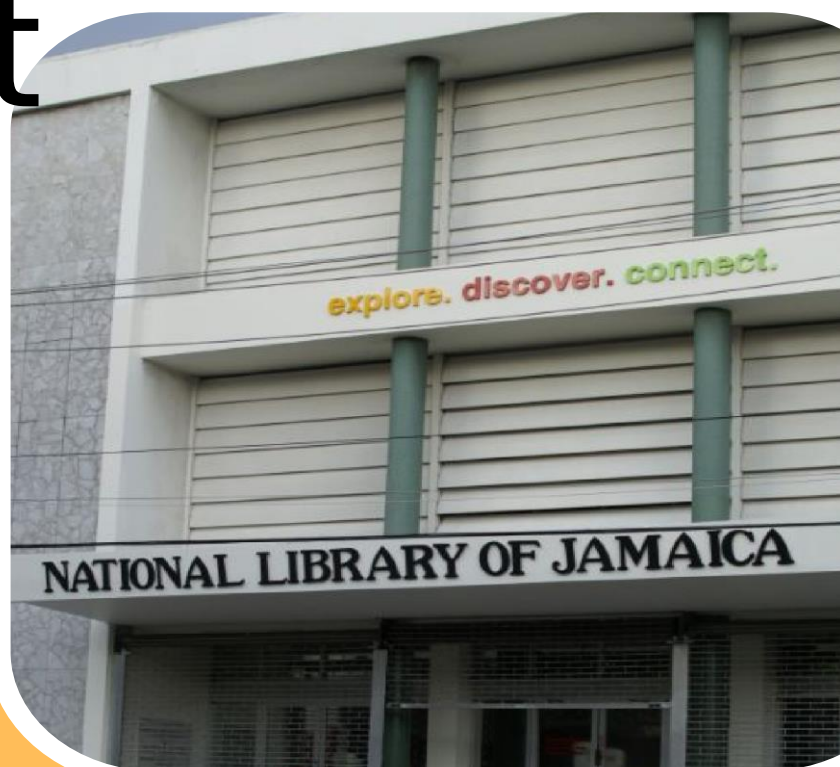
Malvern Branch Library: L-R: Section of the Children's Library; Charging port; Users/parents enjoying a game of dominoes while their children participate in the annual summer programme; Branch Library with solar panels



NATIONAL
LIBRARY OF
JAMAICA
explore. discover. connect.

LIAJA Annual Report

2024



An Agency of the Ministry of
Culture, Gender,
Entertainment & Sport

INTRODUCTION

The National Library of Jamaica (NLJ) continues to serve as a premier institution for the holistic management of Jamaica's cultural and historical information. The year 2024 started on a high note, with significant progress in our acquisition, access and preservation goals. This report highlights the major activities of the National Library of Jamaica for the calendar year, March 01 - December 31, 2024.

INTERNAL OPERATIONS JAMLIN - Ms. Jasheka Robinson assumed the position of Manager of the Jamaica Libraries and Information Network (JAMLIN) Development on September 2, 2024. In October 2024, an NLJ JAMLIN Committee was formed, with two representatives assigned to each sector network.

The committee members and their respective sector assignments are as follows:

- GLINJa –Ms. Geraldine Goulbourne and Mr. Jermaine Walker
- COLINET – Ms. Chantal Cousins and Ms. Faymoreen Smith
- G-RIM – Ms. Keisha Myers
- PSLN – Ms. Jasheka Robinson and Mrs. Tricia Lawrence Powell
- UWI-MINET – Ms. Jessica Cox and Ms. Drusilla Grant

Additionally, the committee includes:

- Accountant – Ms. Cherise Pryce
- Cataloguer – Mrs. Maxine Jones

Mrs. Janielle Wilson-Rowe, Manager of Digital Resource Development Branch, took on the role of NLJ Representative for LIAJA.

JAMLIN Launch and Heads of Sector Meeting - The revitalization of JAMLIN formally began with the JAMLIN Launch on December 02, 2024, which served as a reintroduction of the network and an opportunity to outline its renewed strategic direction. The event brought together sector leaders, committee members, and key stakeholders to reaffirm JAMLIN's mission and purpose.

The meeting played a crucial role in strengthening collaboration among sector leaders. Discussions focused on strategic direction, sustainability, and engagement, with an expectations-setting activity helping to shape JAMLIN's future.

The meeting introduced the Strategic Management Framework for 2025–2028, outlining necessary adjustments for growth and continuity. Sector leaders reaffirmed their commitment to active participation, laying the groundwork for the upcoming JAMLIN Strategic Planning Retreat, where long-term goals will be developed.



Members of JAMLIN after the meeting held at the NLJ

NLJ at COLINET - A complement of seven (7) NLJ staff members attended the 13th Biennial COLINET Symposium, held at the Catalonia Montego Bay Hotel on October 3-4, 2024. The National Librarian, Miss Beverley Lashley, delivered remarks at the opening ceremony. Miss Chantal Cousins, Manager of Research

and Information Branch, delivered a dynamic presentation titled "Beyond the Shelves: Leveraging Big Data and AI for Preservation, Access, and Engagement in Cultural Institutions."

Other attendees included Miss Keisha Myers, Miss Ruth Elliot, Miss Faymoreen Smith, and Ms. Jasheka Robinson. Additionally, the NLJ team hosted an information table about the library's services.



(l-r) Faymoreen Smith, Chantal Cousins, Beverley Lashley, Keisha Myers, Ruth Elliot & Jasheka Robinson; (right) Ms Ruth Elliot at NLJ's information table.



Picture 1: Chantal Cousins making her presentation (left). Picture 2: Faymoreen (right) Smith collecting her prize.

Legal Deposit Month/Launch: On October 11, 2024, The National Library of Jamaica celebrated 20 years of being the national repository. A launch was held under the theme “Tomorrow’s History: A Call to Collect, Preserve, and Share Jamaica's Evolution” at the Ministry of Culture, Gender, Entertainment and Sport (MCGES). Numerous deposits along with a donation were made on the day as listed below:

- Total: CDs (Music) - 66 titles, 66 copies
- Books - 22 titles, 44 copies
- Grand Total: 110 Items received

Event was featured by: Petchary Press



World Day for Audiovisual Heritage 2024: On October 27, the Audio Visual and Micrographic Branch hosted a series of informative sessions in observance of World Audiovisual Heritage Day. The sessions offered participants an exciting line-up of valuable insights into the use and preservation of audiovisual materials.

The event provided attendees with essential knowledge on best practices for handling, storing, and restoring audiovisual materials. The team emphasized the significance of preserving audiovisual heritage for cultural and historical purposes, and the sessions were well-received for their practical and informative content.

Participants were encouraged to apply the knowledge gained to ensure the protection and continued access to audiovisual resources, reinforcing the importance of safeguarding this invaluable cultural heritage.



Training session on World Audiovisual Heritage Day at the NLJ

Library & Information Professional Day - Recognized on October 29, 2024, and centered around the theme “Authoritative and Reliable...A Fi Wi Legacy,” library and information professionals participated in a vox pop video showcasing their invaluable contributions to preserving and providing access to reliable and trusted sources of information. Additionally, they were presented with appreciation baskets as a token of gratitude for their dedication and service.



NLJ's Library and Information professionals on Library and Information Professional Day 2024

NLJ End of Year Function - This year, the end-of-year function took the form of a staff incentive and long service award luncheon, held on December 20th, 2024, at The Verandah, Clarendon Park. The event followed the theme “The Escape” with an East African dress code. Staff members were recognized for their outstanding performances and years of dedicated service with the National Library of Jamaica.



NLJ Staff at the incentive and long service awards function

The NLJ’s Staff Association - The National Library Staff Association (NALSA) continues to represent the interests and welfare of its members while maintaining a balance between professional duties and staff engagement. In 2024, staff were divided into various houses, with points awarded for participation in different activities. The house with the most points at the end of the year’s activities was declared the winner.

Notable activities included:

- Spirit Day and Raffle – June 28
- Anything But a Bag Day – June 14
- School Uniform Day – June 7
- Afro Day – June 21
- Staff Trip to Konoko Falls – August 17
- Mother’s Day and Father’s Day Recognition
- Men’s Day Appreciation – November 19

These activities fostered team spirit and provided opportunities for staff to engage in fun and meaningful ways while celebrating special occasions.



SERVICE DELIVERY

Research and Information Branch - The National Library of Jamaica continues to support research and has hosted two research visits, one school tour, and three research workshops with high schools across Jamaica.

Exhibition

The NLJ participated in the following exhibition:

Celebrating Peter Tosh - The National Library of Jamaica hosted a special lecture on Wednesday, October 23, 2024, at 11:00 a.m., at 12 East Street, Kingston, to celebrate the life and legacy of reggae icon Peter Tosh.

The lecture, entitled “Sound the Drums and Blow the Horns: The Creative Ethos of Paul Bogle's Morant Bay War and the Music of Peter Tosh,” was delivered by Mr. Herbie Miller, Director/Curator of the Jamaica Music Museum.

Coordinated by Mrs. Tricia Lawrence-Powell, the event offered an in-depth exploration of the political resolve and creativity of two of Jamaica's most significant freedom fighters—Paul Bogle and Peter Tosh. It examined how both figures, through their respective platforms, challenged political injustices and used their influence to serve as a voice for the oppressed.



Mr. Herbie Miller showcasing the Peter Tosh exhibition on display in the NLJ foyer.

Mr. Miller discussed how Peter Tosh's music, much like Paul Bogle's actions, transcended artistic expression, becoming a form of resistance against the political status quo. The lecture highlighted the critical role of music as a tool for social commentary, reflecting and shaping the political landscape of the time. The event provided attendees with a deeper understanding of how music, historically, has played a pivotal role in challenging societal injustices and promoting cultural change.



(left) Attendees of the lecture (right) Ms Adrine Black, Ms Aldrina McKingtosh (Peter Tosh's granddaughter and daughter), Miss Beverley Lashley & Mrs Tricia Lawrence-Powell viewing part of the Peter Tosh exhibition on display in the NLJ foyer.

Collections Development Branch:

- Total Donations Received: 588
- Total Legal Deposits Received: 366
- Total Purchases Made: 263

Notable donations:

- Personals by Marvyn Murdock
- Diplomatic Bluebook 2024: Japanese Diplomacy and International Situation in 2023 by Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Japan
- Manuscript -The Applicability of the Doctrine of a Dignified life under Jamaican Bauxite Mining Investment Law: A Thesis submitted in Fulfilment of the Requirement for the Degree of Master of Philosophy and Law by Elaine Monica Campbell-Daenen
- Manuscript -Marcus Mosiah Garvey Death Certificate (copy) donated to the NLJ on July 2, 2024, by Ms. Selena Carty-Ancestral Genealogist and Latoya Williams-Family History Consultant.
- Power Push: Perspectives in poetry by Ludwig B. Fray
- Prove Yourself: Twelve Essential keys to rise in business and life (Revised edition) by Kingsley R. Chin
- Documentary heritage of Latin America & the Caribbean: UNESCO Memory of the World Regional Register 2000-2018 by UNESCO
- Rasta Revelation: Spiritual Novel by Jah Shakespear

To date, a total of 203,317 items are recorded in the collection.

KOHA Support - Training and Client Engagement (March – December 2024)

New Clients

- Ministry of Agriculture – March 19 & 22
- Caribbean School of Medical Sciences – May 20 & 22
- Wolmer's Girls' School – August 20 & 22

2023 Clients Trained in 2024

- Ministry of Finance and the Public Service – April 18 & 19
- Old Harbour High School – May 13 & 15

Additional Training & Meetings

- Jamaica Information Service – June 6 (Refresher training, non-hosted)
- Ministry of Finance and the Public Service – June 14 (Online staff sensitization)
- Old Harbour High School – August 28 (Teacher's sensitization)
- Ministry of Agriculture – September 19 (Staff training)

Koha Refresher Training – October 16, 2024

- Urban Development Corporation
- Trench Town Polytechnic College
- Cedar Grove Academy

Special Programmes & Marketing

World Poetry Day - The National Library of Jamaica (NLJ) hosted "Poetry in Bloom" at Devon House to celebrate World Poetry Day 2024, creating a vibrant literary atmosphere with live music, exhibitions, and poetry readings. The evening featured performances by Dr. Olive Senior, Jamaica's Poet Laureate, alongside NLJ Poetry Prize winners and guest poets from Tribe Sankofa, the Jamaica Poetry Society, and Jaiku Poetry Foundation.

A key highlight was the "Winning Word" segment, where Kiseon Thompson, winner of the Poet Laureate's Young Writer's Prize, delivered an environmental-themed piece, while Marjorie Ann Howitt (Louise Bennett Prize) and Nikki Windross (Michael Cooke Prize) explored themes of memory and love. Melville Cooke, recipient of the Edward Baugh Prize for Poetry, captivated the audience with a compelling piece on Jamaica's housing crisis, set to a reggae rhythm.

The event also included a heartfelt tribute to the late Professor Edward Baugh, CD, recognizing his decade-long leadership of the Poet Laureate of Jamaica Committee. Justine Henzell was announced as a potential successor to lead the committee forward. In his main address, Permanent Secretary Deanroy Bernard encouraged poets to embrace their craft professionally, emphasizing opportunities available through the NLJ, JAMCOPY, and JIPO.



(l-r) Olive Senior (Jamaica's Poet Laureate 2021-2024), Deanroy Bernard (Permanent Secretary, MCGES), Joy Douglas (Chair, NLJ Board) & Beverley Lashley (National Librarian)

Marking 10 years of the Poet Laureate of Jamaica Programme, the event celebrated the contributions of Mervyn Morris, Lorna Goodison, and Olive Senior, who have each played a pivotal role in promoting Jamaican poetry. The NLJ and UNESCO's 2024 World Poetry Day celebration successfully honoured Jamaica's literary heritage, blending poetry, performances, and cultural

recognition in an unforgettable evening.

Read Across Jamaica Day - held on May 8, 2024, saw us participating at two Primary Schools: St Georges Girls Primary and Infant School, and Clan Carty Primary School, covering three classes. The sessions were both engaging and exciting, leaving a lasting impact on both the students and staff.



Read Across Jamaica Day at St George’s Girls Primary and Infant School

Visit of Ambassador H.E. Chen Daojiang (Chinese Ambassador to Jamaica) - On August 23, 2024, Chinese Ambassador to Jamaica, Chen Daojiang, visited the NLJ. During the visit and tour, the Ambassador presented a thoughtful gift and engaged with senior management. Mr. Dean-Roy Bernard, Permanent Secretary of the MCGES and Ms. JoAnne Archibald, Principal Director, MCGES was also in attendance, highlighting diplomatic collaboration and cultural exchange.



(left) Miss Beverley Lashley presenting Ambassador Chen Daojiang with gift. (right) Ambassador Chen Daojiang and his team meeting with Mr. Deanroy Bernard and the NLJ team.

Archives and Data Management for Jamaica (Beijing, China) - On September 8-21, 2024, Mrs. Janielle Wilson-Rowe, Manager, Digital Resource Development Branch, attended the seminar which was organised through the Bilateral Technical and Scientific Cooperation Programme between the Government of the People’s Republic of China and the Government of Jamaica. She formed part of the Jamaican contingent which included a group of twenty-eight (28) participants from various MDA’s. The seminar provided an intriguing exploration of how China approaches the organisation, preservation and utilisation of archival resources, through a series of lectures and site visits in Beijing and Shanghai.



Jamaican contingent with Chinese stakeholders after the opening ceremony held at the Central Academy of Culture and Tourism (CACTA) in Beijing, China.

Memory of the World (MOW) Conference - Miss Beverley Lashley, National Librarian, attended in her capacity as Chair of the MOW Jamaica, held in St. Maarten on November 28, 2024. She presented on

“Sharing best practices for the preservation of and access to documentary heritage inscribed in the Memory of the World registers”. The conference provided a deeper understanding of the challenges and needs facing documentary heritage in the region. It also allowed participants to engage with the MOW community to identify and discuss possible responses to these challenges. Attendees included representatives from Latin America and the Caribbean.

EVENTS

Jamaica Diaspora Conference - Miss Beverley Lashley, National Librarian, represented the National Library of Jamaica (NLJ) at the Jamaica Diaspora Conference on June 18, 2024. The NLJ shared an exhibit space with the Institute of Jamaica (IOJ) where they provided insights into the Empire Windrush, and its historical significance, and its impact on the Jamaican diaspora. Miss Lashley’s participation underscored the importance of preserving and promoting Jamaica's rich cultural heritage.



Miss Beverley Lashley (right) at the MOW Conference in St. Maarten.

Independence Village - Through collaborative efforts with the Institute of Jamaica, the National Library of Jamaica contributed to the successful hosting of the Jamaica Diaspora Conference and the Jamaica 62 Independence Village.

ACURIL

Association of Caribbean University, Research and Institutional Libraries (ACURIL) hosted its annual conference from May 12 to 16, 2024, in Georgetown, Guyana. Regrettably, no representative from the National Library of Jamaica attended the conference.

Prepared by: Ms. Jasheka Robinson, JAMLIN Development Manager & Mrs. Janielle Wilson-Rowe, NLJ Representative

Submitted: February 20, 2025

REPORTS ON ASSOCIATIONS

ASSOCIATION OF CARIBBEAN UNIVERSITY, RESEARCH AND INSTITUTIONAL LIBRARIES (ACURIL)



The 53rd conference was held in the Republic of Guyana between May 12 and 16, 2024. Jamaica had two representatives: IPP David Drysdale and Kay-Ann Robinson. IPP Kerry Rodney Wellington was selected to be Jamaica's rep on the new Council. We express our sincere heartfelt appreciation to Mr. Mark-Jeffrey Deans who served as our previous representative.

The 54th Conference is scheduled to be held June 8th to 12th 2025 in the picturesque Island of Curacao under the theme: **Digital Humanities: Connecting the Caribbean through Archives, Museums, and Libraries.**



The call for papers link is attached:

<https://acurilconference.com/index.php/mainpage/index/callforpapers>

CARIBBEAN ASSOCIATION OF LAW LIBRARIES (CARALL)

Caribbean Association of Law Libraries (CARALL) 38th Annual Conference – Legal Research, Capacity Building & Innovation for Service Excellence was held July 24 – 26, 2024 in Georgetown, Guyana.



International Association of School Librarianship

The International Association for School Librarianship 52nd Annual Conference and the 27th International Forum on Research on School Librarianship was held virtually between October 26 – 29, 2024.

The conference was dedicated to the advancement of theory and practice in school librarianship under the theme: **“Stronger Together: School Libraries in Community”**

The deadline for submission of articles for July issue of School Libraries Worldwide is Saturday, March 1, 2025. Organizer: iaslnewsletter@gmail.com



International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions

We are currently awaiting our application for reaffiliation to this International Body. We are awaiting the review process and submission of an invoice for membership. This after four (4) years of non-membership.

The 89th World Library and Information Congress that will take place in the Congress Centre in Astana, Kazakhstan. Conference dates August 18 – 22, 2025.

Link <https://2025.ifla.org/home/about/>

Additional information below:



Uniting Knowledge, Building the Future
World Library and Information Congress
89th IFLA General Conference and Assembly
18-22 August 2025, Astana, Kazakhstan

GENERAL COMMENTS AND CONCLUSION

At the heart of our 2024 mission was a dedication to promoting and supporting library and information professionals. As an executive, we sought to uphold the core values of professionalism, collaboration, and innovation, recognizing the crucial role that information professionals play in education, research, and community development.

The year under review had the administration focusing on several strategic priorities aimed at enhancing our visibility, supporting member development, and fostering engagement.

We successfully hosted a Records Management workshop for the Montego Bay Community College. Increased opportunities for continuous education through partnerships through COLINET. Strengthening our advocacy efforts to highlight the critical challenges in some of our school libraries. Expanding communication channels to keep members informed and involved.

During the month of July hurricane Berly impacted several of our member institutions and some of our colleagues experienced challenging circumstances. I wish to extend sincere gratitude to the LIAJA Executive, our committed members, and all who continue to support and contribute to the growth of the association. Your dedication fuels our collective progress and ensures that LIAJA remains a pillar of excellence within the information community.

I want to express my sincere appreciation and gratitude to Dr. Ruth Baker Gardner, who has served the association (Chair for the School Section) for an extended period of time and has decided to retire. Dr. Baker Gardner we really are grateful for your years of dedicated service to us.

The Association continues to enjoy a strong relationship with the College Libraries Information Network (**COLINET**), Caribbean Association of Law Library (**CARALL**), Association of Caribbean University, Research and Institutional Libraries (**ACURIL**) and the International Federation of Library Association (**IFLA**).

The opportunity given to offer service to this august body of Library and Information Professionals has truly been an awesome experience. Over the period, as an executive we sought to maintain a collective vigilance and resilience in ensuring that we continue to shape the lives of our beloved profession. Together, we will renew our commitments to shape the future of the library and information profession in Jamaica and beyond.

Thank you for your unwavering support, and let us move forward with purpose, pride, and passion.

APPENDIX 1: LIAJA GLEANER SUPPLEMENT

<https://liaja.org.jm/addons/blogs/images/news/LIAJA1-1-combined.pdf>

THE GLEANER, THURSDAY, OCTOBER 31, 2024 | www.jamaica-gleaner.com

C5



Let us celebrate each other and 'Fi Wi Legacy'

THIS WEEK, we are embarking on another chapter in our long history as library and information professionals offering dedicated and timely services and products to the Jamaican community. Let me express our collective thanks to the individuals, institutions and groups that have lent their support to our noble association. Colleagues, friends and well-wishers, I greet you well, as we commemorate Library and Information Professionals Week 2024, (October 27-November 1). It is with an overwhelming sense of pride and heartfelt joy that I extend warm greetings to you all. This year's theme, 'Celebrating Library and Information Professionals: Authoritative and Reliable... A Fi Wi Legacy', beautifully captures the essence of who we are and the enduring impact of our profession.

This is the eighth staging of Library and Information Professionals Week since it was declared by Governor General Sir Patrick Linton Allen, ON, GCMG, CD, KSTJ, on October 20, 2016. This event has served as a beacon, shining a spotlight on this noble profession and those individuals who work so hard to provide quality service to the Jamaican society.

In a world where information is the cornerstone of progress and development, the Library and Information Association of Jamaica (LIAJA) as a professional body continues to play a pivotal role in shaping the intellectual and cultural landscape of our citizens. For the past 75 years, LIAJA as a dedicated body has been at the forefront of promoting the importance of libraries and information services in Jamaica.

Please be aware that the association is organising several activities to commemorate our Diamond Anniversary in 2025. As professionals, we continue to be the guardians of knowledge, the gatekeepers of truth, and the navigators of information, a responsibility that LIAJA carries with pride, purpose, and unwavering dedication.

As an association, we have steadfastly upheld the values of authority and reliability in the dissemination of knowledge, ensuring that our communities have access to trustworthy and valuable information resources.

As professionals, we are the vanguard of knowledge, the gatekeepers of truth, and the navigators of information, an obligation that we undertake with dignity and solid determination. Additionally, LIAJA has been at the forefront of advocating for the importance of libraries and information services in Jamaica.

Being authoritative and reliable means that we not only provide access to information, but we also uphold the highest standards of accuracy, integrity, and trust. As more people rely on social media for news and information, library professionals will need to provide targeted guidance

on navigating these platforms responsibly. In an environment saturated with deception, the need for authoritative, reliable sources is critical. Our librarians and information professionals will continue to source and deliver collections that provide accurate and verified information across a range of topics.

Our communities depend on us to deliver credible and well-sourced information, to guide them through the complexities of knowledge in an era increasingly plagued by misinformation and disinformation. In a world increasingly flooded with distortion and falsehood, the role of librarians and information professionals will be both challenging and transformative. We will continue to be custodians of truth, educators of the public, and advocates for access to reliable information, ensuring that knowledge remains a force for empowerment and social advancement.

We are indeed trusted information professionals with the responsibility for sourcing, selecting, organising, caring, and providing access to information. Librarians and information professionals are uniquely positioned to be frontline defenders of truth and precision. However, this evolving landscape also presents new challenges and opportunities for our professionals to expand our roles in society. As specialists, we do more than manage libraries, information units and resource centres; we ensure that knowledge remains a tool for empowerment, equity, and progress. Our commitment to ensuring fair and equal access to information for all, regardless of background or circumstance, forms the foundation of our legacy – one that continues to inspire, educate, and empower generations.

The sub-theme: 'A Fi Wi Legacy' reminds us that our contribution is both deeply personal and profoundly collective. It is our legacy – a legacy built by those before us and sustained by each of us today. As we reflect on the impact of our work and worth, let us celebrate the rich tradition of service, and community engagement that defines our profession.

Our legacy is seen in the countless lives we have touched: the students who have been guided toward academic success, the researchers whose work has been enriched by our expertise, and the communities that have found a place of learning, connection, and safety within our libraries, information units and resource centres. Through our work, we shape the future by safeguarding the past and providing access to the knowledge that fuels tomorrow's innovations.

My colleagues, as we move forward into an increasingly digital world, we must recognise that our role is ever-changing. The rise of artificial



"Celebrating Library and Information Professionals: Authoritative and Reliable...A Fi Wi Legacy."

intelligence, and digital literacy presents both challenges and opportunities. As we adapt to new technologies and emerging threats, we will be at the forefront of the fight against fake news, securing our place as trusted, authoritative voices in an uncertain world. Therefore, as technology evolves, we must embrace our roles as navigators of the digital world. Based on the increase in AI-generated content and deepfakes, we will need to stay ahead by using data analytics, AI tools, and digital forensics to detect false information and guide our patrons to trustworthy digital resources. Colleagues, we are to remain at the forefront of these changes, adapting to new technologies while ensuring that the values of integrity, inclusivity, and reliability remain at the heart of everything we do.

The role of our profession in promoting and supporting academic integrity is crucial. Academic integrity defends the values of honesty, trust, fairness, respect, responsibility, and courage in educational and research settings, and our librarians and information professionals play a central role in fostering these principles. In an age where there is easy access to information and increased opportunities for academic dishonesty, we are to stand as both educators and stewards of academic honesty, and, in doing so, help to build a culture that values and rewards integrity, responsibility, and respect in the academic community.

Colleagues, let us embrace these new technological opportunities with the same spirit of fairness, innovation, resilience, and excellence that has defined our profession for decades. By continuing to champion ethical practices, promoting critical thinking, and ensuring that information remains a force for good, we will keep our profession relevant and vital in a rapidly changing world.

During this special week, let us take the time to celebrate not only the profession but each other. To every librarian, records manager, archivist, paraprofessional, data manager, and information professional, thank you for your tireless dedication, your passion for knowledge, and your commitment to upholding the highest standards of service. You are the foundation of 'Fi Wi Legacy', and it is your unwavering commitment

that ensures our profession continues to thrive.

As we celebrate Library and Information Professionals Week 2024, let us remember that we are not just maintaining a legacy, we are building one that will continue to inspire generations to come. Together, we stand as authoritative and reliable, shaping the future, one piece of knowledge at a time. Heartfelt thank you to our advertisers, sponsors, and writers for this supplement. Your support is like sustenance to us, and it has truly made a difference.

Colleagues, let us continue to celebrate, uplift, and champion the vital role we play in building a more informed, empowered, and equitable Jamaican society. Thank you, and may God continue to bless the Library and Information Association of Jamaica in its endeavours.

To learn more about us, please visit our website: <https://liaja.org.jm/>
Happy Library and Information Professional Week 2024!

JOSEPH A. KERR, JP
2024 President
Library and Information
Association of Jamaica
(LIAJA)



We look to the future with renewed vision

IT IS with great pride that we celebrate Library and Information Week under the theme, 'Celebrating Library and Information Professionals: Authoritative and Reliable... A Fi Wi Legacy'. This year's theme underscores the pivotal roles information professionals have long played in curating and providing access to information, as well as facilitating learning, innovation and community engagement.

In times of uncertainty and rapid change, such as witnessed during natural disasters, public libraries remain resilient. The expertise and dedication of information professionals have been indispensable in helping citizens to confidently navigate the physical and digital landscapes while guarding against misinformation. Our school librarians have been recognised as vanguards of authentic learning – the vital bridge between school and home as we assist children and adults in their developmental learning and application of acquired knowledge to real life.

The Jamaica Library Service has placed special focus on programming as an important vehicle for the advancement of early literacy, encouraging the reading habit among citizens and fostering community support for our seniors. The programmes offered contribute meaningfully to lifelong learning, develop positive attitudes towards our culture and fuel the empowerment of individuals for personal development. We are also strong advocates for bridging the digital divide.

Our information professionals play a pivotal role by connecting library users to resources, training and support to help them acquire the skills necessary to navigate the digital world. It is our unwavering commitment to empower our communities by providing opportunities for all to achieve their full potential, regardless of their background or circumstances ensuring that no one is left behind.

As we celebrate the legacy we look to the future with renewed vision as we unlock new opportunities to serve. We encourage all information professionals to continue to adapt and innovate, as we continue to build on our immense legacy and inspire the next generation of learners. The Jamaica Library Service proudly salutes all library and information professionals – your dedication makes a difference.

Happy Library and Information Professionals Week.

MAUREEN THOMPSON
Director General



SCAN
TO CHAT WITH A LIBRARIAN

PIOJ

PLANNING INSTITUTE
OF JAMAICA

Wesley Hughes
Documentation Centre

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Partnership towards sustainable development goals

THE GOVERNMENT Libraries Information Network of Jamaica (GLINJA) extends heartfelt congratulations to the Library and Information Association of Jamaica (LIAJA) for its enduring leadership and commitment to professional development and the National Information System. GLINJA is proud to continue its collaborative efforts with LIAJA to uphold the shared responsibility of providing citizens with the critical information they need to make informed decisions across all areas of life. This partnership not only strengthens library services but also aligns with national priorities, contributing to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the promotion of peace, ethics, transparency, and good governance.

In recent years, GLINJA has dedicated itself to highlighting the essential role of libraries in sustainable development. Through our joint initiatives with LIAJA, we are ensuring that citizens and decision-makers alike have access to trustworthy information that impacts various facets of life – from economic and social well-being to environmental stewardship.

Acknowledging a significant shift in information access, libraries are meeting the increasing demand for digital engagement through emails and other online tools, while traditional in-person visits have become less frequent. Researchers, technical writers, and policymakers are relying more on digital resources, which calls for library professionals to be technologically skilled to support seamless information access.

To address these needs, GLINJA is dedicated to making real-time information readily available through 'Ask the Librarian', a comprehensive service offered via the websites of government ministries, departments, and agencies. This service provides a direct link to a consortium of librarians who ensure



that vital information is accessible. GLINJA and LIAJA are also dedicated to promoting public access to information while safeguarding intellectual property rights, thereby supporting transparency and informed decision-making.

Our collective mission includes equipping researchers and citizens with accurate, up-to-date data from key national resources, including the Economic and Social Survey Jamaica and the Jamaica Survey of Living Conditions. Additionally, data from the Statistical Institute of Jamaica are now fully available online, providing seamless digital access to information essential for research, policymaking, and for public use.

Through the ongoing partnership between GLINJA and LIAJA, citizens are empowered to seek information that supports informed, ethical, and transparent decisions. Together, we are committed to building a knowledge-rich environment that not only fulfils our shared professional goals but also strengthens Jamaica's commitment to the SDGs, peace, good governance, and intellectual integrity.

ODEAN COLE-PHOENIX

Coordinator
Government Libraries Information
Network of Jamaica

Shh, don't tell anyone, but I love my job: A love letter to librarianship

WHY DID I become a librarian? Simply because of librarians! But wait, let me tell you how it all began. Growing up, I never even realised librarianship was a profession, but love for it was quietly growing in me.

At Franklin Town Primary, I had a school librarian, Mrs Rosemarie Grossett, who changed my world. Every time my class visited the library, she made sure we had a book in our hand to take home. There was one book I chose in particular, no cover, no title page, and even two chapters missing! To this day, I still don't know what it was called. But every time I read it, it whisked me away to another world. It was about a little girl in Canada, living a carefree life with her friends. As a child growing up surrounded by the constant sound of gunshots at night, too scared to even move, this book was my escape. I wanted to be that little girl so badly, just laughing and playing, free of fear. I read that book so many times, that I even convinced myself and others that I had actually been to Canada! That's the magic of books – they transport us; they give us hope; and, for girls like me, they help us dream bigger, beyond our reality.

By the time I reached high school at the Convent of Mercy Academy 'Alpha', I was searching for my calling. I started writing poetry in second form after my older brother was killed by gun violence. Putting my feelings into words was the only way I knew to deal with the pain. For a while, I thought I'd be a novelist, but by third form, while working on my school-based assessments, I found myself diving into encyclopaedias in the school library. And boy, did they open my eyes! Suddenly, I was sure I wanted to be a journalist, digging up facts and delivering important information. Isn't it funny how life twists and turns?

As a teen, I threw myself into youth advocacy, using everything I learned in school to uplift others. I became the advocacy programme and training officer for violence prevention at the Jamaica Youth Advocacy Network (JYAN), president of Positive Youth in Action, and co-founder and tutor of GhettoWise Education. I wanted to push young people toward education, not violence.

At 18 years old, I joined the Jamaica Library Service, and two years later, I was head-over-heels in love with librarianship, especially in the school library section. It was the perfect career for me, a blend of everything I wanted: books, education, advocacy, and service. Today, I'm proud to serve as the second vice-president and honorary treasurer for the Library and Information Association of Jamaica (LIAJA), which is celebrating 75 years of dedicated service.

My passion now? Digital literacy, data protection,



and access to information. It all started when WhatsApp became popular in 2014, and my mother didn't know how to use her smartphone. I didn't want her to feel embarrassed while using it or share her personal information online, so I took it upon myself to teach her. I only wish she were alive today to see me living out my dream. She'd be so proud, shouting, "Watch my librarian daughter!"

Today, I also serve as an academic librarian at HEART/NSTA Trust, ensuring students are equipped with the digital skills they need and the knowledge to protect their personal data. It's more than just a job; it's my mission.

I wouldn't be where I am today without the librarians who came before me. To my mentors, Kishna Simpson, Winsome Hudson, and the late Mary Bewaji, thank you for believing in me and teaching me invaluable lessons. To my dear librarian friends, Antoinette Dunston, Chantal Cousins, Simona Spencer, and Kaye-Ann Robinson, thank you for your unwavering support, for being there when I needed a shoulder to cry on, and for giving me the strength to keep going.

I never imagined I'd end up here, but every day, I'm so proud to serve the people of Jamaica by providing reliable, authoritative information.

I love being a librarian, and that's a secret I'm thrilled to share with the world!

KADIESHA A. GRANT

Second Vice-President and Honorary Treasurer
Library and Information Association of Jamaica
(LIAJA)



Celebrating

Library and Information Professionals

Librarians empower our communities and promote learning by providing access to authoritative information

Connect with your local librarian, explore our innovative programmes and services.

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876-275-0396






















AN AGENCY OF THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND YOUTH

APPENDIX 2 ACTIVITIES FROM MEMBER UNITS

COLINET'S 13TH BIENNIAL SYMPOSIUM OCTOBER 2024 – OPENING CEREMONY



Albert Corcho, Bethlehem Moravian College – Principal, Ricardo Bennett, Sam Sharpe Teachers College – Principal, Beverley Lashley, National Library of Jamaica – CEO, David Drysdale, University of Technology, Jamaica – University Librarian/ COLINET Coordinator and Joseph A. Kerr – President Library and Information Association of Jamaica.



PRESIDENT DELIVERED REMARKS AT THE COLINET BIENNIAL SYMPOSIUM OPENING CEREMONY.



PRO JODY-ANN SADLER MAKING A PRESENTATION AT THE COLINET BIENNIAL SYMPOSIUM

BIENNIAL JAMAICA DIASPORA CONFERENCE - JUNE 2024



Joseph A. Kerr – President Library and Information Association of Jamaica and Beverley Lashley, National Library of Jamaica – CEO.

JLS READING COMPETITION 2024 - AWARDS CEREMONY



Mr. Joseph A. Kerr, President, LIAJA presents a cash prize and trophy to Athena Whyte from the St. Mary Parish Library Network for the child who wrote the Best Letter in the 6-8 age group.

DLIS INFORMATION DAY – February 13, 2025



*Honourary Secretary Natonya Garwood,
Honourary Member Mr. John Aarons and
President Joseph A. Kerr*



*President Joseph A. Kerr, Dr. Stanley Griffin, HOD
DLIS, JLS Staff, Jerry-Neil Richards and
JLS Rep (LIAJA), Marsha Jack.*



*Participants at the
Records
Management
Workshop held at
the Montego Bay
Community College
on Thursday, May
09, 2024.*



*President Joseph A. Kerr
presenting Mrs. Dwyer
with her certificate of
participation at the
Records Management
Workshop held at the
Montego Bay
Community College on
Thursday, May 09, 2024.*

PICTORIAL HIGHLIGHTS FROM ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (February 9, 2024)



LIAJA Membership List 2024

	Honorary (Retired)	
1	Aarons	John
2	Amenu-Kpodo	Norma
3	Anderson	Beatrice
4	Bennett	Hazel
5	Ferguson	Stephney
6	Jefferson	Albertina
	Retired	
1	Barton	Karen
2	Hudson	Winsome
3	Lawrence	Yvonne
4	Rao	Judith
5	Robins	Andrea
6	Shelly-Robinson	Cherrell
7	Stewart	Paulette
8	Webster-Prince	Maureen
	Personal	
1	Bailey	Andrea
2	Baker-Gardner	Ruth
3	Cole-Phoenix	Odean
4	Cousins	Chantal
5	Davis	Erica
6	Dawkins	Marcia
7	Delusma-Chase	Kecha

8	Douglas	Myrna
9	Drysdale	David
10	Eccleston	Annakaye
11	Edwards	Tanya
12	Ennis	Jina-Leigh
13	Fagan-Brown	Judith
14	Forgie-Scott	Monique
15	Garwood	Natoyna
16	Graham	Nicholas
17	Grant	Kadiesha
18	Harris	Sasekea
19	Heath	Rosemarie
20	Howell	Susan
21	Humphrey	Michael
22	Kerr	Joseph
23	Kerr	Paulette
24	Knight	Natalee
25	Lewis-Marshall	Jessica
26	Livingstone-Morris	Norma
27	Ludford	Demar
28	Martin	Shelley-Ann T.
29	Merritt Bernard	Adele
30	Nelson	Karlene
31	Newman	Dunstan
32	Newman	Nadine

33	Nisbett	Olivia
34	Palmer	Ieisha
35	Prawl	Nicole
36	Pryce	Trecia
37	Ricketts	Tracey-Ann
38	Richardson-Depass	Chantelle
39	Robertson	Venecia
40	Robinson	Donna-Marie
41	Robinson	Kaye-Ann
42	Rodney-Wellington	Kerry-Ann
43	Sadler	Jodi-Ann
44	Samuda	Kevin
45	Saunders-Grant	Nicoleen
46	Shakespeare	Alexis
47	Sinclair	Rashanna
48	Thompson	Heather
49	Tugwell	Yolanda
50	Vickers	Gillion
51	Walder	Allison
52	Worrell-Johnson	Bernadette
53	Wray	Miriam
	Institutional	
1	Bank of Jamaica	
2	Brown's Town Community College (Pauline Hudson-Christie)	
3	G. C. Foster College of Physical Education	

	Sport (Althia Hamilton-Johnson)	
4	HEART/NSIA Trust (Nicoleen Saunders-Grant)	
5	Institute of Jamaica (Leleka Johnson)	
6	International Seabed Authority (Patrena Salmon)	
7	Jamaica Library Service (Marsha Jack)	
8	Jamaica Tourist Board (Glenda Dalling)	
9	JamCopy (Karene Miller)	
10	Jonathan Grant High School (Teisha Palmer)	
11	Ministry of Economic Growth and Job Creation (Meshelee Bethune)	
12	Ministry of Finance and Public Service (The) (Jodie-Ann Brown)	
13	Montego Bay Community College (Marsha Crawford)	
14	Myers, Fletcher & Gordon (Natoyna Garwood)	
15	National Library of Jamaica (Janielle Wilson)	
16	Northern Caribbean University (Michael Humphrey)	
17	Planning Institute of Jamaica (Odean Cole-Phoenix)	
18	Portmore Community College (Telesa Stewart)	
19	Sam Sharpe Teachers' College (Kevin Samuda)	
20	University of the Commonwealth Caribbean (Mardene Carr)	
21	University of Technology Calvin McKain Library (Trecia Pryce)	
22	Urban Development Corporation (Joy Willis)	
	Students	
1	Cox	Jessica

