

Mission Statement

To provide contemporary, comprehensive and integrated library information service appropriate and relevant to the needs of Anguilla. This comprises an information, cultural and literacy support service for the purposes of work, leisure and education.

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1. Overview

Nineteen hundred and ninety-eight (1998) was again a very successful year for the Anguilla Library Service. The library service continued to have a significant impact on the Anguilla community. In fact it has become the cornerstone of the national information services initiating the development of special areas and planning the development of others.

2. Anguilla Library Service (ALS) Functions

The central library has both a national and a community function; it is the National Library, the National Documentation Centre and the Community (Public) Library with its outreach programmes.

The library service is also instrumental in the development of the National Archives. This will help to ensure the preservation of relevant archival materials for the benefit of and use by present and future generations. The central library has the added responsibility of administering the School Library Service.

The use of computer based access to information is an integrated part of the continuing development of global library and information services. The central library has become the focal point for this technology by providing access to electronic information, including the Internet to the public. The Anguilla community is now an integrated part of the global information network.

3. Anguilla Library Service Organisational Structure

The library service falls under the Ministry of Social Services. Administratively, the Director, Library Services, who is responsible for the development and administration of library services reports to the Chief Education Officer.

4. Staffing

- 4.1 The current staff establishment is twelve (12) of which two (2) are professionally trained, four (4) supports trained and six (6) support (no library training).
- 4.2 The recruitment of Jane V. Grell, formerly of the Montserrat Public Library, as School Librarian on contract has been excellent for the service. She has made significant progress in developing the schools library services and provided invaluable support to the Director, advising on and assisting in the development of the national library information services.
- 4.3 The goal of having the requisite number of professional librarians in managerial positions has become more achievable with the secondment of Linda Lake from the Albenia Lake Hodge Comprehensive School. Miss Linda has the qualifications and aptitude to pursue professional training in library and information science in the short-term.
- 4.4 The library service currently has staff in some key areas, but recommendations have been made to create new positions to manage and supervise particular areas.
- 4.5 A staffing relationship diagrams is appended (Appendix A.).

5. Training

- 5.1 Training and human resources development continued to be a priority area with the library service.
- 5.2 In September 1998 Karel Richardson, Library Assistant left for Jamaica to pursue the Library Technical Assistant's Programme at Excelsior Community College.
- 5.3 Senior Library Assistant, Carmen Olivera's was awarded a scholarship to undertake a four (4) year Bachelor of Arts Degree course in Library and Information Science at Ohio Dominican College in the USA, commencing January 1999.

These training initiatives are expected to enhance job performance of the staff members and the achievement of established objectives.

6. Book Collection

Donations of books continue to be received by the library. Significant contributions were donated from UK Book Aid International, International Book Project, visiting tourist and locals. This must not obscure the need to buy books and periodicals systematically to meet the needs of the library users. It is important that materials existing within the library service remain relevant and timely. Government therefore must provide adequate funds in order to purchase up to date books and other information materials.

7. Displays and Exhibitions

- 7.1 Throughout the years, displays and exhibitions relating to Topical and Educational issues, were mounted on the designated boards in the entrance foyer and corridor area.
- 7.2 Thus the library has become a lively place of interest attracting and exciting individuals to read and learn, thereby contributing to an educated and informed society.

8. Membership in Library Associations

- 8.1 The library service continues to maintain its membership status in the following library associations and information systems:

Association of Caribbean Research and Institutional Libraries (ACURIL)
Commonwealth Library Association (COMLA)
Caribbean Archives Association (CARIBICA)
Caribbean Health Sciences Information System (MEDCARIB)

- 8.2 These alliances are of great benefit to the library service as we are constantly kept abreast of the latest developments and issues in the field of library and information services.

9. Services

A dynamic approach to service exists within the library service. Apart from the normal reference, loans and photocopying services, the staff is engaged in:

- (1) providing Internet and basic computer training for library users.
- (2) conducting creative writing workshop for children and adults.
- (3) providing counselling and careers information to users.

10. Information Technology

10.1 The availability of computers in the library has been well received by the staff and public alike. There are undoubtedly improved efficiency of management systems and the retrieval of timely information.

10.2 Public use of library computer service are for:

- (a) CD-ROM. Searching of encyclopaedias
- (b) Accessing the library (Pilot project) computer catalogue
- (c) Desktop publishing
- (d) Educational learning activities
- (e) Accessing the Internet

10.3 The demands for computer access by the public have grown tremendously.

11. Internet

Thanks to Cable and Wireless Anguilla Ltd, the library has been connected to the Internet since November 1997. In November 1998, the company extended the free service arrangements until November 1999. A minimum fee of EC\$5.00 per half an hour is charged to the public. Funds collected are submitted to the Treasury Department.

12. National Archives

12.1 Although no financial nor staffing arrangements have been made for the establishment of the National Archives, the library service continues to actively encourage its development. This will help to ensure that significant historical documents of Anguilla are secured for present and future generations

12.2 A small space is already allocated in the new parliamentary building to house the National Archives and arrangements are being made to recruit a BESO volunteer to advise on and lay the foundation for its development.

13. Re-naming of Library/Teachers Resource Centre

13.1 The Government has approved a recommendation to re-name the Library/Teacher Resource Centre/UWI Centre the "Edison L. Hughes Library and Education Complex".

13.2 An official ceremony is being planned including the unveiling of an marble stone at the entrance of the building with the following inscription:

“Edison L. Hughes Library & Education Complex. In honour of Edison L. Hughes, 1932-1996 Foremost Educator and Pioneer of Secondary Education in Anguilla”.

14. Library Conferences/Workshops

14.1 During the year the Director, Library Services had the opportunity to participate in two overseas/library conferences, namely the twenty eight annual ACURIL Conference in Miami, May 17-23 and the Jamacia Library Service. 50th Anniversary International Conference November 15-22 1998.

14.2 These gatherings of professional libraries provided the opportunity for sharing, expertise and solutions to problems and developing new strategies for the next millennium.

15. Gifts

Numerous solicited and unsolicited gifts were received by the library. A listing was compiled and submitted to the Treasury Department. (See Appendix B)

16. Books Issued

Over fifteen thousands books and other library materials were issued during the year.

17. Membership

Membership to the library service is free and currently stands at two thousand nine hundred and twenty five (2925) registered users.

18. Community Outreach Programmes

A dynamic approach to library outreach activities continued throughout the library. These programmes rely on volunteers who give of their time and skills to help others in the community.

Library Computer Club

The Library Computer Club, inaugurated in 1996, was formally registered as a “Friendly Society” during the year. The main objective of the club is to promote computer literacy among the Anguilla community.

The club, located in the Anguilla Arts and Craft Centre, meets on Mondays and Thursdays at 3:30 p.m.

18.1 Anguilla Day Celebrations

In commemoration of the 31st anniversary of Anguilla Day Celebrations, the library service in collaboration with the Teachers' Resource Centre organised a night of slides and videos viewing on Anguilla, a cultural evening of songs, drama and poetry reading by popular Anguillian artists.

18.2 Theatre Group

The Library Service liaised with the Anguilla National Creative Arts Association (ANCAA) to form a group for the development of theatre arts in Anguilla. From October, 1998, over twenty students between the ages of eight and seventeen participated in weekly workshops in dance and drama. Rehearsals also began for a production with masked actors.

18.3 Children's Summer Test

Over 30 children participated in the 1998 storytelling workshop from August 12-19th 1998. Through the generosity of the private sector the services of talented artist, Adziko Simba of Jamaica was engaged to facilitate the workshop. The participants responded enthusiastically to Ms Simba's expertise and the closing presentations were well received by the public.

18.4 Creative Writing Group

On August 18th and 19th two evening workshops in Creative Writing were organised for approximately 15 adults. The group was so highly motivated under Adziko Simba's direction that it was decided that regular meetings should be arranged to encourage writing skills and an appreciation for Caribbean literature. Since then the Writers Bloc makes an effort to meet every fortnight.

18.5 Children's Saturday Morning Programme

The Library in conjunction with the Soroptomist Club continued to host a weekly programme of stories, songs and other activities for children. This programme is usually broadcast live on Radio Anguilla.

19. Public Sector Reform Programme: Library Restructuring

19.1 The library service was evaluated as part of the ongoing public sector reform programme and some recommendations were made.

- 19.2 Because of its multi-functional role in serving the whole community it was recommended that the library service be organised as a Department and to include the National Archives (See Appendix C).
- 19.3 A new organisational chart was also proposed. (See Appendix D). The Director, Library Services would be directly accountable to the Permanent Secretary, Social Services, but would continue to work closely with the Education Department.

20. Opening Hours

- 20.1 Since 1997, opening hours to the public have been extended to two hours on Mondays and Wednesdays in order to satisfy the demand. The extended opening hours were designed to accommodate users wanting to engage in quiet study, research and computer access.
- 20.2 The full opening schedule reads:
- Mondays & Wednesdays 9:00 a.m. – 7:30 p.m.
Tuesdays, Thursdays & Fridays 9:00 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.
Saturdays 9:00 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.
- 20.3 Plans are also on hand to increase opening hours on different days.

21. Recommendations

- 21.1 An adequate budget be provided to have a planned buying programme for books and other library materials.
- 21.2 The immediate recruitment of an archivist to advise on and lay the foundations for the establishment of the National Archives.
- 21.3 The drafting of a library ordinance to effectively manage the library services.
- 21.4 Additional computers needed for public access.
- 21.5 The immediate renewal of Ms Jane Grell's – Schools Librarian Contract.
- 21.6 Training opportunities continue to be a priority for library staff in order to ensure the efficient functioning of the integrated library services.
- 21.7 Consideration be given to the low status given to the library service by the recent Job Evaluation Exercise. It is unlikely that suitable personnel at these levels will be attracted to and remain in the service.
- 21.8 Funds be provided for the provision of an integrated library automation package as the present system has now become obsolete.
- 21.9 The purchase of a book mobile which would be used for outreach information services to villages, schools and other institutions.
- 21.10 It is highly recommended that Government provide funds for the development of the Schools Library Service including the resource rooms in the primary schools, together with the relevant training of teachers in the use of such facilities.
- 21.11 The glass partition around the study area should be extended to the ceiling so that this area can be completely enclosed, air conditioned and noise from the children's section excluded.
- 21.12 A planned maintenance system for the Edison L. Hughes Library and Education complex.

22. Conclusion

In presenting this report. The management and staff of the library service would like to express appreciation for the assistance and cooperation they have had from many sources during the year. We hope that interest in the library service will continue thereby ensuring its leadership position as the focal point for information in Anguilla.

“Our progress as a nation can be no swifter than our progress in education.
The human mind is our fundamental resource”.

John F. Kennedy

Signed

Russel Reid
Director, Library Services