

**SPECIAL
POINTS OF
INTEREST:**

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LIASA EC Committee

From the Director's Office

As this first issue of the 2009 Newsletter goes to press, the Library services are well into the swing of the new semester.

During "O" week, and in the weeks that followed, we have experienced unprecedented numbers of students attending workshops and presentations on how to use the Library and its information resources.

After-hours and weekends also remain busy in the Library as students grapple with assignment and study deadlines.

We are grateful to our staff and postgraduate students who provide services to Library users during extended hours.

As this contribution is being written, sounds of drilling and concrete-pouring are present in the background serving as a reminder that the new building is taking shape rapidly as it reaches its third storey and starts to get the "look and feel" of a library.



Construction work watched over by The [Zoology Building webcam](#)

The refurbishment of the existing basement is almost complete and we expect to re-occupy it towards the end of April.

A Library Building Team, under the expert leadership of Jeanne Berger, is engaged on a daily basis with packing and moving collections, liaising with contractors and keeping a close watch on schedule requirements amid the dust and jackhammers!

Another important initiative currently in progress is the Administrative Review of the Library Services.

The Division is required, every five years, to conduct a self-evaluation of its services which are, in turn, assessed by a Review Panel appointed by the University.

With the new Library Building coming on stream in mid-2010, the Library Services Division is at a critical juncture as new facilities and services will be implemented that currently do not exist e.g.: Information Commons, Subject Librarian Services and Research Commons.

The self-evaluation has been an ideal opportunity for the Library Services Management and staff to reflect on aspects such as the role of a modern academic library, surrounded by born-digital students, within a leading research-intensive university, the challenges posed by the "size-and-shape" strategies of Rhodes University and motivating for resources in a competitive arena.

We trust that you will enjoy the RUL Newsletter, which is our opportunity to share with you, our users, interesting developments and happenings on the Library Services front.

Gwenda Thomas

New LiSLIG EC Committee



Pictured above is the new Committee of the LIASA Special Libraries Interest Group (LiSLIG), Eastern Cape. (L to R) Fiona Still-Drewett, RU Music Librarian (Secretary); Ann Torlesse, Senior Archivist, NELM (Treasurer); Shirley Kabwato: Head, Cory Library (Chairperson); Liz de Wet, Cory Library (Co-opted) Absent: Irene Forbes, St Andrews College; Lenore Schafer, High Court Library. (both Co-opted)

Library Expansion Project

Periodicals are on the move again! Jeanne Berger, Library Expansion Project Manager, brings us up to date.

Packing of the closed holdings periodicals (i.e. titles to which we no longer subscribe) on the Middle and Top Floors was done between 16th and 27th March.

The periodicals have been sent to the South African Institute for Aquatic Biodiversity (SAIAB) Collections Building.

They will be stored, along with the Basement periodicals, until July 2010. Access to the articles in these journals will be via ILL.

The remaining volumes have been shifted up to clear sufficient stacks which can be erected during April in the newly refurbished basement (Level 1) of the new facility.

Library staff worked tirelessly beforehand in checking all the periodicals on these two floors, in order to identify the closed holdings titles.

The exercise has been excellent in sorting out many problems with our holdings, and OPAC records have been corrected.

Confused as to what's now stored where? Read the [Survival Guide for Intrepid Library Users](#) !

Local support for local history matters

Information Services, Cory Library, are helped by Grahamstown initiatives when answering enquires on local history. Sally Schramm reports.

ISAP

The Index to South African periodicals (ISAP) is a subject index of articles in periodicals produced in South Africa, compiled and published by the National Library of South Africa (NLSA). Online entries now date back to 1919. The database is regularly updated by database providers such as NISC (National Inquiry Services Centre), which is situated in Grahamstown. ISAP indexes:

- *Annals* (Grahamstown Historical Society)
- *Coelacanth* (Border Historical Society, East London)
- *Looking Back* (Port Elizabeth Historical Society)

Articles are written by a wide range of authors, from established scholars to

enthusiastic amateur historians. The journals are easy to read, and have been extremely useful in introducing first year students to primary and secondary sources in Cory Library.

RUL CATALOGUING PROJECT: OLD THESES

Vathiswa Nhanha and Nicolene Mkhathali have spent additional hours putting older theses on to the Millennium system. This has revealed a wealth of earlier research, now easily retrieved through the OPAC by the current generation of library users.

Many of the history theses date from the 1950s and 1960s, supervised by Prof Winifred (Winnie) Maxwell. A doyenne of local history research, she considered Cory Library to be the closest thing to a 'seminar library'. Here, her postgraduate students could be given practical training in research techniques, especially in the use of manuscript sources.

Rare Books at SAIAB

Margie Shaw tells us of the Rare Books at SAIAB's Margaret Smith Library.

There are 206 items in SAIAB's rare book collection, which was mostly built up in the 1950s owing to the concerted efforts of J L B Smith. The earliest publication dates back to 1546, but most of the items are from the 18th and 19th centuries.

The literature spans ichthyology and natural history texts relating to a number of regions of Africa, and to countries such as Ceylon, Japan, the British Isles, Malaysia, Scandinavia, the United States and Spain. Authors of note in the collection include Cuvier, Bloch, Bleeker, Boulenger, Day, La Cépède, Willughby and Yarrell. Many volumes contain exquisite illustrations.

The complete collection has been included on the OPAC.

Grahamstown Librarian's forum meets at NELM

Lynne Grant and Ann Torlesse of NELM report back on the latest meeting of the Grahamstown Librarians' Forum

31 intrepid librarians braved the conditions at NELM for the third meeting of the GLF held at the National English Literary Museum (NELM) on 5th March 2009.

After snacks and an introduction by Director Malcolm Hacksley, who spoke fondly of librarians he had known and raised his glass to the current NELM crop, the group was taken on a tour.

As the present NELM quarters - the Priest's House, St Claire's (an old classroom) and the Upper Archives (an old hostel which houses the manuscripts, which the group did not visit due to it being so far and up so many stairs) - does not allow for large groups to be taken on tour, the group was split into three and taken in rotation around the library, press clippings and manuscripts.

This gave them the opportunity to see the cramped quarters which house the collections. This includes shelves which house two rows of books as opposed to one, valuable books being

stored on top of shelves near fluorescent lighting (although there are protective sleeves), almost no space for manuscripts to be sorted and the storage area which currently houses 49 filing cabinets—not to mention the filing cabinets housed in the kitchen opposite the fridge, microwave and card catalogue! These contain information on over 6000 authors. In a year or two there will be no more space for extra filing cabinets.

Relief, however, is on the way. In September 2008 NELM received the very glad news that R95.4 million has been allocated, over the next 5 years, towards the design and construction of a permanent home in Worcester



Got the books! Got the site! Cecilia Blight at the plot where the new NELM quarters will be situated. Cecilia is a former Acting Head of Cory Library.

Street. This will allow a much greater exhibition space, proper research facilities and, most importantly, state-of-the-art storage facilities for the collections.

The librarians had an opportunity to ask questions of Debbie Landman (Library), Marike Beyers (Press Clippings) and Ann Torlesse (Manuscripts).

The usual groups taken around NELM are mostly students, so it was exciting for the NELM staff to compare notes with fellow bibliophiles.

Various questions were asked about NELM's databases and holdings, and the very detailed way in which we catalogue relevant material. Another question was about Hector, the NELM ghost and whether or not we'd be packing him up carefully when we move!

The business part of the meeting dealt with attempts to revive LIASA Eastern Cape and Shirley Kabwato, Chairperson of LiSLIG EC, outlined the group's plans for 2009.

The next meeting will be held at NISC, on a date still to be finalised.

Words from the Dictionary Unit

Sheila Hicks outlines how local libraries are used to verify sources for the Dictionary Unit for South African English.

A Dictionary of South African English on Historical Principles (DSAEHist) was published in 1996 by the Dictionary Unit for South African English (DU). Like the *Oxford English Dictionary (OED)*, DSAEHist is a historical dictionary, and the various senses are handled according to quotation evidence.

As we worked on updates to and digitisation of the dictionary, it became apparent that it would be a good idea to verify quotations against their original sources: this would enable us, amongst other things, to correct transcription errors and to go back to primary, rather

than secondary sources. This is something tackled by *OED* editors in Oxford. At first this seemed an overwhelmingly large task – there are 45,016 unique quotations in the dictionary, and 2 695 cross-referenced quotations! But gradually we've been nibbling away at this, and have now managed to verify over 27 000 quotations – that's slightly over 60%.

Some of the things we've been able to change include correcting or adding authors, page numbers, titles and volume numbers, as well as correcting errors in the quotations themselves and adding additional relevant information.

Some of the quotations were taken from titles in the DU library, but a large number came from the Rhodes Library

(and the Inter-Library Loans service), the Cory Library for Historical Research, and Rhodes departmental libraries such as ILAM, Classics, Education, Ichthyology, Law, Music and Zoology.

Libraries at the National English Literary Museum, as well as the Schönland Herbarium, the Albany Museum, were also consulted.

Google books was another useful resource which wasn't available to the original editors of the dictionary.

Although we've still got some way to go, without the help of the staff in these places, many of whom have gone out of their way to assist with sometimes thorny problems, we wouldn't have been able to get this far.

Donkey-Drawn Mobile Cart Library Services for the Eastern Cape?

Donkey-Drawn Mobile Cart Library Services for the Eastern Cape: bringing libraries to the community! A proposal from Shirley Kabwato.

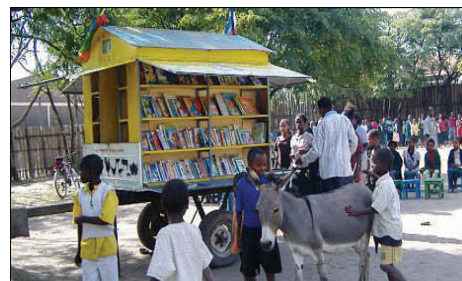
The Eastern Cape is regarded as one of the poorest provinces in South Africa with approximately 63% of the population living in the rural areas. Many rural communities do not have proper road networks hindering their mobility. The limited mobility has forcibly isolated, marginalized and denied the majority of the people access to basic services and development opportunities. Illiteracy levels have remained high: most schools are poorly equipped, under-resourced and access to library services has remained limited or non-existent to most communities.

There are a number of cost effective initiatives that can be implemented to promote and improve literacy levels in remote communities. These can include the provision of mobile library and outreach services despite difficult conditions or scarce resources. Of particular interest will be the introduction of the Donkey—Drawn Mobile Cart Library Services. The Donkey—Drawn Mobile Cart Library Services is a pro-

ject that has already been successfully implemented in Zimbabwe's rural Matabeleland Province. This initiative was started in 1995 by Zimbabwe's Rural Libraries and Resources Development Programme and has recently been extended to provide the Donkey—Drawn Mobile Cart Electro-Communication Library, offering access to radio, television, telephone, fax, e-mail and Internet services powered by a solar unit installed on the roof of the cart. Following on the Zimbabwean experience, Ethiopia has also implemented similar donkey-drawn mobile libraries to bring books to children in the rural town of Awassa.

The Zimbabwe Donkey—Drawn Mobile Cart Library service is a perfect model that can be used in the Eastern Cape to introduce donkey mobile libraries to remote communities and areas that are inaccessible due to poor road infrastructure.

There are a lot of donkeys that roam freely in and around Grahamstown and the rest of the Eastern Cape Province. These donkeys are resources that can be put to good use by providing library services, encouraging a



A donkey mobile library ([Photo: BBC](#))

culture of reading and promoting literacy skills among both the young and the old. The donkey mobile library services can be used to cater for rural areas in providing teachers, school children and the rest of the community with access to learning and reading materials.

The donkey mobile carts can be used in all sorts of terrains and can be attached to a network system linking several towns, villages and schools.

This initiative would be a good project for the Grahamstown Librarians Forum to tackle and for Rhodes University as part of the University's community engagement programme!

LIASA EC Committee calls for commitment

Vathiswa Nhanha reports back on the LIASA EC Branch meeting, held on 4 March 2009, in the East London Public Library. Michele Booysen and Nicolene Mkhathali also attended.

The meeting was called to fill vacant positions of Chairperson, Deputy Chairperson, Secretary and 2nd Rep, which were caused by people who had resigned from the Executive Committee. This has since led to inactivity within the Eastern Cape Branch.

The meeting was attended by about 16 Librarians from around the Eastern Cape: academic, municipal and public libraries were represented.

Nokubonga Makrwede, from NMMU, who was elected to chair the meeting in the absence of a chairperson, encouraged people to support the newly

elected committee and not just to elect people and take back seats.

Julia Mvunelwa, the new chairperson, from Port Alfred Municipality, in her first address, appealed to all Librarians to get involved in resuscitating LIASA EC Branch and to support the committee.



She encouraged Librarians who are not yet members of LIASA, to join, and urged those who have not yet renewed their membership, to do so. Membership forms are available on

the LIASA website
<http://www.liasa.org.za>.

The new LIASA EC Committee members are:

Chairperson Julia Mvunelwa (Ndlambe Municipal Library)

Deputy Chairperson Zukiswa Maya (University of Fort Hare EL Campus)

Secretary Patricia Vubela (Makana Municipal Library)

Treasurer Ntsiki January (NM Metropolitan Libraries)

PRO Nozuko Matiwane (Walter Sisulu University)

2nd Rep Mr Mahanjana (Great Kei Municipal Library)

Additional members:

Sindiswa Cingo (Walter Sisulu University, IBIKA Campus, Butterworth)

Siphe Magwentshu (OR Tambo Municipality)