

## DEPARTMENT OF LIBRARY AND INFORMATION STUDIES

Prof. Fay Durrant, MLS Syracuse, BLS Toronto, BA Spanish (Hons)  
UWI – Head of Department

### WORK OF THE DEPARTMENT

Over the academic year under review, the Department has continued to pursue the targets set by doing the following:

The active promotion of information literacy, an essential set of information handling and critical learning skills, for students at all levels of the education system, employees and the general public at large in order for them to function effectively in our modern information and technological society.



- The on-going review of the curriculum leading to the revision of several courses as well as the compulsory fieldwork component at both the undergraduate and graduate levels.
- The re-design and refurbishing of the department and the library. This brought the library more in line with best practice for greater efficiency and created a more pleasing work environment
- The presentation of several papers at conferences/ seminars along with the appearance of articles or chapters in local and international publications
- The provision of several curriculum enrichment and outreach activities, including a very successful one week continuing education workshop for senior library managers from the Caribbean

### **Staff Activities and Research**

Professor Durrant resumed work and headship of the Department in January 2007 after one year's leave on Mona a Research Fellowship. Her research covered "Factors influencing access to information in the Caribbean".

In January 2007 Dr. Cherrell Shelley-Robinson was chosen as the distinguished librarian of the year by LIAJA and in June she also received an award from the Library & Information Association of Jamaica Schools Section for providing leadership in the position of its Chairman for many years. She was also appointed Chair of the National Information Literacy Initiative aimed at sensitizing the government and other policy-makers about the importance of information literacy and developing programmes and strategies for helping the country achieve an acceptable rate of information literacy among all sectors of the population.

Mr. Ownali Mohamedali proceeded on a yearlong Mona Research Fellowship for 2006/7 in order to carry out research on "Education and Information Resources and Services for the Hearing and Visually Impaired in the Caribbean". In the process of carrying out his research he visited institutions, organizations and societies for the disabled in Jamaica, Barbados and Trinidad and Tobago. His leave has been further extended until January 31, 2008 to allow him to complete his research.

Mrs. Barbara Gordon returned from a year's sabbatical in August 2006. During her leave she conducted research into "Acceptable Internet Use Policies in School and Public Libraries."

Mr. Ramnauth Sookraj was granted sabbatical leave for the 2007/8 academic year during which he will be pursuing research on the relevance and usefulness of the Department's multimedia resources courses to our graduates in the workplace; the application of information technology to public libraries in Guyana; and the provision of access by libraries to agricultural information for farmers.

Staff members were exposed to training on "Strategies for generating ideas" and how to use Turnitin, the plagiarism software.

Mrs. B. Gordon, Mrs. Paulette Stewart and Dr. Shelley-Robinson played key roles in the national forum on school libraries convened in

November 2006 by the Library & Information Association of Jamaica to sensitize stakeholders re the vital role of the library in the education transformation process.

As a means of publicizing research done and making it of practical benefit to the wider society, staff members are in the process of developing two databases. Mr. Mohamedali is constructing a database of publications, organizations, institutions and societies concerned with the Disabled to be put on the Department's website for consultation and Dr. Shelley-Robinson is creating a website on Caribbean Children's literature for scholars, librarians, students and other interested persons.

### **Curriculum Review**

In keeping with the University's strategic plan which requires Departments to revise at least 25% of their courses annually, the Department has started the process with a review of 85% of the undergraduate and graduate courses which have been revised in keeping with developments in the particular subject and new pedagogic approaches. The next step is a comprehensive review of all aspects of each of the four degree programmes including the accompanying Departmental regulations to make sure they reflect current trends and institutional goals and directives in terms of contents, structure and teaching approaches. In an attempt to make the programme more responsive to the needs of student, the Department decided to start most of its courses for the Masters later in the evenings since the majority of the students work and study.

### **Formalizing Fieldwork**

The Department and the professional community within the region and abroad continue to partner in the training of our students by hosting them for their fieldwork attachments. Eighty eight students were placed this academic year in libraries in the Caribbean, United States and Canada during the summer. Fieldwork experience forms an integral part of the Department's programme from its inception and continues to provide valuable work experience and professional mentoring for our students.

After much thought and discussion, the fieldwork programme has been reviewed in response to dialogue with the students re its nature, duration, costs and educational benefits as well as the need for it to appear as part of the student's academic record. While the majority of

them consider fieldwork to be valuable in preparing them professionally for the world of work, they have asked for consideration to be given to these concerns especially the time factor as many of them are part-time students and experience difficulty in getting time off with pay for twelve weeks. As a result of these concerns and bearing in mind the academic objectives of the programme, revisions were made and the course is now going through the University mechanism for approval.

Once the final approval has been granted a meeting with the host librarians who supervise these students will be held to acquaint them with the changes and the opportunity will also be used to get feedback from them (who are also the main employers of our graduates) about the degree programmes overall and performance of our students in the workplace.

### **Curriculum Enrichment Activities**

The following public lectures were given on:

- “Children and Violence in the Media” by Dr. Gloria Royale, a former librarian and currently the Assistant Vice President Corporate Services of The Urban Development Corporation (UDC)
- “Strategic Directions for the Jamaica Library Service” by Mrs. Pat Roberts, Director General of the Jamaica Library Service
- “Strategic Directions for the National Library of Jamaica” by Mrs. Winsome Hudson, Director of the National Library of Jamaica.
- Big6 TurboTools Information Literacy software for use mainly in academic libraries by Mr. Dave Stevens, a sales representative of COMPANIONCORP, USA.

The students and staff of the Department also benefited very much from the attachment of Ms. Annie Ng, a CUSO volunteer from Canada who worked within the Department for six months during which she helped to design a Caribbean Children’s Literature data- base and set up a demonstration electronic reference service for students and staff, among other things.

### **Information Literacy Thrust**

Continuing with the thrust on Information Literacy, which is one of the core areas of interest to UNESCO, the Department through its staff conducted six seminars across the island on the topic with the main audience being on school and public librarians. In addition to this, Dr. C. Shelley-Robinson was appointed Chairman of the newly established National Information Literacy Initiative Committee and the Department also extended its course offering on Information Literacy to students at Moneague College who are pursuing the special B. Ed. in Literacy Studies offered by the Department of Educational Studies.

A workshop on the topic for students and the wider library profession is being planned during the next academic year with Professor Mike Eisenberg, former Dean of the Information School, University of Washington as the keynote speaker and main presenter. He is also the co-developer of the Big6, one of the most universally well-known information literacy models used in academic circles.

#### **Online Access to Courses**

In response to the need to extend course offerings to the wider Caribbean and the UWI-12, especially since the Library & Information Science programme is offered only at Mona, the Department has given serious thought to also delivering its programmes online. The conversion of current courses to the online mode is challenging given the small size of the staff and so this will have to be done on a gradual basis starting with the first year undergraduate courses. At the moment only one course is being offered online in addition to which Professor Fay Durrant, in collaboration with UWIDEC, will also be coordinating a blog course on e-government.

#### **Extending the Archives and Records Management Programme**

CIDA's response to our request for an extension of funding for the Archives and Records Management programme was that they could not cover the same project again, but were more inclined to support those dealing with information governance. In order to effectively add this academic stream of the information profession to our offerings, we definitely need at least one more staff member. We were not successful in our request to the Vacancies Committee for this additional post, have now re-submitted the request with the hope of a positive response because this is a growing area in the light of the passing of Access to Information legislation in many countries of the region which has

increased the demand for more records and information managers to establish effective access mechanisms and services.

### **Departmental Outreach**

To continue to provide outreach services for library development within the Caribbean, the Department conducted a one week workshop on Trends and Developments in Caribbean Libraries from June 25-29, 2007. Twenty-nine senior library directors from seven countries, including Jamaica, attended and brought their own peculiar insights and experiences to bear on the learning experience while updating themselves on new developments in the field. Most of the feedback was positive and the Department intends to make this type of continuing education workshop a regular annual or biennial offering.

The second part of the training of library personnel in the British Virgin Islands that was planned for summer 2007 had to be postponed due to unforeseen problems in the host country and so it is now scheduled to take place during summer 2008.

### **Income Generation**

The sum of J\$268,360.00 was realized after clearing expenses from the Workshop on Trends and Developments in Caribbean Librarianship put on by the Department in June.

### **Physical facilities**

During the summer some areas of the Department were re-designed for better work flow for greater efficiency and also to improve the comfort of the staff and students. Other general renovations were done to make the building more attractive and user-friendly.

### **Teaching Achievements**

	Mean Semester 1	Mean Semester 2
Lecturers	4.4	4.2
Courses	4.4	4.0

Number of academic staff members: 1 Professor, 2 Senior lecturers, 2 lecturers, 1 librarian, 13 part-time lecturers.

### **Some Targets for 2007/2008**

The Department plans to do the following, among other things during the next academic year: the continued revision of the remaining 15% of undergraduate and graduate courses; to revise the structure and Departmental regulations for the five degree programmes currently being offered and to start the process of converting some of our courses to the online mode. In terms of outreach, a forum with supervisors will be organized to introduce the revised fieldwork programme and to gain feedback from the supervising librarians (who are also some of the major employers of our graduates) about the programme overall as well as the interns' performance while on assignment. An online newsletter will also be established to keep alumni, students, librarians and other stakeholders within and outside the region informed of the Department's activities. Opportunities for continuing education will also be provided for the profession in the form of short courses, seminars and workshops based on requests received from participants in the Trends and Development workshop held this year.

### **PAPERS PRESENTED**

Hyacinth Brown

- "Cataloguing, Metadata and Digital Libraries" DLIS/UWI Main Library Workshop on Trends and Developments in Caribbean Libraries, June 2007.

Fay Durrant

- "Strategies for increasing places of community access to Information and Communication Technologies" UNESCO Thematic Debate, Paris September 2006.
- "ATI / FOIA – Educating and publicizing". CPA/CIDA Workshop for Caribbean Parliamentarians on Freedom of Information Implementation in the Caribbean, November – December 2006, Roseau, Dominica.
- "Culture, Content and Context: Vital Issues in Ensuring Information Literacy and Effective e-Citizenship" Closing Plenary Presentation Workshop on Instruction in Library Use (WILU 07) May 2007.

Ownali Mohamedali

- “Marketing of Caribbean Library and Information Services”  
Joint DLIS Workshop on Trends and Development in  
Caribbean Libraries, June 2007.

Cherrell Shelley-Robinson

- “Literature for Caribbean Children: research findings.”  
Caribbean Children’s Literature, Birmingham Public Library,  
England, July 2007.
- “Cultural Distortion in Social Studies Books for Caribbean  
Children.” Caribbean Children’s Literature, Peckham Public  
Library, London, July 2007.
- “Information Literacy: Definition, Concept and Process.”  
DLIS/UWI Main Library Mona Workshop on Trends and  
Development in Caribbean Libraries, June 2007.

Ramnauth Sookraj

- “Use of Multimedia in Caribbean Libraries.” DLIS/UWI Main  
Library Workshop on Trends and Developments in Caribbean  
Libraries June 2007.

## **PUBLICATIONS**

### **Peer Reviewed**

Fay Durrant

- \* “The World Wide Web Enhancing E-government in the  
Caribbean: and assessment of government portals or gateway  
websites.” IFLA Journal 32:3 (2006): 240-250.
- \* “The future of Libraries and Implications for the Caribbean.”  
Presented to the Library and Information Association of  
Trinidad and Tobago (LATT), November 2006  
[http://eprints.rclis.org/view/people/Durrant,\\_Fay.html](http://eprints.rclis.org/view/people/Durrant,_Fay.html)
- \* “Openness, Access to Government Information and  
Caribbean Governance.” Chapter in: Freedom of  
Information: the People’s Right ed. by Nirmala Khapekar  
Institute of Chartered Financial Analysts of India (ICFAI)  
University Press, 2007, 206-220.

Barbara Gordon



- \* “Internet access management in Jamaican public libraries: the role of policy”. Chapter in Peltier-Davis, Cheryl and Shamin Renwick. Caribbean libraries in the 21st century: changes, challenges, and choices. New Jersey: Information Today, 2007, 189-200.

Cherrell Shelley-Robinson

- \* “School Libraries in the Caribbean, a Jamaican case study”, Chapter in Peltier-Davis, Cheryl and Shamin Renwick. Caribbean libraries in the 21st century: changes, challenges, and choices. New Jersey: Information Today, 2007, 95-118.

#### **Non-Peer Reviewed**

Cherrell Shelley-Robinson

- \* “Children’s Literature in the English-speaking Caribbean” Figuero, D. H. ed. Encyclopedia of Caribbean Literature. Westport: Greenwood Press, 2006, 165-167.

#### **PUBLIC SERVICE**

Prof. Fay Durrant

- Member, Jamaica Library Board
- Member, Board of Management National Library of Jamaica
- Member, Management Board of the Jamaica Sustainable Development Network
- Member, Jamaica Advisory Committee on the National Information System
- Member, Executive Committee, Library and Information Association of Jamaica (LIAJA)
- Member, Information Technology Working Party, Library and Information Association of Jamaica (LIAJA)
- Member, Jamaican National Commission (JNC) for UNESCO
- Chair, JNC Information Committee
- Vice President, UNESCO Intergovernmental Council of the Information for all Programmes
- Member, Caribbean Information Action Group (CARINFO)

Mr. Ownali Mohamedali

- Member, Library and Information Association of Jamaica (LIAJA)
- Member, Executive Committee Library and Information Association of Jamaica (LIAJA)
- Member, Steering Committee for the Caribbean Digital Audio Collection

Dr. Cherrell Shelley-Robinson

- Member, International Association of School Librarianship
- Member, Library & Information Association of Jamaica
- Member, Institute of Jamaica Junior Centre Planning Committee
- Life Member, Jamaica Reading Association
- Judge, Jamaica National Book Development Council Literary Competition
- Chairman, National Initiative on Information Literacy

Mrs. Barbara Gordon

- Member, Research & Publication Working Party, Library and Information Association of Jamaica
- Member, Jamaica Society of Scientists & Technologists
- Member, Collection Development & Management Committee, National Library of Jamaica
- Member, Gloria Baker Scholarship Award Committee

Mrs. Hyacinth Brown

- Member, Library & Information Association of Jamaica
- Member, Jamaica Baptist Historical Society

Ramnauth Sookraj

- Library and Information Association of Jamaica

## **INFORMATION ON STUDENTS**

### **Undergraduate**

#### **Students Registered**

<b>PROGRAMME</b>	<b>Full-time</b>	<b>Part-time</b>	<b>Total</b>
BA Library & Information Studies	71	78	149
BEd School Librarianship	15	0	15
<b>Total</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>164</b>

### **Degrees Granted**

#### **BA Library & Information Studies**

First Class	7
Upper Second	8
Lower Second	6
Pass	3
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>24</b>

#### BEd School Librarianship

First Class	2
Upper Second	5
Lower Second	0
Pass	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>7</b>

### **Postgraduate**

#### **Degrees Granted**

MALIS 1; MLIS 9

**TOTAL 10**

#### **Students Registered**

<b>PROGRAMME</b>	<b>Full-time</b>	<b>Part-time</b>	<b>Total</b>
MA Library & Information Studies	0	25	25
Master in Lib. & Info. Studies	7	38	45
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>70</b>

#### **Prizes Awarded**

Year 1 Alumni Prize for Best Grade	– Nichelle Denoon
Year 11 COMLA Prize for Best Grade	– Claudette Whyte
Dorothy Collings Award for Best Undergraduate Performance	– Ketanya Laing

Dorothy Collings Award for Best Postgraduate Performance	– Christina Stewart
Amy Robertson Prize for Best BEd Graduating Student	– Karlene Segre
Daphne Douglas Prize for Personal and Professional Development	– Kaydene Duffus