

Title: ANNUAL REPORT TO CDNL 2009

Name of country: Jamaica

Name of library: National Library of Jamaica (NLJ)

Name of Chief Executive: Winsome Hudson (Mrs.)

Mailing address: 12 East Street, Kingston

Telephone: 876 967 2494

Fax: 876 922 5567

Web address www.nlj.org.jm

Email nlj@infochan.com, nljwh@infochan.com

1. General overview of recent major developments at the reporting library.

Users' Registration

On January 19, 2009 the Library implemented the registration of library users. This decision was taken primarily as a collections security measure as well as a means of gathering data on users. Users are now required to obtain and present a user ID issued by NLJ in order to access the library's resources.

Saturday Opening

After an absence of seventeen years, the National Library re-introduced Saturday Hours on February 14, 2009 between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. and for the period February to May. The primary purpose was to accommodate users who find it difficult to visit the library due to limited parking and the inconvenience of the library's opening hours of 9:00 – 5:00 p.m. Saturday Opening will be repeated beginning in December 2009 through to May 2010.

30th Anniversary

NLJ is observing its thirtieth anniversary, having been established by an amendment to the Institute of Jamaica Act 1978. Operations began on April 1, 1979. Activities to mark the anniversary include a seminar on Building the National Union Catalogue and a lecture by noted author Kwame Dawes son of the Executive Director of the IOJ at the establishment of the NLJ in 1979, Mr. Neville Dawes.

2. Staffing and Structure, Budget

The staff totals 67 employees and a great part of the year was spent in an organizational review for restructuring and reclassification of posts. The government agency responsible for the staffing size and organizational structure recommended among other things, that the Acquisitions and Cataloguing departments be merged; the establishment of additional positions particularly to strengthen the library's coordinating and development roles related to special libraries in the public sector and the re-grading of a number of posts. However the Ministry of Finance approval to implement the changes was still outstanding at the time of writing this report.

Government Subvention

The library is an agency in the Ministry of Youth, Sports and Culture. The operational budget approved for the year April 2009 to March 2010 is JA\$106 million; at an exchange rate of 88:1 this translates to US\$1, 204, 545. 00

4. New developments in creating and building collections.

Picture Dis: The National Online Album

Picture Dis is a digital image collection of the people, places and products of Jamaica, showcased by parishes. The collection hosted on Flickr enables the NLJ to advance its mission to “collect, preserve, document and facilitate access to the nation’s cultural heritage....” The images are digital copies of photographs from the extensive photograph collection. *Picture Dis* <http://www.nlj.org.jm/pd/picturedis.htm> was launched in September 2008 and is the result of a partnership with the UK’s Cultural Leadership Programme. This partnership enabled Ms. Maxine Miller librarian of INIVA, an art library in England, to be attached to the NLJ to observe and develop library management competencies by way of developing a project which in this case was *Picture Dis*.

5. New developments in managing collections.

Legal Deposit

A television advertisement was developed and broadcast to promote legal deposit compliance particularly from the music and film sectors. The ad was broadcast during October 2008 the fourth anniversary of the promulgation of the Legal Deposit Act. The head of Acquisitions (Miss Valerie Francis) and the head of AV Department (Mrs. Maureen Webster-Prince) prepared a paper on *The Case of the National Library of Jamaica in Implementing and Administering the Legal Deposit of Audiovisual and Multimedia materials*. This paper was presented at the IFLA Conference held in Quebec. http://archive.ifla.org/IV/ifla74/papers/095-Francis_Webster-Prince-en.pdf

Webarchiving

In April 2009 the library began to experiment with archiving web content which falls within the scope of its remit to build the national collection. The experiment is limited to sixteen sites which also fall within the ambit of culture and heritage institutions. The freeware HTTrack is being used for the harvesting.

National Union Catalogue

The Advisory Committee on the National Information System **ACNIS** chaired by NLJ established a National Union Catalogue committee to :

1. Identify barriers being experienced in the development of the Union Catalogue and recommend solutions.
2. Promote the Union Catalogue and sensitize the stakeholders to its importance.
3. Establish systems to ensure compliance and adherence to standards among the potential contributors
4. Review and recommend the scope of the National Union Catalogue.

In advancing those terms a Jamaica Union Catalogue Agreement between the National Library of Jamaica and Jamaica Union Catalogue subscribers was drafted and forwarded to the office of the Solicitor General for legal advice. Jamaica Union Catalogue subscribers are those entities which receive the library management

software program CDS /ISIS which is distributed and serviced by the NLJ which to date total over 300 libraries.

6. New developments in providing access to collections.

Digital Talking Books for the blind

Two members of staff were afforded an attachment to the Canadian National Institute of the Blind to benchmark NLJs production of digital talking books and to garner insights in establishing and managing a volunteer readers programme for digital talking book production. The local lottery-funded grant agency CHASE has funded an NLJ Volunteer Narrators Programme to train volunteers to read texts for conversion to digital talking books.

7. Examples of collaboration between the reporting library and other national collecting institutions (libraries, archives and museums).

Department of Library and Information Studies, UWI, Mona

NLJ was particularly pleased to partner with the Department of Library Studies for Ken Ingram Memorial Lecture on March 26. Ken Ingram, deceased, and a former University Librarian, University of the West Indies, was an inaugural member of the NLJ Board of Management and a librarian at the forerunner to the NLJ, the West India Reference Library. The lecture titled ***Libraries in a Globalized Environment*** was given by Prof. Jose Marie Griffiths, Dean of the School of Information and Library Science (SILS) at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Jamaica Library Service Conference

The public library system the Jamaica Library Service celebrated 60 years in this period. One of its hallmark celebrations was the conference Public and School Libraries: your partners in National Development. The conference took place February 16 – 21 at the Sunset Jamaica Grande Resort in Ocho Rios. The Executive Director, Winsome Hudson presented a paper titled ***Models of National Libraries Programmes of relevance to the missions of public and national libraries and their potential for Jamaica Library Service (JLS) and National Library of Jamaica (NLJ) Collaboration.***

Jamaica in 1687

Twenty nine years after the idea was first raised in a letter dated April 1, 1980 from historian David Buisseret to Chairman of the IOJ Council Professor Rex Nettleford, half of volume 1 and all of volume two of the Taylor Manuscript in the collection of the NLJ was reborn as a book under the imprints of the University of the West Indies Press, National Library of Jamaica and The Mill Press. Aside from bibliographies this is a landmark publication for the NLJ and the publication is to be formally launched on October 29, 2009

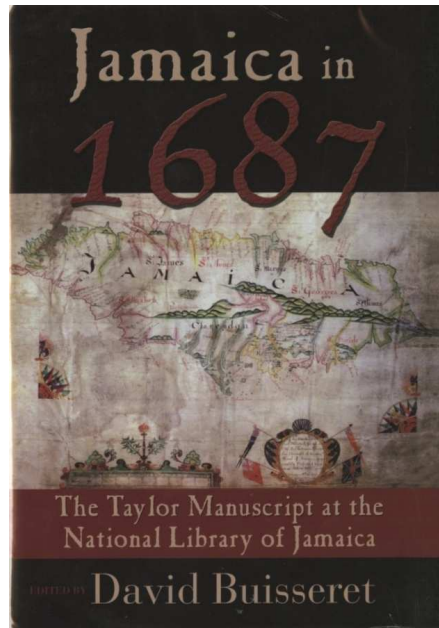


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