

DEPARTMENT OF LIBRARY AND INFORMATION STUDIES

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WORK OF THE DEPARTMENT



During the academic year 2007/2008 the Department engaged in a number of activities to contribute to the implementation of the UWI Strategic Plan for 2007-2012.

STRATEGIC PLAN

In keeping with the University's overall strategic plan and the internal quality audit review which was done in October 2007, the Department has developed its own plan for the next five years. Some of the main projections relate to the revision of the curriculum, the gradual conversion of our programme to an online mode in order to expand our offerings to persons from other Caribbean territories; the seeking of accreditation from the American Library Association, and the need to develop a programme in Archives and Records Management and a PhD programme in response to student demand.

Teaching and Learning

Curriculum Review

The review of the curriculum has been ongoing throughout the year with the aim of reaching a target of having twenty-five percent of the Department's courses reviewed each year. All courses were reviewed at the annual staff retreat, and eight were revised. A new course on collection development has been prepared and will be offered in the next academic year.

The fieldwork component of the BA Library and Information Studies (Major), BEd (School Librarianship), and Masters in Library and Information Studies (MLIS) programmes was evaluated and restructured with a view to documenting more clearly the method of evaluation and assigning credits for these courses. The following courses have therefore been incorporated into the programmes for students entering the programmes in the academic year 2008/2009:

Undergraduate programmes: LIBS2801 Internship in Library and Information Studies

MLIS programme: LIBS6904 Practicum in Library and Information Studies

The Department also worked with the Department of Education to offer two courses online as part of the BEd programme. The courses are LIBS3207 – Literature for Children and Young Adults and LIBS3602 – Information Literacy: Concept and Process.

Articulation of Courses – Excelsior Community College Associate Degree in Library Studies

The Department has been in dialogue with the Community College about the matter and it has made recommendations for bringing the College courses up to the standard of those being offered by the Department. The matter of quality control was also raised with some suggestions forwarded as to how this could be handled. Our position has been communicated to the UWI Tertiary Level Institutions Unit responsible for articulation arrangements and a response is being awaited.

Quality Assurance

The recommendation to seek accreditation from the American Library Association (ALA) to make our students more marketable globally and to make their entry into overseas institutions easier, is being pursued. Initial contact has been made with the Accreditation Committee and we are awaiting a response. Accreditation by the ALA requires an initial self study of the Department similar to the UWI Quality Assurance self study and if the response is positive we will then be ready to take the necessary steps in this direction.

Curriculum Enrichment Activities

Prof. Michael Eisenberg, Dean Emeritus and Professor of the Information School, University of Washington, Seattle, was the special guest of the Department in November 2007. His visit included a lecture on the importance of citizens being literate in a digital environment and a workshop on the Big6 Model for Information Literacy. Both events were very well received.

On January 23rd the Department in collaboration with the Main Library also hosted Prof. Margaret Rouse Jones, University Librarian, who presented a repeat of her Inaugural Professorial Lecture “Unveiling Hidden Treasures: an Exploration of our Caribbean Heritage Materials.” The lecture which was based on exciting new discoveries from her historical research was originally given on the St Augustine Campus.

RESEARCH AND INNOVATION

Staff Research

Mr. Ownali Mohamedali who was granted an extension of his Mona Research Fellowship was able to continue his research for a second academic year. This Fellowship enabled him to do a survey and critical evaluation of Education and Information Resources and Services for the Hearing and Visually Impaired in the Caribbean.

Mr. Ramnauth Sookraj continues on Sabbatical Leave until the end of December 2008. He is 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.

The Department played an active role in the Thirty Ninth Conference of the Association of Caribbean University, Research and Institutional Libraries (ACURIL) which was held in Montego Bay, from June 1-6. Staff and students have been undertaking research on Internet access policies and social networking. Some of this work on Libraries, Social Networking and Information Literacy, was presented to the ACURIL Conference.

The Department mounted a panel presentation with the topics: *Online Social Networking and Libraries* - Professor Fay Durrant; *Libraries, Facebook and the Information Age*, - Mark-Shane Scale; *Managing Internet Access in Jamaican School Libraries*, Barbara A. Gordon; *Information Literacy and Social Networking in the Information Age*, Dr. Cherrell Shelley-Robinson.

Staff

Mr. Ownali Mohamedali, Senior Lecturer in the Department, since 1987, retired with effect from September 2008 and returned home to Tanzania.

Mr. Mark-Shane Scale joined the staff as Departmental Librarian in November to replace Miss Andrea Robins who resigned.

Serious consideration must be given to the matter of staffing as there are only five full-time members of staff and in order to make this transition there would be the need for more academic personnel.

Strengthening Regionality

Dr. Cherrell Shelley-Robinson while undertaking research on Caribbean Children's Literature, visited Belize and held a workshop on Information Literacy for Staff of the Belize National Library Service, as well as the Bahamas where she conducted workshops for staff of the Bahamas National Library Service School Library and for the Bahamas School Library Service.

The Department in response to a request submitted by the UWI School of Continuing Studies, had over the past three years provided advice on training directions for the staff of the BVI Public Library Service. This summer's session which was conducted by Ms. Rosemarie Runcie of the Main Library has concluded the first phase of the programme as initially outlined by Mrs. Barbara Gordon who made the initial consultation.

International Partnerships

The Department was identified by Unesco as the institution to organize and host a regional workshop as part of the Training of Trainers in Information Literacy Project. The workshop was held in Montego Bay at the School of Continuing Studies, Western Jamaica and ran from May 29 to June 1. The workshop enabled the participants to prepare prototypes of their information literacy programmes for implementation

in their institutions. Twenty five librarians, mainly graduates of DLIS from Jamaica and Trinidad participated in the workshop.

International Federation of Library Associations (IFLA)

The Department was also invited to collaborate with the Main Library in mounting the IFLA /LAC Workshop for Caribbean Public Librarians. This workshop which took place from June 1-6 was held in Montego Bay and in Kingston was sponsored by the Latin American and Caribbean Section of IFLA and the Library and Information Association of Jamaica (LIAJA). Twelve public librarians from nine Caribbean countries participated in the sessions.

Improving the Visibility of the Department

The Department launched its online newsletter – **DLIS Connect** in February. This is emailed to over 4000 contacts and is aimed at keeping our stakeholders, graduates, students and other interested persons informed about our activities.

Publishing of articles featuring the Department in the local newspaper – two such articles appeared in the **Jamaica Observer** in December 2007 and March 2008, and one in the Daily Gleaner April 30, 2008.

60th Anniversary Commemoration Honouree

Professor Emerita Daphne Douglas was chosen as the honouree for this year's 60th Anniversary Commemoration Week Celebrations. This we regard as a signal honour to the Department and the library and information profession as a whole.

Customer Service Survey

The Department came out on top (77.2%) for the whole Mona Campus for the unobtrusive Customer Service Survey conducted from September – October 2007.

Transitions

The Department and the library and information fraternity saw the closing of an era with the passing of Mr. Ken Ingram, Caribbean bibliographer and former University librarian. Others of the profession who made the transition during the last year include Mrs. Audrey Chambers from SALISES, Mrs. Joan Swaby, former Executive Secretary

of the Commonwealth Library Association, and Miss Elizabeth Williams, University Archivist.

TARGETS FOR 2008/2009

- Study on the demand for an archives and records management programme expanding on the two courses currently offered at the undergraduate and postgraduate levels.
- Expand the experience of students and staff through interaction with centres on other campuses and in the UWI - 12
- Determine the feasibility of seeking accreditation by the American Library Association.
- Establish an Advisory Committee for the Department

Teaching Achievement of the Department

	Mean Semester 1	Mean Semester 2
Lectures	4.5	4.2
Courses	4.2	4.1
Note: Two members of staff received assessments of 4.8		

Number of academic staff and Per capita publications

Professor	1
Senior Lecturers	2
Lecturers	2
Librarian	1
Part-time Lecturers	13

PAPERS PRESENTED

Dr. Cherrell Shelley-Robinson

- Learning How to Learn: Information Literacy and the Curriculum, UWI Dept. of Educational Studies Literacy Symposium, March 13, 2008.

- Information Literacy: Definition Concept and Process, Unesco Information Literacy Workshop, May 30, 2008.
- Information Literacy Skills for Social Networking, ACURIL Conference, Montego Bay, June 1, 2008.
- Information Literacy: Needs Assessment, IFLA/LAC Seminar for Caribbean Public Librarians, June 12, 2008

Professor Fay Durrant

- The Digital Difference of Online Social Networking in the Caribbean, IFLA Social Science Libraries Section Pre-Conference, University of Toronto, Faculty of Information Studies, Toronto, August 5-7, 2008.

Mr. Mark-Shane Scale

- Libraries, Facebook and the Information Age, ACURIL Conference, Montego Bay, June 1-6, 2008.
- Facebook: A Friend for Libraries, Library and Information Association of Jamaica (LIAJA) Regular Meeting, November 2007.

Mr. David Drysdale

- The Jamaica Library Service: Re-positioned and Re-branded – A WOW Library for the 21st Century, IFLA World Library and Information Congress, Durban, South Africa, August 19-23, 2007
- Creating Multimedia Presentations for Public Libraries, IFLA/LAC Seminar, Dept. of Library and Information Studies, UWI, Mona, June 10, 2008.

PUBLICATIONS

Prof. Fay Durrant

- * 'E-government in the Caribbean and the implications for libraries' Chapter in Lynden, Irina and Jane Wu, eds. Best Practices in Government Information: A Global Perspective. K. G. Saur, Munich, 2008

PUBLIC SERVICE

Dr. Cherrell Shelley-Robinson

- Member, International Association of School Librarianship (IASL)
- Member, Library and Information Association of Jamaica (LIAJA)
- Life Member, Jamaica Reading Association
- Judge, Jamaica National Book Development Council Literary Competition
- Chairperson, Jamaica Library Service Information Literacy Initiative Committee
- Member, Ministry of Education Information Literacy Committee

Prof. Fay Durrant

- Member, Jamaica Library Board
- Member, Board of Management, National Library of Jamaica (NLJ)
- Member, Jamaica Advisory Committee on the National Information System (ACNIS)
- Member, Jamaica National Commission for Unesco
- Chair, Information Committee, Jamaica National Commission for Unesco
- Rapporteur, UNECSO Intergovernmental Council of the Information For All Programme.

Mr. Ownali Mohamedali

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

Mrs. Barbara Gordon

- Member, Research and Publication Working Party, Library and Information Association of Jamaica
- Member, Jamaica Society of Scientists and Technologists

- Member, Collection Development and Management Committee, National Library of Jamaica (NLJ)
- Member, Gloria Baker Scholarship Award Committee

Mrs. Hyacinth Brown

- Member, Library and Information Association of Jamaica (LIAJA)
- Member, Jamaica Baptist Historical Society

Mr. Ramnauth Sookraj

- Member, Library and Information Association of Jamaica (LIAJA)

Mr. David Drysdale

- Member, Local Organizing Committee and Chairman, Hospitality and Protocol Committee, ACURIL Conference 2008
- Member, Board of Directors, Portland Cooperative Credit Union Ltd.

Mr. Mark-Shane Scale

- Executive Member, Library and Information Association of Jamaica (LIAJA)
- Chair, Information Technology Working Party for the Library and Information Association of Jamaica (LIAJA)

INCOME GENERATION

A grant of US\$6,000 was received for Unesco for the mounting of the regional Workshop on Developing Information Literacy Skills and Programmes.

INFORMATION ON STUDENTS 2007/2008

Undergraduates

Number of students enrolled - BA Library and Information Studies

Full Time	Part Time	Total
68	67	135

Number of students enrolled - BEd (School Librarianship)

Full Time	Part Time	Total
17	2	19

Postgraduates

Number of students enrolled - MALIS

Full Time	Part Time	Total
3	24	27

Number of students enrolled - MLIS

Full-Time	Part-time	Total
4	16	20
Total		201

Degrees Granted for the Academic Year 2007/2008

Undergraduates

BA Library and Information Studies

First class	3
Upper Second	7
Lower Second	13
Pass	3
TOTAL	26

BEd (School Librarianship)

First class	3
Upper Second	2
Lower Second	3
TOTAL	8

Postgraduates

MALIS	4
MLIS	4
TOTAL	8

Prizes Awarded

Year I Alumni Prize for Best Grade	—	Carmelita Boothe-Benderson
Year II COMLA Prize for Best Grade	—	Nichelle Denoon
Dorothy Collings Award for Best Undergraduate Performance	—	Marsha-Gay Robinson
Dorothy Collings Award for Best Postgraduate Performance	—	Fayanne Elliott
Amy Robertson Prize for Best BEd Graduating Student	—	Rochelle Smith
Daphne Douglas Prize for Personal and Professional Development	—	Opal Scott