

*Official Newsletter of the  
Zimbabwe Library Association  
(ZimLA)*

Volume 3, Issue 2

July - December 2004

**ZimLA News**

*Special  
AGM/Conference Issue*

**Theme:**

**Libraries  
in the era of  
HIV/AIDS**

## EDITOR'S DESK



Welcome to this second issue of ZimLA News. I hope that I find you well in your areas of work. This is the last issue to be sponsored by INASP as the grant that we have been getting to publish the newsletter ends this year.

Thanks go to INASP for the support given and I hope that if there are any projects being undertaken by INASP in the near future, the association will be involved. This issue carries a special on the AGM/Conference which was held in Gweru and for the benefit of those who did not attend, I hope that you will find the reports carried in this issue informative.

The AGM which was scheduled to take place during the Zimbabwe International Book Fair to elect a new executive failed to take place due to financial constraints being experienced by the association. In light of this development, the question to be asked is—what is the way forward?

Of particular concern to me now is the lack of interest on the activities being undertaken by the association. Most members seem not to be involved in ZimLA activities and according to the information on the ground only two branches are still active - i.e. Midlands and Matabeleland and the other branches seem to have "died a natural death". Can we please revive our branch structures so that the association can be vibrant again.

As a parting shot, I would like to wish everyone a merry Christmas and a happy new year and let us all hope that the new year brings some change and a new life to ZimLA.

**Remember YOU are the association and ZimLA needs YOU.**

### AIDS Help Line Centers Near You

#### Bulawayo

Matabeleland Aids Council  
97 Josiah Tongogara Street  
Bulawayo.  
Tel.: 09-62370

#### Harare

Natioanl AIDS Coordination Programme (NCAP)  
Parirenyatwa Hospital  
Harare.  
Tel.: 04-792981/702446

Or

Women and AIDS Support Network  
Office 203 Stemar House  
Corner Harare Street/ Speke Avenue  
Harare.

#### Gweru

Midlands AIDS Support Organisation  
Cathedral hall  
7th Street, Gweru.  
Tel.:  
054-50257

#### Mutare

Family AIDS Caring Trust (FACT)  
107 Herbert Chitepo Street  
Mutare.  
Tel.: 61648

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**Editorial Policy** - ZimLA News is the house newsletter of the Zimbabwe Library Association and is published twice a year. Articles in the field of library and information science, library administration, news items, reviews are included. The editor reserve the right to edit, shorten, or rewrite any copy should it be deemed necessary. Opinions expressed by contributors are not necessarily those of ZimLA. Articles, letters, and news items should be submitted direct to the editor - P.O. Box 2666, Bulawayo, Zimbabwe.



# LIVING WITH HIV/AIDS

*This article is intended to provide you the reader with basic information on HIV/AIDS. As a librarian/information officer you should be able to answer any question put to you by the library user or user of your Information Centre. Below is some basic facts on HIV/AIDS:-*

## WHAT IS AIDS?

AIDS is the name for a group of sickness caused by a virus that makes the body weak. People with AIDS get sicknesses like fever, rashes, diarrhoea and coughs. They also lose weight.

AIDS stand for:

Acquired = you get it from someone

Immune = body's defence system

Deficiency = not working properly

Syndrome = a group of signs & symptoms

AIDS therefore means a group of symptoms showing that the body's immune system has been damaged by a virus called HIV.

All the symptoms of AIDS can be symptoms of other diseases too. However, when a person has AIDS, the infections tend to be much harder to treat and recovery is slower.

## WHAT IS HIV?

H	Human
I	Immunodeficiency
V	Virus

HIV cannot be seen. It makes the body weak and less able to fight sickness. People infected with HIV may look and feel well for a number of years before any symptoms of AIDS develop. But as soon as HIV enters the body, that person can infect other people with HIV.

## HOW IS HIV SPREAD?

HIV is found in the blood and in the sexual fluids (semen in men, vaginal semen in women). This means that HIV is spread in three ways:-

**Sexual Intercourse:** Most people get HIV from sex with another person who has HIV

**Infected Mothers to Babies:** Pregnant women with HIV can pass it to their babies. The infection can be passed across a placenta while the baby is still in the mother's womb or during birth through contact with the mother's blood

**Infected Blood:** People get HIV when HIV-infected blood enters their blood. HIV can also be transmitted through skin piercing instruments such as needles, knives and razor blades that have been used on a person with HIV and not sterilized afterwards.

## HIV IS NOT SPREAD BY:-

- Shaking hands
- Sharing toilets
- touching and hugging
- caring for someone with AIDS
- playing with someone with AIDS
- Donating blood
- living with or sleeping in the same room with a person with AIDS e.t.c.

## PREVENTING THE SPREAD OF HIV

**Stick to one partner for life:** people with more than one partner expose themselves and their partners to HIV infection. Having many sexual partners also increase the chances of infection with various STD's and the risk of infection with

HIV is greater if either partner has an STD. The only guarantee against HIV/AIDS is to stick to one uninfected, faithful, life-long sexual partner

**Safer sexual intercourse:** Safer sex means avoiding sex that allows your partner's blood or body fluids to enter your body. Having a sexual relationship needn't just mean vaginal intercourse. There are practices that you can adopt which are very low risk like hugging and kissing, using a condom during sexual intercourse. Used correctly, condoms help protect both partners from repeated infection and new infection.

**Mother to child:** A mother can prevent passing HIV to her baby by avoiding pregnancy if she is infected with HIV. If a woman infected with HIV gets pregnant, there is a 30% to 50% chance that her baby will be infected with HIV and die within the first few years of life.

**Blood:** You can prevent the spread of HIV through blood by taking great care that instruments used in activities which draw blood such as tattooing and ear piercing are used only once or sterilised after use if they are to be used again.

People with HIV and AIDS need to talk to someone about how they are feeling. They also need information about what to expect and what they can do to help themselves. There are many people to talk to. People can get support by talking to partners, family or friends. There are also special groups of people in each region who offer help and information on HIV/AIDS. They can help people to understand their own feelings, help them to sort out problems and to make decisions. A list of organisations offering help on people with HIV/AIDS is given on page 1.

## **SPEECH BY THE EXECUTIVE MAYOR OF THE CITY OF GWERU HIS HONOUR MR. S. ZVIDZAYI ON THE OCCASSION OF THE OFFICIAL OPENING OF THE 2004 ZIMBABWE LIBRARY ASSOCIATION ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND CONFERENCE. - 29/04/2004 at Midlands Hotel**

It gives me great honour and pleasure to be invited as guest of honour to such an august gathering of Zimbabwean librarians who have seen it fit to choose our city to transact the business of their Association. I would like to take this opportunity to welcome you to Gweru - the City of Progress. I would also like to commend the organisers of this workshop for having HIV / AIDS as the theme for this year's Conference.

Allow me ladies and gentlemen to say a few remarks about this dreadful disease that threatens to reverse all the gains we had made in the fields of economic development, education, health in fact any aspect of our day-to-day living and has potential to undermine considerable investments that have been made by cities, towns and national governments. Local authorities in urban areas are going through some of the most difficult and trying times due the HIV / AIDS pandemic.

Urban councils are finding it increasingly challenging to conduct their core business of service delivery in a crisis environment as a result of HIV/AIDS among other factors. Increasing demands for services such as health, welfare, cemetery lands, etc. are being coupled with declining economic growth through loss of productivity, declining investment and increasing poverty and vulnerability among those losing income-earning household members and those gaining additional dependents. The functioning of local governments, as workplaces, is also being challenged by loss of trained and experienced staff due to AIDS.

In addition to the above, with increasing HIV/AIDS rates, there is a corresponding rise in the number of orphans and vulnerable children who require care, housing, and support, lower capacity of users to pay for services. This adds an extra strain on social services and amenities provided by the local authorities.

It is not only in the cities that HIV/ AIDS has

wreaked havoc but in the rural areas as well. The elderly and the young have had the extra burden of being care givers to the terminal ill and being bread winners to those orphaned by HIV / AIDS. The devastation that this disease has brought is evident in the whole country.

In this regard, Government has appealed for multi-sectoral approach to combat HIV/AIDS. I am happy that today, librarians who are viewed by society as custodians of information are gathering to deliberate on how best they can contribute to the fight against this deadly disease. It has been generally agreed that dissemination of information is a powerful weapon in the fight against the scourge and I am challenging you the bearers of this powerful weapon to use it to fight this enemy.

In conclusion, let me take this opportunity to urge you to enjoy the warm hospitality of Gweru. I know you have a busy schedule but I urge you to take time to tour various places of interest in our very beautiful city and to meet its people who make Gweru the city of progress.

It is now my singular honour to declare the 2004 Zimbabwe Library Association Annual General Meeting and Conference officially open. May you have fruitful deliberations during this conference and enjoy your stay in Gweru.

**I THANK YOU**





# National Chairperson's Report

Colleagues, I greet you once again and delight in standing before you to give you a report of how the Association has fared since the last AGM in Bulawayo at Elangeni National Training Centre at exactly the same time last year. The year has not been plain sailing and it had its fair share of difficulties and problems. Firstly, Council elections did not take place at the AGM at Elangeni and had to be held at an EGM during the Books Fair at the National Art Gallery. A number of members raised concern at the way these elections were conducted accusing them to be unconstitutional and unprocedural. Secondly a major misunderstanding arose between some members of the Association leading to an exchange of "nasty emails" which did not project the good name of the Association. However there was some good news in that the Association managed to be represented at a number of regional and international conferences, the Association has managed to secure funding for two issues of the Newsletter.

## OBITUARIES

As has become custom, before we proceed we need to remember our colleagues who passed away since the last AGM in Elangeni. The following Librarians passed away:

Mr. Maumbe – Vice Chairperson ZimLA 2001 - 2003. There are other librarians I have left out so colleagues please assist me by naming them. May we please rise and observe a minute of silence in recognition of these members of our profession. May their souls rest in eternal peace.

## ZIMLA WORKSHOPS

### Mid Term Conference

In a departure from tradition, National Council was unable to host the Mid Term conference. This was due to the fact that National Council failed to secure funding for this

conference from its traditional collaborative partners.

### Other Workshops

The four branches of the Association held various workshops that included among them Teacher Librarians workshops and use of ICT in Libraries. I urge all branches to be creative and organise more activities at Branch level, as such events enable branches to raise income.

## Z I B F

ZimLA participated in the 2003 edition of the highly popular Zimbabwe International Book Fair by having a stand for the Association and also by being actively involved in the Librarians workshop. We would like to thank the Norwegian Library Association for sponsoring the cost of paying for the stand. The new Executive Director of the ZIBF Trust is keen to forge strong ties with librarians and we should capitalise on his stance. I am also happy to note the active participation of librarians in the Bulawayo and Mutare Book Fairs.

## SCHOOL LIBRARIES TASK FORCE

The School Libraries Task Force has not been able to function the way National Council envisaged it would. It is hoped to reconstitute and re-arm this very important task force so that it performs according to its terms of reference. However the School Libraries Taskforce has already produced a draft curriculum for teacher / school librarian workshops and will be circulating this draft soon.

## PUBLICATIONS

The Association has to date produced three issues of the ZimLA News, the official newsletter of the Association under the International Network of the Availability of Sci-

entific Publications (INASP) funded programme. The production of this newsletter had been stopped as the INASP project had ended in December 2003. However, I am delighted to inform you that the Carnegie Corporation of New York has agreed to make funds available to national library associations for the production of two issues of their newsletters during 2004.

However, the production of the Zimbabwe Librarian is still on hold as not all members of the editorial board have gone through the material that was submitted to them by the National Council. Also the issue of the website needs to be urgently revisited. Use can be made of the skills of some members of the Association to come with a well-designed and colourful web site for the Association.

## CONFERENCE ATTENDANCE

The National Chairperson managed to secure sponsorship courtesy of the IFLA / ALP Africa Section and the Norwegian Library Association to attend IFLA 2003 that was held in Berlin, Germany. The Vice Chairperson of ZimLA, Mr. Macberth Ndlovu successfully applied for and was awarded a travel grant to attend IFLA 2003 by a German donor organisation.

Zimbabwean Librarians continue to secure sponsorship to attend regional and international conferences. I understand two members of the Association attended the International Association of School Librarians (IASL) Conference that was held in Durban in 2003. Three Zimbabwean Librarians also attended the workshop on Managing Digital Libraries that was held recently in Gaborone, Botswana. We would like to thank these librarians for raising the flag of Zimbabwean librarianship high.

# Keynote Address

**By Mr. Ticharwa s. Masimira**

**(C.E.O. Midlands AIDS Service Organisation (MASO - Gweru))**

Ladies and gentlemen, may I thank you for the opportunity to address this august gathering of Library professionals. But more so, for acknowledging that, at the centre of human behaviour, change is the acquisition and application of innovative information and knowledge by individuals at risk, particularly the youth". And I would add, indeed the entire population has and remains at great risk. This AIDS scourge presents the greatest challenge to the human race than any other historical threat ever recorded.

Mr. Chairperson, allow me to refer to Africa's greatest statesman and living icon, Nelson Mandela, speaking about AIDS at the 1997 World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, "When the history of our time is written, it will record the collective efforts of societies responding to a threat that has put in the balance, the future of whole nations. Future generations will judge us on the adequacy of our responses". Mr. Mandela could not have said it any better, the fight against AIDS requires a multi-sectorial approach. It requires a diversity of key players who have the commitment and resolve to achieve positive and far reaching results. Among some of these key players are you as librarians, because you already are involved in a key element of information dissemination, i.e., print and visual materials in the form of books, video cassettes, posters, pamphlets, journals, e.t.c.

Most of you ladies and gentlemen are probably aware that Zimbabwe's first HIV cases were discovered in 1985 and now 35 years later, we are still battling with the epidemic, with no end in sight.

Today, over 90% of Zimbabweans are very aware of how one gets the virus, but this is not translating to behaviour change. Our biggest challenge as a nation is to come up with strategies which will influence behaviour change leading to reduction in the HIV infection rate.

The battle to influence behaviour change requires concerted efforts from all of us and for librarians to use their strategic positions in information dissemination towards encouraging those they serve, to include in their research, a diversity of social science materials and HIV/AIDS materials.

Today's library will need to be fully integrated in regards to books and other literature by way of topics, subjects, themes, e.t.c., so as to carry a full complement of materials which cover HIV/AIDS issues for easy access by the general public frequenting these institutions. Librarians need to research and acquaint themselves with the latest information and general knowledge about HIV/AIDS, so as to assist library users to access relevant and useful information about HIV/AIDS. Institutions training librarians need to have HIV/AIDS as part of their curriculum, so that qualified librarian is well versed with the relevant information.

The concept of mobile libraries should be considered as a "penetrating approach" to the grassroots levels of our people so as to reach them with AIDS messages and materials while they also benefit from other general and academic books brought to them.

The Zimbabwe Library association can

establish networking links with local AIDS Service Organisations country-wide and can be affiliated to the Zimbabwe AIDS Network as a member. This move will facilitate greater involvement by our association and help it access relevant and up-to-date information on HIV/AIDS.

Mr. Chairperson, ladies and gentlemen, there is need for a paradigm shift in regards services offered by our libraries in Zimbabwe, by using them as distribution points for free HIV/AIDS reading materials. This will go a long way in increasing distribution facilities country-wide. At the same time, libraries could be used as information centres helping to refer people to where they can access HIV/AIDS services, be it Voluntary Counselling and Testing, Home and Orphan Care, HIV/AIDS materials, Counselling services e.t.c..

May I, remind you, ladies and gentlemen, that AIDS is no longer just a health issue but a developmental one. It has become a cross cutting challenge, which is impacting all corners of our society. Librarians and all other sectors have to play their own roles to complement services provided by others. Your theme "Libraries In an Era of HIV/AIDS" is both relevant and appropriate as this is indicative of your concern to play your part as an association.

In conclusion, I do believe that by the end of conference, you will be clear in regards to what direction your association should take in the fight against HIV/AIDS.

**I Thank YOU.**

**Have your profile featured in ZimLA News.**

**E-mail your information to :**

**zlaeditor@yahoo.co.uk**

**or**

**Post to P.O. Box 2666, Bulawayo, Zimbabwe.**



## PROFILE OF MR. ASHABAI CHINYEMBA

**Mr. Ashabai Chinyemba is the Chief Archivist in charge of government records management services based at the Records Centre at the National Archives.**

He joined the National Archives in April this year. Prior to that, his name was synonymous with the Harare Polytechnic Library School where he spent 10 years from 1991 to 2001 as the Head of the school. He joined the Library School in 1989 as a lecturer and was lecturing in a variety of subjects being offered by the Department.

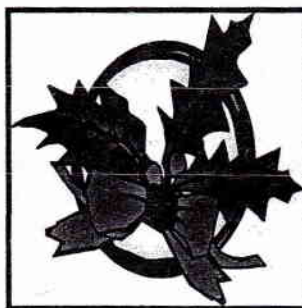
During his tenure as Head of Department, Mr. Chinyemba saw the Library School grow from a small Department running only 3 courses to a Department running 6 different courses in information management. Notably of these being library and information science management, records and information science management and health records management.

### Education and Training

He started his education in the early sixties at Howard Institute before proceeding to St. Albert's High School for his "O" Levels and Fletcher High School for his "A" Levels. In 1973 he enrolled for a degree programme at Fourah Bay College of the University of Sierra Leone, where he obtained a B.A (Honours in English). Upon graduation, he left for the UK to undertake a diploma in Librarianship at the University of Strathclyde. He then went to South Africa and obtained a Masters De

gree in Social Sciences (Information Studies) from the University of Natal, Pietermaritzburg.

Mr. Chinyemba joined the University of Zimbabwe as an assistant librarian and in 1980 after working briefly in the Medical library, was appointed law librarian. In 1981 he joined the Library of Parliament and in 1982 diverted into journalism by joining the then Department of Information as an Information Officer. While in this Ministry, was seconded to the Zimbabwe Publishing House for a one year Diploma in Publishing during which time he was closely



involved with the organisation of the first Zimbabwe International Book Fair.

After a two year stint as a journalist, Mr. Chinyemba came back to the fold as the senior librarian of the City of Harare a position he held until he joined the Library School as a lecturer in 1989. In 2001, he left the department on study leave for the University of Natal where he chose to focus on the management of records and archives. For his masters degree, he submitted a thesis on the management of university records for which he was awarded as first

class.

On asked what skills he has found most useful as an information professional throughout his career, Mr. Chinyemba replied *"I think first and foremost the information professional should be a communicator. As you climb up the ladder in the information profession, you will find that you need skills to be able to write effectively and for persuasion. You need skills to be able to present your views effectively and to bring others to your side. Communication skills rank among the foremost"*

According to Mr. Chinyemba, information professionals do not need a deep knowledge of programming or networking or even maintenance of hardware. What they need is sufficient understanding of those issues to be able to take part as a team in the design of effective information systems. Asked on what skills he himself possessed in information management, Mr. Chinyemba said he had skills in information creation through research and journalism, information organisation including database design and implementation, web page design and web maintenance as well as internet searching and web information evaluation, "in addition I have skills in records management which I consider to be an essential skill for those who plan to work for corporate organisations as increasingly the records of an organisation become a key resource for success in the competitive environment.



*Merry Christmas*

*And*

*Happy 2005*

*From*

*Zimbabwe Library*

*Association National Executive*

*To all fellow librarians,  
colleagues and partners  
worldwide.*



# Big boost for Bulawayo Public Library

Following a visit to the U.K. by Chief Librarian, Robin Doust earlier in the year, the Bulawayo Public Library has received the largest donation ever of vitally needed books.

Donor agency, Books Abroad, based in a small Scottish village of Rhyne, recently sent a huge consignment of no less than 4 800 books valued at a staggering Z\$125 million.

The consignment includes hundred OF popular new books for adults and children such as Mills and Boon romances, plus large numbers of "O" and "A" Level textbooks. Most of the books are

no longer available in local shops due to the unavailability of foreign currency which has made the books too expensive for the locals to buy.

The books are still being placed into circulation, and the arrival of so many otherwise unobtainable books in the library is believed to be the main reason why membership of the library reached an all time high of 18 000 at the end of June this year.

However, in common with many similar welfare organisations, the library continues to suffer financial problems due to inflation. The library's city council grant-in-aid, which formerly covered 50% of

the annual budget, has now diminished to less than 1% in the current year against the library's annual budget of Z\$350 million needed to run the library effectively. Assistance is being sought from other sources to help keep the library operating.

## Further details from

Mr. Robin W. Doust  
Librarian and Secretary  
Bulawayo Public Library  
100 Fort Street  
Bulawayo  
ZIMBABWE.

Tel.: +263 9 60965/6

*Continued from page 4*

## INTEREST GROUPS

The multi sector consortium initiative of the Zimbabwe University Libraries Consortium is in full swing with ZULC having held two workshops on the setting up of a multi sector consortium of libraries in Zimbabwe. ZimLA was represented at these two workshops and was elected secretary of the Multi Sector Country Consortium Coordinating Board.

## PROJECTS

The Association has two projects that have remained on the drawing since their conception due to lack potential funders. The Association will continue to actively scout funds to undertake these two projects that National Council feels are very important in the resuscitation of the Association.

## SCECSAL 16

As advised last year, SCECSAL 16 is to be held in Kampala, Uganda in from 5th to 9th July 2004. The SCECSAL

16 Organizing Committee has already sent out invitations to Library and Information Professionals and the initial call for papers has also been sent out. The theme of SCECSAL 16 is "Towards a Knowledge Society for African Development" and it draws on the inspiration that information and knowledge are the catalysts that will empower Africa in her quest for development. It is built on the doctrine that by pursuing information for all, African Library and Information professionals will become key actors in the attainment of the African Renaissance, the vision of a prosperous and peaceful continent. Further information about SCECSAL 16 is available on the Uganda Library Association web site. (<http://www.geocities.com/scecsal>)

## CHALLENGES / CONSTRAINTS

Low membership  
Apathy to ZLA activities  
Apathy to professional activities  
Lack of a secretariat has led to poor communication among members. Members are scattered all over the country. Without fixed premises and a full time secretariat communication has been rendered difficult.

## FUTURE PLANS

Increase the visibility of the Association.  
Establishing the School Libraries Committee  
Participation in Zimbabwe Consortium of Libraries activities  
Complete the Strategic Planning exercise for the Association.  
The adoption of a Code of Conduct.

## FAREWELL REMARKS

Allow me Ladies and Gentle-

men to express a deep appreciation for the time I have served as National Chairperson since the extra - ordinary general meeting at Vashandiri Training Centre in Gweru in October 2001. My presidential theme centred on turning around the Association and restoring it to its former status as a giant among the professional associations in Zimbabwe. I must admit that I have met with mixed fortunes in my attempt to carry out what I promised you to do. However I feel that I have given it my best shot and that there is now need for someone with new ideas to steer the ship. As a result I am not standing for re election and please note that my stepping down from Council does not mean I have ceased to be a member of the Association. I will continue to be a member of the Mashonaland Branch of the Association and will be available 24 hours a day to serve ZimLA.

THANK YOU

## REPORT OF THE JOINT NLDS AND COLLEGE AND RESEARCH LIBRARIES CONSORTIUM HELD IN MUTARE AT WISE OWL HOTEL - 03 -07 MAY 2004.

The theme of the workshop was *"Information Resource Sharing With Particular Emphasis on Access To Electronic Resources"*. The Mutare workshop focused on the following main issues during presentations and discussions of the workshop: -

- The history and establishment of Library Consortia in Zimbabwe
- Information and Communication Technologies in Zimbabwe.

- Developments relating to implementation of Library Consortia in Zimbabwe.

- Building and operating Library Consortia

- Library Consortia workgroups
- Application of Information Technology in library services

- Getting the most out of electronic resources: User education for e-resource environment

- Future developments of Information Technology in libraries

The keynote address titled *'21<sup>st</sup> Century Librarianship in Zimbabwe, Meanings and Applications'*, was presented by Dr. Buhle Mbambo, Librarian of the University of Zimbabwe and Country coordinator of the Programme for the Enhancement of Research Information (PERI). Dr Mbambo expressed the view that Globalization was a 21<sup>st</sup> phenomenon that had changed the way business was conducted in the world and indeed in Zimbabwe. In order to compete and be heard, Librarians were urged to be committed to service and embrace collaboration in the use of ICT and surmount the challenges posed by the global information phenomenon. The expression 'think globally and act locally' had become more than a cliché for librarians as they had to find ways of remaining viable as a profession, effective in service delivery and relevant to their communities. Dr. Mbambo challenged Librarians to harness energies of Consortia in order to put Zimbabwean librarianship into the 21<sup>st</sup> century, to

box limitations and find collaborative solutions and realize that the world of information and technology is moving and we dare not be left behind. After her presentation Dr. Mbambo declared the workshop dully opened.

Mr. Elisha Chiware, Librarian, Chinhoyi University of Technology gave a presentation on *'Information and Communication Technologies in Zimbabwe Libraries - a situational review for 2000'*. The focus of the paper was on the current technology situation in Zimbabwe libraries. He noted that the use of computers in the Public sector, which includes, Universities, Colleges and Government Ministry libraries lagged far behind that of Industry and commerce. The lack of development is mainly due to the lack of adequate financial, technical and human resources, poor state of public communication infrastructure especially the critical shortage of telephone lines. Other constraints include, lack of an Information Technology Policy, limited national bandwidth and high ISPs charges. It was highlighted that problems faced by most institutions included lack of adequate hardware, limited bandwidth to access the Internet, unreliable internet access, electricity load shedding during working hours and lack of institutional support.

It was noted that university libraries in Zimbabwe had the most advanced IT infrastructure among all libraries. In general universities had established campus wide networks and were connected to the Internet. A few, including Africa University, NUST and University of Zimbabwe had installed state of the art ICT systems. University libraries had benefited from the Programme for the Enhancement of Research Information (PERI) sponsored by the International Network for the Availability of Scientific Publications (INASP).

On the other hand, Teachers and Technical Colleges sponsored by Zimbabwe Manpower Development Fund (ZIMDEF) were beginning to experience state of the art computing facilities. Other colleges have one or two computers connected to the Internet, which are extremely inadequate for the exploitation of e-resources. Lack of computer hardware is a major stumbling block in most libraries in this sector.

School libraries, especially private schools had made inroads into ICTs since independence. Projects such as The World Links Programme/Better schools project (BSPZ) sought to place ICT resource centres at strategic points in the country. The UNESCO driven programme 'creating learning networks for African Teachers' supports networking, in order to effect educational technology.

Public libraries in Zimbabwe were very much in the rudimentary stages of IT development. This state of affairs was again blamed on lack of resources. Whereas, number of special libraries especially the Non Governmental libraries are all Computerized

As a way forward the presenter believed that most of the problems associated with Information Technology in libraries could be addressed by having an ICT Policy put in place by Government and stake holders, the Library Consortia should pull together in sharing resources and ideas, help should be sought from the private sector which could donate hardware and pledge support for ICT development. Much as there were major constraints to ICT development, it is believed that concerted effort by stakeholders would accelerate ICT development for the good of libraries in Zimbabwe.



# Branch Reports

## 1. BRANCH MEETINGS

The Branch held its first meeting this year on 7 February 2004. There were eight dedicated librarians in attendance. Members welcomed the formation of the Midlands Book Distribution Committee that has the mandate to identify and distribute books to needy schools in the Midlands. Members also tasked the Chairperson and Vice Chairperson to make an appointment with the Mayor to raise the issue of revival of Libraries in Gweru.

## 2. WORKSHOPS

The Branch will hold its first Workshop this year at the end of July 2004. The Workshop will be aimed at sensitising Teacher Librarians on the value of libraries and books in schools. MASO (Midlands Aids Services Organisation) will be invited to present a paper on Aids Education in Schools and its Impact on Libraries. The meeting agreed that members should come up with an appropriate theme. The ZimLA School/Teacher Librarian Guidelines will be the basis of the Workshop Programme.

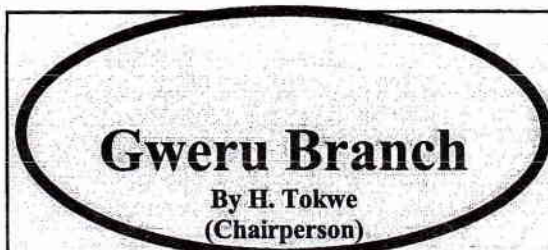
## 3. VISIT TO THE MAYOR OF GWERU.

The visit to the Mayor took place on the 12 March 2004. The Mayor thanked the Branch for coming to the

City Council with noble ideas of developing libraries in Gweru. As a way forward the Mayor said he would invite the Branch in future to attend Developmental Meetings as stakeholders in the area of Libraries. Among things to be discussed will be issues like the Budget, Infrastructure and how to involve Corporate Sector. The Mayor also blessed the meeting between the Branch and the Department of Housing and Community Services.

## 4. CURRENT DEVELOPMENTS

The next meeting was held on 5 April 2004. The Deputy Director of



Housing and Community Services gave the Branch the go ahead to visit Mtapa Library and the Ndlovu Youth Centre to inspect facilities and come up with recommendations on how to establish reading facilities. This is the task still in our hands. The Branch will write a comprehensive report which will be presented to the City Fathers.

## 5. ZIMLA CONFERENCE & AGM 2004

The Branch is proud to have host this year's Conference. The Zimbabwe Library Association Annual Conference was this year held in Gweru, the provincial capital of the Midlands Province. The Conference theme was "LIBRARIES IN AN ERA OF HIV-AIDS"

## 6 GWERU BOOK FAIR

Quite a number of Librarians attended the Gweru Book Fair from 4-5 June. School Librarians in Gweru, Mberengwa, Zhombe Shurugwi and Kwekwe won book vouchers. Others won consolation prizes. The Chairperson of the Midlands-Masvingo Branch participated and distributed more membership forms. The Branch looks forward to new members.

## 7. CONCLUSION

We which to applaud the upcoming formation of the Masvingo Branch. The Branch is growing and hope it will be a beacon to other branches in the country.

**Thank You**

A school's librarian workshop was held by the branch committee at the National University of Science and Technology. The workshop focused on the basics of running and managing a school library. The workshop was for 2 days and after the workshop, the participants were very much impressed by the level of organisation of this workshop and requested the branch committee to hold another workshop before the end of the year.

In response to this request, the branch committee is busy organising another workshop but this time the

main focus will be organising information in the school library. This workshop is being planned for November/December and it will end with a Christmas party being hosted for the members of the branch.

The branch was also involved in the graduation ceremony that took place at Bulawayo Polytechnic College. As has been the tradition, the branch donated some prize

money to the best student at NC, ND and HND levels in the Department of Library and Information Science. **BRAVO MATABELELAND BRANCH**



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### Background to Library Consortia

Mr. Dube, Director NLDS led a discussion on the above topic and explained that the establishment of Library Consortia in Zimbabwe was at the instigation of the Open Society Initiative, (OSI) which brought together librarians from different libraries to discuss library cooperation. The Universities and College libraries that already had cooperating groups before this initiative, went on to develop Library Consortia. Mr. Chikwanha and Mrs. Chitombo gave short explanations on how ZULC and CARLC respectively were formed and operating. The focus of library consortia was to have a structured organization, a registered governing body with a constitution, as well as place emphasis on shared resources and shared costs. The National Library Consortium working team pledged to assist those sectors interested in building up their consortia.

### Issues in Consortia building

Mr. Chikwanha Deputy Librarian Chinhoyi University of Technology presentation focused on the following: - 1) What is a Library Consortium, 2) What do Library Consortium do, 3) Why Library Consortia now and 4) Motivation for Consortia building

In addressing the above points Mr. Chikwanha pointed out that a Library Consortium was an organization formed by several libraries working together to do things which, a single library could not do efficiently and effectively on their own. Library Consortia were regional, local or service based. The main business of Library Consortia was to share resources, at reduced costs of information and other material resources. The service of Library Consortia was also time saving because once one library had initiated a programme the rest of the membership could benefit from it. As a Consortium better terms and conditions of licences and more professional service could be obtained.

### LIBRARY SERVICE: APPLICATION OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Mr. Manzanise, Information Director Zimbabwe Open University referred to the digital age as "a seamless web of communication networks, computers, databases and consumer electronic that will put vast amounts of information at the users' fingertips" *US Information Task Force cited in Chisenga 2000:178*)

### Information Technology in libraries

In addressing the issue of Information Technology in libraries, the presenter identified these as, OPACS and Electronic databases, Library web servers accessible over the Internet, E-mail as a communication tool, Internet as a reference tool and Digital libraries.

### Web Access

Online catalogues, Electronic databases and Library web servers were tools that libraries could access online. These would include library's own e-resources posted on the web and access of other libraries and organizational resources. Libraries were developing more as information centered rather than the traditional book centred.

### Communication Technology and the Digital Libraries.

Library information could be saved in digital form on large servers or on CD-ROM, which would then be accessed electronically. The large volumes of information and simultaneous access save both space and duplication of resources. Many libraries can share the same resource thereby saving costs. Libraries could also forward requests very quickly by e-mail. E-Resources in libraries were thus efficient and cost effective.

The major highlight of the workshop was a visit to Jokomo/Yamada library at Africa University. The Librarian Ms B. Pfu-kani addressed participants on the library's e-resources. As a member of ZULC, the University Library already had access to the PERI online journals. The library uses INOPAC software for the database as well as charging and dis-

charging systems and has Internet software, which it uses to control Internet use. The library has subscribed to digital libraries on CD-ROM.

### WORKSHOP RECOMMENDATIONS.

After all the deliberations participants came up with the following recommendations: -

- That Library Consortia together with other stakeholders such as the Government through the Ministry of Technology come up with a digitalization policy so as to promote the digitalization of local information.
- That Special and Public libraries that do not have a sector Consortium, write up position papers and put in place structures for Consortia by late July to early August 2004.
- That Library Consortia that operate on different software, source for and analyze library software and software compatibility where different systems are used.
- College Libraries work out a strategy for attachment to University libraries which have advanced ICT systems such as Africa University in order to acquaint themselves with practical problems of information technology
- That a follow-up workshop be convened in the second half of the year, to specifically focus on practical work for those whose experience of ICT is still low and that periodical meetings be held by different Consortia to ensure that progress is made and monitored. Monitoring will ensure that problems within the Consortium are quickly resolved.
- Each Consortium must have a database of its members to ensure speed efficient and effective communication.





# NEWS IN BRIEF

## NEW SYLLABI FOR TRAINING LIBRARIAS AT LOCAL POLYTECHNICS APPROVED BY HEXCO

[Higher Education Examinations Council]

After a lot of lobbying for new syllabi in all the courses in Library and Information Science and Records Management offered at our local Polytechnics, HEXCO finally agreed to have these syllabi reviewed to meet current developments in the field of Librarianship. The new reviewed syllabi have a bias towards the use of Information Technology in libraries. New subjects have been introduced whilst others have been combined or dropped together in the new syllabi. A subject taken from records management will be now be taught to students doing Library and Information Science at National Diploma and Higher National Diploma levels. If you are interested in knowing the new changes do not hesitate to contact any of the Polytechnics offering Library and Information Science courses.

## RURAL LIBRARIES AND RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME [R.L.R.D.P] LAUNCHES A CHILDREN'S DRAWN MOBILE LIBRARY

The Rural Library and Resources Development Programme, through the invention of Mr. Obadiah Moyo recently launched a state of the art Children's Multi-Media Mobile Library Cart at Sikhobokhobo Primary School, Nkayi on the 14th October 2004. The Mobile Children's Library is equipped with electro-communication facilities such as a radio, television, VCR, DVD, CD player, fax, e-mail and the internet. The mobile cart is powered by solar energy and this whole project was made possible with funding from The Richard Scarry Foundation for Children's Literacy based in Switzerland. During the launch, R.L.R.D.P. also donated books to four primary schools in the area sponsored by Save the Children Norway in Zimbabwe.

## STAFF MOVEMENTS

- ◀ Mr. L.R. Fusire is now the new Lecturer-In-Charge at the Library School - Bulawayo Polytechnic. He takes over from Mr. N. Chitsamatanga who has now joined Midlands State University Library.
- ◀ Mr. Ngwenya has now joined the Faculty of Information and Communication Science at NUST as a lecturer. He was the librarian at NRZ prior to his move to NUST.
- ◀ Ms. B. Chanetsa has left NUST library and joined Harare Institute of Technology Library. She brings to HIT a lot of experience. Good luck with your new job.

## MASTERS PROGRAMME KICKS OF AT NUST

The much awaited Masters in Library and Information Science has finally taken off at NUST. The first intake for this programme is very excited at being the pioneers but the excitement has been turned into sweat as hard work is expected from this group. Good luck guys and hope you will all pass with flying colours.

## B-TECH IN LIBRARY SCIENCE STILL ON THE CARDS

This is an update from the article featured in the last issue. The B-Tech programme to be offered at our local polytechnics is still on the cards. A lot of consultation is still being done with stakeholders and it is hoped that this programme will start before the end of 2005. For further details, liase with either Harare or Bulawayo Polytechnic Colleges.