DEPARTMENT OF LIBRARY AND INFORMATION STUDIES

Professor Fay Durrant, MLS *Syracuse,* **BLS** *Toronto,* **BA Spanish Hons** *UWI* **– Head of Department**

WORK OF THE DEPARTMENT

Mission of the Department

"to provide university-level professional education for librarians and other information professionals of the English-speaking Caribbean."

*D*uring this year the Department has sought to: enhance the quality of its offering and its operations; introduce the first two courses of a programme in records management upgrade its physical facility and improve the facilities for the students

Quality Assurance Review

With a view to enhancing the quality of the offering and operations, the Department collaborated with the Quality Assurance Unit in the implementation of a Quality Assurance Review which took place between November 15-18, 2004.

The review team was composed of:

Prof. Joanne Gard Marshall, Chair, Distinguished Alumni Professor School of Information and Library Service, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
Dr. Margaret Rouse-Jones, University Librarian/Campus Librarian, The Campus Libraries, The University of the West Indies, St. Augustine, Trinidad and Tobago

Mrs. Winsome Hudson, National Librarian, National Library of Jamaica

Meetings were held with students, teaching and administrative staff, some graduates and employers.

Students were found by the review team to be enthusiastic and the courses challenging on the whole. The assessment methods used for courses were found to be varied enough to give students a range of experiences, to encourage them to participate in class discussions, and to develop their own ideas in projects and other assignments.

The report also indicated that the staff resources are too stretched to permit all the teaching, research supervision and research that is required of the teaching staff. The workload of six to seven courses per academic year was also identified as having a negative impact on the time available for research. At least one additional teaching staff position was recommended to permit the recommendations to be implemented.

Employers who participated in the review, were mainly from the corporate sector. They expressed satisfaction with the performance of our graduates, and indicated that in addition to qualifications in librarianship, and the capability in using ICT applications, the ability to define relevant records management policies and to organize and manage the organization's records was an important competence. They all suggested that further development of a programme in records management is

necessary.

Major Recommendations of the Quality Assurance Review Team:

The Review Team recommended inter alia:

Combining of the MALIS and the MLIS into a single MLIS programme with additional pre-requisites for undergraduate courses as appropriate for individual students.

Increasing the proportion of students from the other Caribbean countries
Improving the degree completion or throughput rates particularly at the Masters level.

Developing a PhD programme in selected areas of relevance

Developing a strategic plan for the Department

Identifying and implementing pre-requisites in terms of computer literacy so that the course teaching on ICTs can be dedicated to more advanced library computer applications.

Curriculum Review

The Department undertook its annual curriculum review in June and staff proposed adjustments to courses as a result of their experience in teaching, advances in the discipline, and recommendations of the Quality Assurance Review.

Teaching staff benefited from two sessions organized by the Instructional Development Unit (IDU). In the first Dr. Beryl Allen, Head of the IDU provided guidance in incorporating active learning techniques into the teaching process. In another session Miss Meta Bogle, consultant to the IDU, provided guidance on developing learning objectives. The learning objectives have been incorporated into the revised course outlines.

Teaching and administrative staff participated in training in the use of the Virtual Learning Environment (ourvle) as the basis for preparing and mounting online courses.

Main Targets 2005/2006 and onwards

The following directions result from the recommendations of the Review Team, and other areas identified by the Department from the UWI report on strategic transformation.

Regional Advisory Committee 2005

The Department supports the recommendation on strategic repositioning for an advisory committee. Given the regional nature of the mandate the committee will include representatives from each country in the English-speaking Caribbean. Electronic communication will be used to facilitate ongoing discussion.

Programme in Records Management 2006

The continued development of this programme will seek support from the UWI and from CIDA for further development of the course components into a programme, and for the expansion of the offering outside of Jamaica.

PhD programme 2006

The establishment of a PhD programme is important for the development of the research capacity of the staff and students of the department. The Department will therefore begin the process of establishing a PhD programme during the new academic year. The Department will also seek assistance from other universities for the development of the research component of a research

paper.

Formalizing Field 2005

Fieldwork is an important component of the programmes of the Department. Students work for three months in a library to fulfill the departmental requirement. The Department has recognized the value of including the Fieldwork programme as a credit component of the course. This will be included in the review of courses which has begun and will continue during the academic year 2005/2006.

Developing an Information Literacy Project 2006

The Department proposes to develop a project for promoting and teaching information literacy. This would include the development of a package which can be tested initially by students in the DLIS and subsequently throughout the university.

Physical Facility Re-design of the Library and Information Resource Centre 2005

The architect's design for improving the facility has been commissioned and completed. The planned modifications are to be undertaken during the academic year. This is being done with a view to demonstrating best practices in library layout and service to the students and staff.

Overall Teaching Achievement

	Mean Semester 1	Mean Semester 2
Lecturers	4.4	4.4
Courses	4.1	4

Number of academic staff members: 1 Professor, 2 Senior Lecturers, 2 Lecturers, 1 Research Fellow, 1 Librarian, 12 Part-time lecturers.

PAPERS PRESENTED

Professor Fay Durrant

. • 'Conventional Media and New ICTs with special reference to the Caribbean'. Regional Seminar on the Role of Information and Communication Tools for Implementation of Food and Nutrition Security Plans in the Caribbean, Belize City, Belize, March 14 -18, 2005.
. • "Proposal writing" Workshop on Preservation organized by the UWI Main Library and the Department of Library and Information Studies, March 20 -21, 2005.
. • "Factors influencing access to information in the Caribbean." XXXV Conference of the Association of Caribbean University Research and Institutional Libraries (ACURIL) Trois Ilets, Martinique, June 5 -11, 2005.
. • "Digitization for access to cultural assets." ICT4D Jamaica Regional Workshop on Digitization of Caribbean Cultural Heritage, Kingston, Jamaica, July 18 -22, 2005.
. • "The World Wide Web enhancing e-government in the Caribbean." World Library and Information Congress: 71st IFLA General Conference and Council Libraries – A voyage of discovery, August 14 -18, 2005, Oslo, Norway.

Cherrell Shelley-Robinson

. • "Finding a place in the Sun: Migration and the Search for Identity in Caribbean Literature for Young People." International Board for Books for Young People (IBBY) Conference, Cape Town, South Africa, September 4 -11, 2004.

. • "Islands in the Sun: Perspectives and Issues on Caribbean Literature for Children." Birmingham Library Theatre, Birmingham, England, November 4, 2004

. • "Indigenous Literature for Caribbean Children." Aspire College, Birmingham, England, November 5, 2004.

. • "Caribbean Children's Literature – Reading Myself." Independent Schools Annual Conference, Jamaica, April 19 22, 2005.

Ramnauth Sookraj

. • "Using IT to enhance Faculty/Librarian collaboration," College Libraries Information Network (COLINET) Symposium, Mandeville, Manchester, February 2005.

. • "Multimedia training for Caribbean Librarians – cultural imperative." XXXV Conference of the Association of Caribbean University Research and Institutional Libraries (ACURIL) Trois Ilets, Martinique, June 5 -11, 2005.

. • "Preservation through Digitization," The Workshop on Preservation, organized by the UWI Main Library and the Department of Library and Information Studies, March 20 21, 2005.

Paulette Stewart

• "The School, it's Value and Function within the School Community." Jamaica Library Service Symposium on School Librarianship. Kingston, Port Antonio, Black River and Montego Bay, February to March, 2005.

Andrea Robins

• Poster Session on the Department of Library and Information Studies. XXXV Conference of the Association of Caribbean University Research and Institutional Libraries (ACURIL) Trios Ilets, Martinique, June 5 -11, 2005.

PUBLICATIONS

Professor Fay Durrant

* Library Software Published In Renwick, Sharmin and Jaitree Kochlar eds. Electronic Information Resources in the Caribbean: Trends and Issues. Proceedings of the ACURIL XXXV Conference, Port of Spain, 2004 p. 29-34.

Refereed Journal

Cherrell Shelley-Robinson

* "Finding a place in the sun: the immigrant experience in Caribbean Youth Literature." In: *Children and Libraries* 3 (1) 2005, 14 -20, 62.

Ownali Mohamedali

* Adapting to Changes: "DLIS Experience in the Caribbean." *Journal of Education for Library and Information Science* 45 (2) Spring 2004, 98 -110.

INCOME GENERATION

CIDA project on Access to Information and Records Management $42,000 (Canadian)

The project was implemented with the offering of two courses in Semester II which were taught by Canadian professors.

LS38A Records Management: principles and practice – The undergraduate course was taught over the Internet by two adjunct faculty Mr. John McDonald and Mrs. Carole Compton-Smith, who were identified by Prof. Wendy Duff of the University of Toronto. The course was offered using the ***Intrafinity e-learning system***. Lessons were posted each week, and chat sessions facilitated discussion between the instructors and the students.

LS67C Electronic Records Management used a combination of videoconferencing and face to face techniques. The UWI students met in a virtual class with students from the University of Toronto and from the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor. In one session on Access to Information the Director of the Jamaican Access to Information Unit gave a presentation on the local situation to the combined class. This was considered to be very valuable.

PUBLIC SERVICE Professor Fay Durrant

.– President, Library and Information Association of Jamaica (LIAJA)
.– Chair, Jamaica National Commission for UNESCO Information for All Committee
.– Member, Jamaica's Preparatory Committee for the World Summit on the Information Society
.– Member, Jamaica Library Service Board of Management
.– Member, National Library of Jamaica Board of Management
.– Member, Jamaica Sustainable Development Network Board of Directors

Cherrell Shelley-Robinson

.– Member, International Association of School Librarianship
.– Member, Institute of Jamaica Junior Centre Committee

CATEGORIES OF STUDENTS

Undergradaute Degrees granted

Registration 2004/2005			
	Full-time	**Part-time**	**Total**
BA (LIS) Majors	68	57	134
BEd School Librarianship	22	0	22
TOTAL			156

Undergraduates

BA Library Studies

First Class 9 Upper Second 15 Lower Second 7 Pass 5
TOTAL 36

BEd (School Librarianship)

First Class 1 Upper Second 3 Lower Second 10 Pass 2
TOTAL 16

Registration 2004/2005			
	Full-time	**Part-time**	**Total**
MA Library & Information Studies	5	26	31
MLIS	11	26	37
MPhil		1	1
TOTAL			69

Degrees Granted

1 with Distinction

MALIS	10
MLIS	13
TOTAL	**23**

Postgraudate

Prizes Awarded Year I – Alumni Prize for Best Grade Londa Brown Year II – COMLA Prize for Best Second Year Student Monique Forgie Nicholas Graham

Dorothy Collings Prize for Best Grade Undergraduate – Kishma

Simpson Postgraduate – Michelle Gill

Amy Robertson Prize – Best BEd Graduating Student Michelle Wiggins Daphne Douglas Prize for Personal & Professional Development Gwendolyn Morris