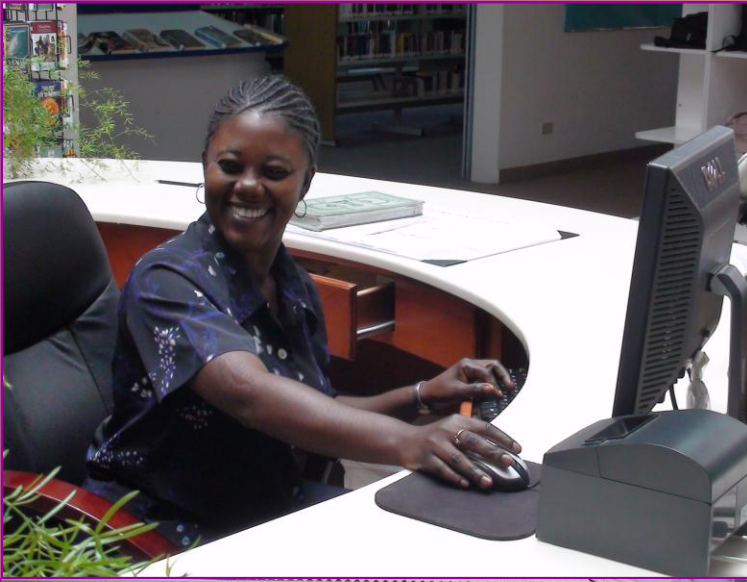


Annual Report 2008



Department of Library Services

ANNUAL REPORT 2008

DEPARTMENT OF LIBRARY SERVICES

ANGUILLA PUBLIC SERVICE

The year 2008 saw the continued emergence of the Department of Library Services as far as its public image is concerned. Several initiatives pursued during the year under review helped in this respect. With the kind sponsorship of the Anguilla Social Security Board and the continuing collaboration with Radio Anguilla, the daily broadcast of The “Book of the Week” programme served to keep the Library in the public’s eye. The Department also secured a presence at the Blowing Point Youth Centre, and towards the end of the year a van was acquired and decorated with the Department’s logo. One of our patrons also brought to us the idea of starting a reading club for children an idea which became the CUSHION CLUB. The club was launched on Saturday 21 March with a high level of enthusiasm shown.

The year also witnessed the onset of economic hard times globally and locally. Due to the closing of the FLAG Luxury project the Government of Anguilla was forced to institute some cost saving measures among which was the decision to freeze all hiring except for essential posts as well as a cessation of capital spending.

PROGRAMMES AND INITIATIVES

Schools' Library Programme: The "Books for Schools" programme was into in its fourth year of operation; this involved the allocation of boxes of books at the start of each term to each class in the primary schools across the island. These books were collected at the end of each term and a new set of books issued at the start of the new term. This initiative, which began as a response to the reading challenges amongst some students at Road Primary School, was expanded to other schools including the Pupil Referral Unit of the ALHCS and the Teacher Gloria Omolulu Institute. The response from both teachers and pupils has been very encouraging. Some students have even made suggestions as to the type of books they would like to have included in their boxes, and every attempt has been made to grant their requests. In some instances audio visual items have been supplied in the areas requested.

The arrival of the Library Van in November 2008 served as a boost for this programme. Plans are now underway to expand the outreach programme of the Library, and a drive to encourage reading is being planned.

Children's Saturday Morning Programme:

The Library revamped its weekly Saturday morning programme of stories, songs and other activities for children. With the timely intervention of Mrs Janis Elijah these activities continued with a new name. The Cushion Club was launched on 21 March 2008 targeting children between the ages of

3- 10; we rely on volunteers and staff members who give of their time and skills to help our children. Mrs Elijah has proven to be a reliable volunteer

and has been joined by Mrs Civella Kentish of the Lions Club. The live broadcast aspect of the Saturday morning programme for children which was started with the assistance of the Department of Information and Broadcasting, Radio Anguilla was, however, discontinued due to some logistical difficulties.

Book of the Week:

As we continue to sensitize the public to our products, weekly book summaries continue to be aired on Radio Anguilla with the kind sponsorship of the Anguilla Social Security Board.

Children’s Library Annual Summer Programme (CLASP) 2008



Story Time

The theme of CLASP 2007 “Shout it everywhere, Freedom is here” to mark the bicentenary of the Abolition of the Slave Trade was a poignant reminder of the importance of storytelling for molding identity and bridging cultural bonds. As a follow up to this CLASP 2008 sought to introduce a group of children to the basic techniques of storytelling in an

effort to build their confidence, communication skills and promote the cultural heritage. For this thrust to be reasonably feasible, given the constraints of the time frame, it was decided to target 30 children between the ages of 9 and 12 and allow for inclusion from amongst students from grades 4 to 6 from all primary schools. Visits were made to all schools with preparatory 'storytelling' packages to be used for the selection of the required number of students from each school. The interest and support from the schools was very encouraging, and formed the basis for the registration of participants for CLASP 2008.



CLASP TEAMS



As in previous years, two workshops were mounted to execute CLASP 2008 under the theme slogan “Under the Crick Crack Tree” from the call and response traditions of Caribbean storytelling. One workshop was aimed at orientating the facilitators while the second workshop focused on the children within the targeted age group. Another target group was identified in 2008 – adolescents – who had been participants in CLASP over the years, who were now beyond the programme’s upper age limit but who had the potential to be young helpers. These interested teenagers were given hands-on introductions to basic skills in the following areas: photography set and prop building and stage management.

Sponsorship for two regional consultants, A-dZiko Simba and Michael Bailey, was provided under CDB's Caribbean Technological Consultancy Service (CTCS). The National Bank of Anguilla, Malliouhana Hotel & Spa, the Anguilla Craft Group, Malliouhana Anico Insurance Co., Carimar Beach Club, Caribbean Cable Communications, Social Security Board and

Keithly Lake & Associates continued to support this annual educational event. Doctoral student from the University of Puerto Rico, Don Walicek, with his rich repertoire of Anguillian oral history recordings, also joined

the CLASP team. Mention must also be made of Chris Lawrence, who wholeheartedly gave of his time, skills and materials.



Hard Workers

Under the guidance of A-dZiko Simba the orientation workshop from 30 June -4 July, 2008 focused on story sourcing from personal and community history, and also from symbolic objects that could trigger memories and the creative mind. Basic techniques of storytelling and story reading were demonstrated. All participants created and told stories to the group, received feedback on technique, content and other issues. Appreciation for the role of personal stories in cultural retention grew stronger. They all contributed ideas for the management of the children's workshop and the staging of its theme story.

The child participants were divided into three teams representative of African, Caribbean and Anguillian 'telling' customs and persons who had no previous experience in the role of team leaders were selected to supervise the respective teams. The level of involvement of staff members was exemplary and one came out of the experience more appreciative of the abilities of one's colleagues. It is hard to forget the interest of Kimisha Richardson in spite of her 'onerous' condition or Carmen Oliveras' engaging style of spinning a tale. In their contributions to both the creative pool of stories and the group dynamics of their teams as leaders, Anika Hughes and Joycelyn Mills generated positive energy. It was refreshing to observe Miss Hughes shed some of her reservations and display increased confidence and skills.

Mrs Mills' rapport with her supervisory team which included a resource person from overseas was a credit to her blossoming communication skills. Her 'personal memory' presentation caught the interest of the participants in her team and was the foundation for a skit that shared information about health care and other situations of past years. Cassilda Thomas' interest in honing her skills was evident in her wonderful presentation of a picture book which she has since repeated during story hours and class visits. In keeping with the ideas shared by the facilitator she demonstrated how books could be effectively used in 'read aloud' sessions with techniques for capturing interest and audience participation.



Cassilda telling a story

During CLASP, 7 – 18 July, 2008, in addition to the selection and telling of stories relevant to their respective regions, the 30 participants were engaged in songs and games, and also in art and craft activities geared towards making props, costumes and contributing to the set for the final performance. The teams were Nyama, tellers for Africa; Anansi for the Caribbean and the Tongue Clappers representing Anguilla. The young participants were very responsive to the tasks set including home work assignments of learning or creating for retelling. Their sense of enjoyment and involvement in both the oral crafts as well as the hand crafts of making props was evident as well as their eagerness to listen to new stories everyday.

All team facilitators and teachers who passed by were fascinated by the benefits from the activity of making face masks with papier mache, an activity with several phases which started with emphasizing measurement skills and the value of cooperation when, in pairs, each child had to mould strips of paper on each other's faces. Field trips with storytelling on the beach were also part of the schedule which culminated in the performance

of Under the Crick Crack Tree – a tribute to the art of storytelling through the live performance of the Crick, Crack theme song with stories reflecting Anguilla’s cultural customs and also the traditions of the Caribbean region and Africa.



Craft Time



Crick Crack Tree



Summer of Chess

The department was approached by a visiting parent about partnering with her two young sons who were very talented chess players to have them share their knowledge with a set of youngsters during two weeks of the summer. The response was tremendous and the sessions were very

encouraging, and the youngsters attending the sessions as well as the youngsters visiting from New York found the sessions very enjoyable. We appreciate and welcome this kind of input from our clientele.



COLLECTION MANAGEMENT AND USAGE

Since the automation of cataloguing and circulation functions was started in September, 2006 with the installation of the library's integrated information system, the Alexandria software, some 17,000 items have been added to the holdings database. This represents the existing stock of the Adult Lending section, the Children's section and the steady stream of new items. The special collections of General and Caribbean Reference and heritage materials have to be appraised and added to the database. Users now have access to an Online Public Access Catalogue (OPAC) for locating what is available in the Library for their various information needs. New features added to the catalogue include a link (NetLink) to information sites on the World Wide Web and the popular Sneak Peek with the addition of the images of book jackets. The book jackets links to further information about the book such as a summary and, if applicable, the table of contents.

The Alexandria software assists with the management of the complex interplay of check-ins, renewals, check-outs and reservations. During the year under review 21, 311 items were loaned to child and adult users including those distributed to the primary schools, Campus C of the Albena Lake-Hodge Comprehensive School and the Blowing Point Community Centre.

Networks connecting the Library with computers around the world are a critical facet of collection development and usage. Online services and networks such as JSTOR and OCLC's FirstSearch increase the availability of information resources by facilitating access to journal articles which assisted with the research needs of persons associated with the upper end of the high school, in-service teacher training, distance education programmes, public speaking competitions like the Leeward Islands

Debating event and also individual scholarly pursuits. Towards the end of 2008 the Library expanded its roster of digital resources with the addition of a collection of databases from EBSCO. These include some targeted at students at the primary and secondary levels as well as thematic ones for science and crafts. Access to some of these online databases also assisted staff with the selection, classification and location of materials for upgrading the priority areas for acquisition such as regional interests, parenting, children's materials and DVD formats.

Through the onsite Internet Access service users can connect with electronic files, databases and networking facilities globally. Two thousand four hundred forty (2440) Internet bookings were recorded for 2008. The number of persons who bring their laptops to connect to the Library's wireless "hotspot" is also on the rise. Many persons also used the computer for word-processing, spreadsheet and other applications for working on their various assignments. Access to photocopying services facilitated individual research as well as teachers' need for multiple resources.

PARTNERSHIPS

A very successful poetry evening was held on the evening of Saturday 4 October with host Lilian Caesar Sutherland and in collaboration with Sis Ijahnya Christian. On Wednesday 8 October KCN launched a month-long photo exhibition on CUBA. It was very well received by the Public.

STAFF MATTERS

Management

This year saw the departure of one permanent secretary and the arrival of a new one in the person of Mrs Chanelle Petty-Barrett. Heads of Department in the Ministry met with the new PS on Monday 1 July when she made known her expectations. On Thursday 31 July the PS visited with the Department as part of a familiarization tour of the Ministry and pledged support of our bid to get a vehicle; she also pledged her overall strong support for the department.

Regarding the internal management of the Department every attempt continued to be made to be as inclusive as possible. Regular Senior Management Team meetings continued to be held weekly. At these meetings department policies and positions are discussed, and senior staff get the opportunity to be involved at the operational level of management of the department. In 2008 involvement in these meetings was widened to include representation from the junior ranks on an as needed basis.

Regular Heads of Department meetings continued to be held within the Ministry. At these meetings chaired by the permanent secretary, monthly reports are presented and matters of mutual interest are discussed among the various heads of department in the Ministry.

Staff Movement

During the year one instance of staff movement took place; Ms Linda Lake, one of the department's senior staff members took up a new posting at the Department of Youth and Culture. A vacancy was subsequently declared

in the department to fill the post of Library Assistant a post that remains unfilled to this day as a result of the freeze on the filling of vacancies.

Retirement

During the year in review Ms Ethlyn Gumbs, long-standing Library Attendant reached retirement age and exited the department. Her long years of service were duly recognized with a grand retirement party at the Anguilla Great House which was partly sponsored by the Ministry of Social Development who must be thanked for its generous input.

Recognition

Staff continued to be the backbone for the daily delivery of services to the public. In fact as a result of the enthusiasm, good rapport with patrons and the high standard of work coming from Library Assistant, Miss Anthea Roach, a case was successfully made for her to serve in an acting capacity as a Senior Library Assistant whenever the opportunity presented itself within the organization.

Anika Hughes and Julianne Leveret, library studies students at the Metropolitan University of Manchester, returned to the Department during the summer vacation and assisted with a backlog of acquisitions and cataloguing tasks as well as CLASP. Their energy and skills were much appreciated.

The Secretariat

The secretariat, which comprises an Executive Secretary and a Clerical Officer, continues to play a critical role within the organization in ensuring the effective functioning of the Department. There is, however, a need for

greater collaboration and coordination among all staff in terms of adherence to the various procedures and regulations of the department and the wider Public Service. During the year under review the partial implementation of SIGTAS took place; two members of staff received initial training, and a third member of staff was trained at a later date. Further training is scheduled to take place over time.

The Department of Internal Audit paid a number of visits to the department to undertake spot checks regarding the cash handling procedures within the department. While the Department was given high marks for its stated procedures, concerns were expressed about adherence to the stated procedures. Several recommendations were made in a report submitted by the Department of Internal Audit and corrective measures were put in place including the purchase of a safe for the securing of cash collected at the department.

PLANT

Yet again very little was accomplished during the year with respect to the plans for major plant upgrading and refurbishing. However, the interior of the building was repainted and a new circulation desk was installed.

Commencing Wednesday 18 June the Library was closed to accommodate the installation of the circulation desk. This activity, however, went on for much longer than we anticipated and we eventually had to reopen with the desk in an unfinished state; it was not until Monday 14 July that the desk was finally completed and even then there were some unresolved issues.

The new permanent secretary lent tangible support for the purchase of five new desks for the staff workroom which has facilitated more efficient storage and a smoother work flow.

GIFTS

Gifts for the ensuing year totaled EC\$4060.16 and comprised books, magazines, video cassettes, compact discs and educational software.

REVENUE

The Department generates a minimal amount of revenue from the sale of internet services, photocopying and overdue fees from books borrowed. Revenue totaled EC \$20,241.79.

CONCLUSION

In the year under review the Department of Library Services continued to forge ahead with its effort to remain relevant to its clientele. Challenges continue to be met with a sense of 'positivity' and with the combined efforts and energies of the entire staff the Department has been able to meet and indeed overcome these challenges.

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