



Department of Library and  
Information Studies, University of  
the West Indies, Mona Campus,  
Kingston 7, Jamaica

# DLIS CONNECT

the DLIS newsletter

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## Editorial

Welcome to this the first issue of our electronic newsletter by which we intend to use to keep you informed of the activities and developments in the Department while at the same time collecting and disseminating information about matters of interest to members of the wider library and information profession .

The newsletter will be issued twice per year, in February and September, with occasional updates for matters that cannot wait until the next issue.

We hope you find the newsletter interesting and we invite you to share any ideas or suggestions you may have as to how it can be improved.

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## Special Events



Professor Emerita Daphne Douglas, lauded as a distinguished librarian and educator, was selected as this year's honouree for the UWI 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary Commemoration Celebrations. The week long celebrations held from February 14-22, included the flag-raising ceremony at which a citation was read to Professor Douglas; a church service; an exhibition in the Main UWI Library about her life; and a dinner at which the Honorable Patrick Manning, Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago, was the guest speaker. This was a signal honour for Professor Douglas and the library profession as a whole who turned out in large numbers to celebrate the occasion. ❖

## New look to Department – Physical facilities get a facelift

During last summer, the Department was renovated and refurbished to streamline operations for greater efficiency as well as to improve staff and student comfort. The use of bright tropical colours to paint the walls has given the Department a more attractive look as well as improved the general décor. ❖

## **Seminars, Workshops ...**

### **Information Literacy Lecture and Workshop**



A public lecture and workshop on information literacy was hosted by the Department in November and featured speaker and presenter was Dr. Mike Eisenberg, Professor and Dean Emeritus from the Information School, Washington University, Seattle, USA. He is also one of the co-developers of the Big6 Information Literacy Model, which is the most widely known and used in the world. He talked about literate citizens in a digital world and the importance of students being information literate in the present global society. The workshop on the next day focused on the Big Six Model for Information Literacy and saw nearly 80 librarians, teachers, other educators and university students in attendance. Dr. Eisenberg is a dynamic and excellent teacher who held the audience's attention until the very closing moments of the workshop which was very well received judged by the positive feedback.

### **Unveiling Hidden Treasures: an Exploration of our Caribbean Heritage Materials**

The Department hosted a repeat presentation of Professor Margaret Rouse-Jones' inaugural professorial lecture which she had previously delivered at the St. Augustine Campus in Trinidad out of which she operates as the University Librarian. The lecture dealt with some of the exciting discoveries from her historical research into Caribbean heritage materials held by the UWI St. Augustine Library. In attendance was a cross-section of persons from the various faculties and administrative departments at UWI Mona, with representatives from the Jamaica Historical Society, the National Archives and Heritage Studies students, along with a good turnout of librarians. The lecture generated much discussion and was followed by a short reception.

### **Trends and Developments in Caribbean Libraries**

The Department in collaboration with the University of the West Indies Library, Mona, hosted a summer workshop from June 25-29, 2007 for senior library managers within the Caribbean. Global and regional trends and developments in the profession were looked at and their application in and implications for the Caribbean. Some of the topics covered included integrated library systems, metadata, Internet access issues, usability of websites and information literacy. The sessions were very interactive as participants were encouraged to share from their own experiences in their libraries and information units. Twenty-nine librarians from 7 countries attended

The papers on the various topics presented are available at our website at:

[http://www.mona.uwi.edu/dlis/resources/dlis\\_workshop.htm](http://www.mona.uwi.edu/dlis/resources/dlis_workshop.htm)



## **STAFF UPDATE**

### **ACTIVITIES**



Mr. Ramnauth Sookraj is on sabbatical leave from January to December 2008 and he is being replaced by Mr. David Drysdale, Senior Librarian at the Jamaica Library Service. While on leave Mr. Sookraj will be investigating, among other things, the use of Information Technology by the Guyana Public Library and how are libraries meeting the needs of farmers.

Mr. Ownali Mohammedali is on an extended Mona Research Fellowship until July 31, during which time he will be continuing his research on library services to the visually impaired. He is being replaced by Mrs. Hyacinth Brown.

Dr. Cherrell Shelley Robinson assumed headship of the Department for the academic year 2007/8.

## STAFF RESEARCH AND PUBLICATIONS

Durrant, Fay. "Openness, Access to Government Information and Caribbean Governance." First Monday 11.6 (2006).  
<[http://firstmonday.org/issues/issue11\\_6/durrant/index.html](http://firstmonday.org/issues/issue11_6/durrant/index.html)>

Discusses the concept of Access to Information (ATI) generally and the adoption and implementation of ATI legislation by various Caribbean countries.

Durrant, Fay. "The World Web Enhancing E-government in the Caribbean: An Assessment of Government Portals or Gateway Websites." IFLA Journal 32.3 (2006): 240-250.

The article evaluates some of the existing portal or gateway sites on the World Wide Web established by Caribbean governments to facilitate the delivery of e-government information.

Gordon, Barbara. "Internet Access Management in Jamaican Public Libraries: The Role of Policy." Cheryl Ann Peltier-Davis and Shamin Renwick (Eds). Caribbean Libraries in the 21st Century Changes, Challenges, and Choices. Medford, N.J.: Information Today, 2007. 189- 199.

The paper examines the various policies public libraries put in place to manage Internet access and some of the ethical and legal issues involved in the provision and delivery of such services.

Shelley-Robinson, Cherrell. "School Libraries in the Caribbean: A Jamaican Case Study." Cheryl Ann Peltier-Davis and Shamin Renwick (Eds). Caribbean Libraries in the 21st Century Changes, Challenges, and Choices. Medford, N.J.: Information Today, 2007. 95-117.

The paper looks at Caribbean school libraries, using a state-of-the-art survey of Jamaica as a typical case through which to explore many of the problems faced by these libraries within the region. ❖

## Student Matters



Photograph of final year students in 2005

### Recent Graduates

Twenty-nine students graduated with a Bachelors degree from the Department, with nine getting first class honours and another thirteen obtaining upper second class. Ten students graduated with Masters Degrees.

### DLIS Alumni Association

The Department is planning to officially launch its alumni association during this, the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary year of the University. We will be doing this at the ACURIL conference in June this year, and so we invite as many of you as possible to attend this function. If you cannot be present, you can still become members of the Association. More information will be forthcoming soon.

In order to establish our Alumni database we are asking you to send us some information about yourself, such as: your full name, current email and regular mailing address, job title, employing organization, the year you graduated and the type of degree you have or the postgraduate Diploma. We are also interested in any other academic qualifications acquired. We would also welcome a recent photograph of you as we plan to feature some of you, with your permission, in this newsletter under the caption: "Our Alumni: Where they are now?"

## Recent Student Research

The following is a selection of some of the research recently completed by our students. The papers are available for consultation in the Department's library:

Benjamin, Grace Carr. "Caught in the Web." Parental Knowledge of the Internet and their Regulation of its Use by Their Children." Diss. U. of the West Indies, 2007.

The study assesses parents' knowledge of the dangers of the Internet and how they attempt to protect their children from such threats.

Bowen, Paulette M. "The Use of Print Versus Electronic Journals at the University of the West Indies Library, Mona Campus." Diss. U. of the West Indies, 2007.

A survey of an academic library user information source preference for print or electronic journals.

Cummings, Lurline B. "Cyber-Reference: A Study of How the Internet is Influencing Reference Services in Jamaican Libraries." Diss. U. of the West Indies, 2007.

The researcher looks at how the Internet has impacted on Jamaican libraries, with special focus on reference services.

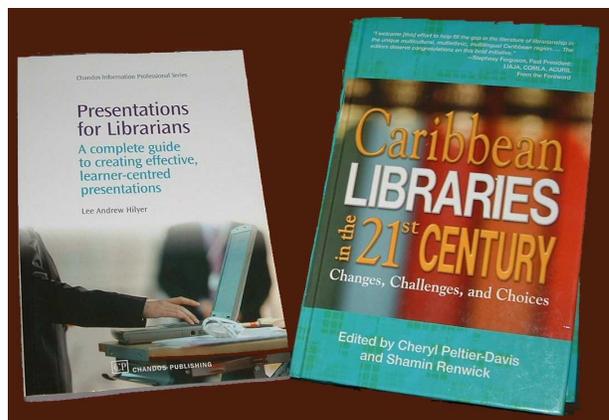
Elliot, Fayanne "Social Inclusion: The Use of the Clarendon Parish Library by Two Social Groups." Diss. U. of the West Indies, 2007.

A survey and analysis of middle and working class use of a Jamaican public library.



## New Resources:

The following are some of the new titles added to the Department's collection:



**Peltier-Davis, Cheryl Ann, and Shamin Renwick. Caribbean Libraries in the 21st Century: Changes, Challenges, and Choices. Medford, N.J.: Information Today, 2007.**

This book contains twenty-five chapters written mainly by Caribbean academics and practitioners focusing on the responses of Caribbean libraries to the many changes and challenges faced in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Further information is available at: <http://ttemail.com/~srenwick/default.htm>

**Hilyer, Lee Andrew. Presentations for Librarians: A Complete Guide to Creating Effective, Learner-Centred Presentations. Oxford: Chandos, 2007.**

Looking to improve your multimedia presentation skills? Do you wish to create presentations that your audience can actually enjoy and learn from? As a librarian you may notice that presentations are a very integral part of your profession. This book will then be a must read for you.

Further information is available at: <http://www.hilyer.info/presentations/>

## Obituaries

The Department regrets to announce the passing of several of our fellow librarians over the last few months. They include:

Miss Elizabeth Williams, former University Archivist, Mona Campus.

Mrs. Audrey Chambers former Senior Librarian of the Sir Arthur Lewis Institute for Social and Economic Studies (SALISES), UWI, Mona.

Mrs. Joan Swaby, former Executive Secretary of the Commonwealth Library Association (COMLA) and lecturer at Church's Teachers College, Mandeville.

Mr. Ken Ingram, former University Librarian, and outstanding bibliographer for the Caribbean region.

Mrs. Amy Robertson, former Documentalist at the UWI School of Education, Mona and Regional Librarian with responsibility for school libraries at the Jamaica Library Service.

■ May their souls rest in peace.



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*The librarian must be the librarian militant before he can be the librarian triumphant.*

*- [Melvil Dewey](#)*

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Quote for the Week (From BrainyQuote.com)

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### SALALM LIII ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2008

**Place:** New Orleans, LA,

**Time:** May 30-June 3, 2008

Further details at <http://lal.tulane.edu/salalm53/index.htm>

### ACURIL ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2008

**Place:** Rose Hall Resort & Country Club, in Montego Bay, Jamaica

**Time:** June 1-7, 2008

Further information, see <http://www.nlj.org.jm/> or [http://www.nlj.org.jm/acuril/Registration\\_Form08.pdf](http://www.nlj.org.jm/acuril/Registration_Form08.pdf)

### SLA ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2008

**Place:** Seattle, WA, USA,

**Time:** June 15 - 18, 2008.

For further details, see:

<http://www.sla.org/content/Events/conference/ac2008/index.cfm>

### ALA ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2008

**PLACE:**

**Time:** June 26-July 2, 2008

<http://www.ala.org/ala/eventsandconferencesb/annual/2008a/home.htm>

### IASL ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2008

**Place:** University of California at Berkeley, California, USA,

**Time:** August 3-6, 2008

For further details, see: <http://www.iasl-online.org/events/conf/2008/index.htm>

### IFLA General Conference 2008

**Place:** Québec, Canada

**Time:** August 10-14, 2008

74th IFLA General Conference

For further details, see: <http://www.iasl-online.org/events/conf/2008/index.htm>



## **Programmes Currently Offered**

The Department offers four degree programmes as follows:

**B.A. (Library & Information Studies)** - a three undergraduate degree for those who meet the normal university matriculation requirements. (Can be done over four years with the first two years as part-time)

**B. Ed. (School Librarianship)** – a two year degree offered in collaboration with the Department of Education for persons who already have a teachers college diploma and want to become school librarians. It can only be done full-time.

**Master in Library & Information Studies** – an 18 month degree aimed at persons with an undergraduate degree in any discipline and need not have any previous library experience. (Also available part-time)

**Master of Arts Library and Information Studies** – a 12 month degree for persons possessing an undergraduate degree in Library and Information Studies. (Also available part-time)

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