

## Annual Report to CDNL 2005 – 2006

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<b>Name of Country :</b> Jamaica
<b>Name of Library :</b> National Library of Jamaica
<b>Name of Chief Executive :</b> Mrs. Winsome Hudson

The National Library of Jamaica (NLJ) continued to advance its mission to *collect, preserve, document and facilitate access to the nation's cultural heritage through the promotion, coordination and development of a network of technologically enhanced libraries and services.*

Located at 12 East Street in the heart of the capital city, Kingston, the entity now known as The National Library of Jamaica came into being on the first of April 1979 with an amendment to the Institute of Jamaica Act. The Act was amended to rename and refocus the library which the Institute then operated. This amendment meant that the West India Reference Library, established in 1894 and popularly known as "Institute Library" was renamed The National Library of Jamaica and the new entity was mandated to collect, preserve and make readily available material "of cultural scientific, historical or national interest." The NLJ is still an agency of the Institute of Jamaica but legislation for full autonomy and to enshrine the functions of the National Library advanced in 2005 – 2006. The activities to observe the 25th Anniversary included:

1. Church Service at the historic St. Andrew's Scot's Kirk United Church on May 2.
2. Living Lyrics - a presentation of authors' readings with musical selections
3. Mounting of Exhibit: From West India Reference Library to National Library of Jamaica
4. A Newspaper Supplement appearing in the leading daily
5. Staff Fun Day
6. Anniversary and Awards Dinner

### Legal Deposit

**The Legal Deposit Act of 2002 came into effect on the 11th day of October, 2004** Between promulgation and end of this reporting year forty six (46) books were deposited. The Regulations require the deposit of two copies of a printed document and one copy of an audio visual document to be deposited within one month of the publication. The Legal Deposit Act 2002 also makes provision for the publisher to receive from the depository within one month of the deposit a sum equivalent actual cost of the production of the copies so deposited, but where a national publisher makes no request for payment he shall be deemed to have waived his entitlement to payment. From the date of promulgation to the end of the operating year, March 31, 2005, forty six books were deposited.

### Collection

The stocktaking of the collection began in the year under review and at year's end the counting of the Jamaica Monographs collection was completed, the pamphlet collection is the next collection slated for inventory.

**NLJdigital** and the **Caribbean Digital Collection for The Blind and Print Disabled** were new initiatives in 2004—2005 to facilitate access to the collections of the library. **NLJdigital** is the project to digitize select material from the library's collection as well as the name given to the collection of these digitized resources. Equipment for the project was funded by a grant of \$12,146,760. 00 from CHASE FUND (Culture, Health, Arts, Sports and Education) supported by earnings from the lottery. The first **NLJdigital** collection developed and made accessible from the library's web page as of February 28, 2005 was **Jamaica Unshackled: 1831-1938**. This collection features documents from the library's collection about the 1831 Sam Sharpe Rebellion/Baptist War, the 1865 Morant Bay Rebellion and the 1938 Labour Riots. Material presented was taken from Books, Newspapers, Serials, Pamphlets and Official Documents.

The **Caribbean Digital Collection for the Blind and Print Disabled** was supported by a grant of \$30,000.00 (CDN) from the Canadian Local Initiative to develop a Plan to establish same The initiative is a project which originated out of a partnership between UNESCO and CNIB (Canadian National Institute for the Blind). Those

partners had called a meeting of stakeholders in September 2003 and the National Library at that time agreed to continue the process by taking on the role of coordinator of the planning process through the mechanism of a Steering Committee. The NLJ also provided office support services and technical advice to the Steering Committee.

Arising out of the two day review meeting in September, Head Information Network Systems Department attended the Microsoft Summit: ***Libraries for the Blind and Print Disabled: Moving Toward a Digital Future*** which was convened in Redmond, Washington in November 8 – 10, 2004.

#### **Advisory Committee on the National Information System (ACNIS)**

ACNIS is one of the mechanisms through which the NLJ seeks to fulfil its mandate to co-ordinate the development of the National Information System(NATIS). ACNIS is composed of representatives from the networks and sub-networks which make up NATIS. The major agenda item in the past year was the development of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for the networks. The MOU seeks to re-establish commitment to the framework and principles and objectives for NATIS which were stated in 1978.

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