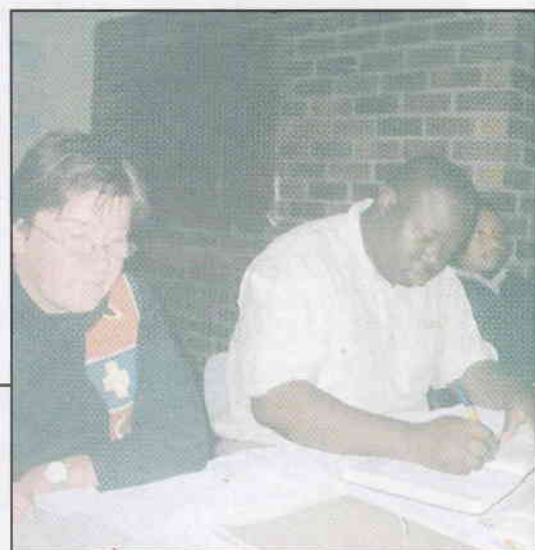
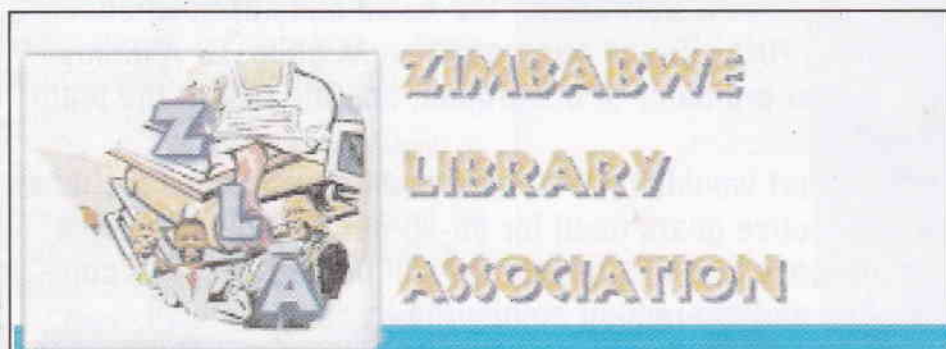


ZimLA News

Volume 1, Issue 1

July-December 2002

A newsletter of the Zimbabwe Library Association



Participants at the Gweru strategic planning workshop. (See story on Page 2).

MEET YOUR NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

CHAIRPERSON

Lawrence Chikwanha
chikwanhal@yahoo.co.uk

VICE CHAIRPERSON

Mike Maumbe

SECRETARY

Cecilie

Butenschon-Mariri
zimlasecr@avu.org

TREASURER

Mathew Moyo
matrac@avu.org

EDITOR

Vimbai M. Hungwe
zlaeditor@yahoo.co.uk

BRANCH CHAIRS:

Dzingayi Shangwa
(Midlands)

dshangwa@avu.org

Macberth Ndlovu

(Matebeleland)

mndhlovu@hotmail.com

Brian Kutiwa

(Manicaland)

africau@ecoweb.co.zw

Chenjerai Mabhiza

(Mashonaland)

cmabhiza@hotmail.com

From the Editor's Desk

Welcome to first issue

IT is with great pleasure and joy that we present to you the first issue of the Zimbabwe Library Association Newsletter, which is an idea that was first mooted at East 24 during our Annual General Meeting of 2001. This issue comes courtesy of the International Network for the Availability of Scientific Publications (INASP) and our many thanks go to, Dr Anthony Olden, the co-ordinator of the project, and the rest of the team at INASP.

This support wouldn't have come at a better time as the new ZimLA Executive gears itself for an all-out membership drive.

It is our hope that this newsletter will help to increase communication and interaction among the National Council, branches and individuals so as to help us know what is happening around us and beyond in the field of librarianship/information services.

Since coming into office, the new executive has refused to be found wanting; one of its applauded achievements has been successfully holding the Strategic Planning Workshop for all branch executives and the Executive Council where ZimLA sought to look at its past, present and define its course for the future.

ZimLA has also shown its concern for school libraries by setting-up a Sub-committee on school libraries, which is going to be a permanent feature of its structure.

The association has also put as one of its targets, the formulation of a standard curriculum to be used by branches when training school/ teacher librarians during their workshops.

While all might seem to be going on well for the new executive, there are a number of tasks that still need to be done to make ZimLA a vibrant association. The membership is still very low, hence this calls for the formulation of a good marketing drive to lure back both young and old librarians.

The financial base of the association is inadequate, hence its heavy dependence on donor funds for its activities.

The new executive has the task of coming-up with strategies that will help make the association self-sustaining in the long run.

Published by:

Zimbabwe Library Association
P.O. Box 3133
Harare
Zimbabwe
zimlasecr@avu.org
zlaeditor@yahoo.co.uk

● For submission of articles or comments, please use the above postal address or emails

Bank's programme to benefit Gweru Library

By Mathew Moyo

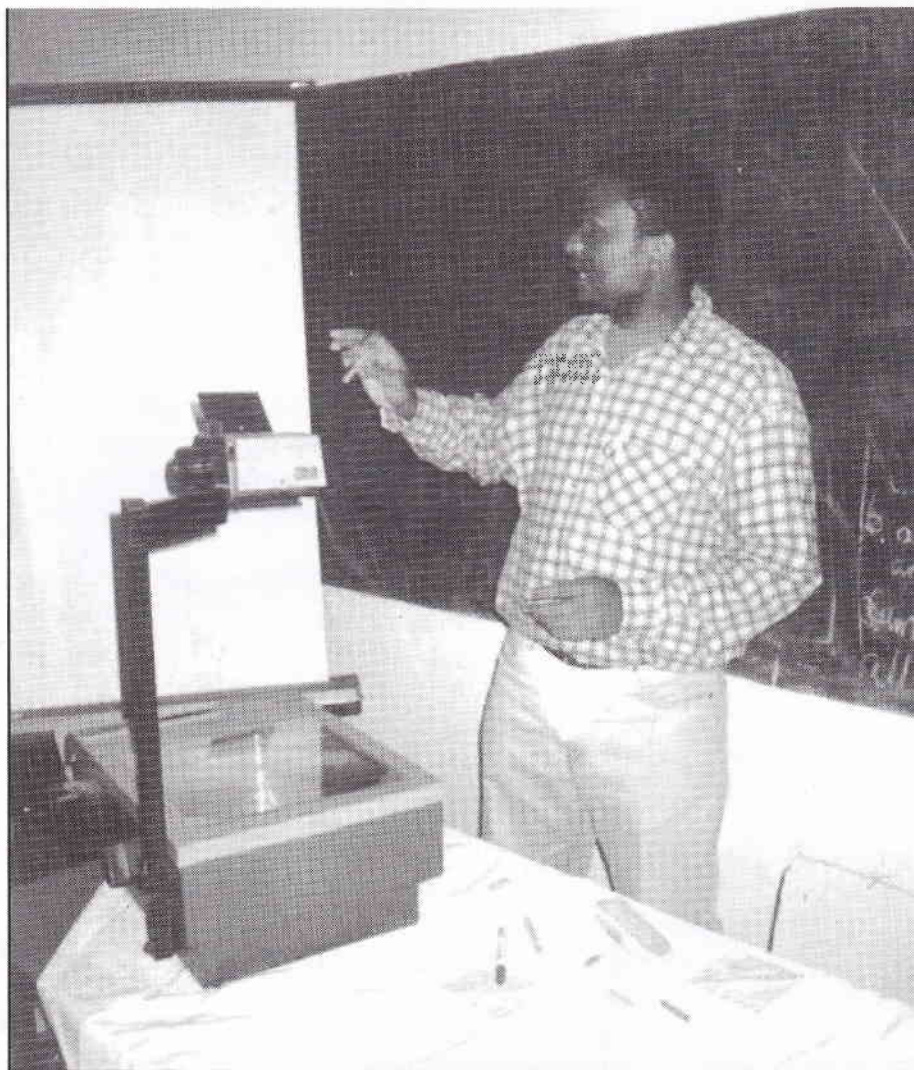
GWERU Memorial library, one of the oldest libraries in Gweru is set to benefit from the Standard Chartered Bank's charity programme.

The charity programme which is meant to benefit the disadvantaged, is going to see the refurbishment of the library's ceiling which had become a cause for concern.

Commenting on the donation, the librarian, Mr File Byson, said that such a gesture wouldn't have come at a better time and will go a long way in improving the library's internal outlook which had become an eyesore.

This is not the first time that fortune has knocked on Gweru Memorial Library's doors in recent months. The library also received two computers from Zimbabwe Alloys Company which are used for record keeping and communication purposes.

The library which is situated in central Gweru serves clients from all walks of life for a nominal fee. It relies mostly on donations. Any well-wishers who wish to donate to the library can contact the Zimbabwe Library Association or the Gweru Memorial Library – Librarian on 054-22628 (working hours).



MR Chenjerai Mabhiza, chairperson ZimLA Mashonaland Branch, and resource person stressing a point during the Gweru Strategic Planning work-

Redcliff Municipality opens another library in council house

REDCLIFF Municipality recently opened yet another library in a council house in Rutendo high density suburb, bringing the number of libraries in Redcliff to three. The other two libraries are in Redcliff town and Forwood. The small mining town municipality has gone a long way in the promotion of reading among its residents through

the establishment of libraries.

Midlands-Masvingo Branch takes Librarianship to SDAs.

The Midlands-Masvingo Branch of The Zimbabwe Library Association (ZimLA) has embarked on a massive promotional campaign. The year 2002 saw the Branch hosting a workshop for the School

Development Association (SDA) members from Mkoba High Density Schools. The workshops are meant to conscientise the SDAs on the role of libraries in a school set-up and their roles in spear-heading such developments and the consequent benefits to the students, staff and community as a whole.

Association embarks on strategic planning exercise

By Chenjerai Mabhiza

ZimLA has seen mixed fortunes since its launch. The advent of independence in 1980 and the expansion of the library and information services sector saw a huge rise in the membership of and activities of ZimLA.

However in the early 1990's membership and interest in the affairs of ZimLA began to wane. This was compounded by poor communication within the Association. This situation exacerbated by lack of a full time Secretariat resulting in membership of ZimLA plummeting to an all time low.

In addition to very low membership, there is serious apathy to the activities of the Association. The Association has lost its appeal amongst its constituents. The Association is only able to survive financially largely due to financial assistance from its collaborative partners namely the Swedish Library Association and the Norwegian Library Association.

To redress the situation and restore its vibrancy, National Council of ZimLA have decided to undertake a strategic planning exercise for the Association.

This exercise will among other things formulate the vision, mission and objectives of the Association and identify strategies of achieving these. Plans for the Association's revival and for its positioning as the Association of choice for Library and Information Services professionals in Zimbabwe will be formulated. The Strategic Planning exercise will seek to redress the growing apathy to Association's activities and will seek to place the Association on a firm financial position and thus reduce its dependency on donors to fund its activities.

The strategic planning exercise is very necessary to ZimLA because the Association needs to be turned around so that it can attract more members. The Association needs to re-orient itself and claim its rightful place among other professional Associations. The Strategic Plan will gear the Association towards attaining its goals and objectives thus attracting more members and improve the Association's finances reducing dependency on donor funds.

The establishment of a vision and mission statement and the carrying out of a SWOT analysis will enable the Association to carry out its own self-study and redress any weaknesses it has.

To set the strategic planning exercise rolling, ZimLA held a three-day workshop from the 28 to 30 June 2002 at the Baptist Conference Centre in Gweru. The Norwegian Library Association funded the workshop. Each of the four branches that make up ZimLA was asked to send four members of the Branch executive to this strategic planning seminar. This was done to ensure that the strategic planning was as consultative as possible. In addition all the members of ZimLA's National Council attended the workshop.

The workshop was organised in order to introduce the participants to the basic theoretical framework of strategic planning. It was envisaged that this would enable the participants to draw a strategic plan for ZimLA and also to assist branch committees to formulate strategic plans for their branches.

Mr Jonasi Zvemhara, a managing director of a local marketing firm, was approached by National Council to be the resource person for this workshop.

Some of the concepts covered during this workshop included:

- Definitions of strategy, competitive advantage, and corporate planning.
- role of strategy
- what is a successful strategy
- strategy as a target
- strategy formulation - pronouncing the vision, mission, establishment setting objectives and goals, environment and industry analysis, identifying key success factors, stock-taking existing strategies and developing a new strategy, effective implementation, and monitoring.
- maze and craze of corporate planning
- fallacy of strategic planning
- SWOT analysis

The participants of this workshop commented that the workshop was indeed an eye-opener and that it was the best course of action that has ever been embarked on by the Association.

The National Chairperson Mr Lawrence Chikwanha was happy at the amount of ground that the initial strategic planning workshop covered. He said that, "we have to bear in mind that strategic planning is not an event but a process and as this is our first step in strategic planning I would like to thank you all for the amount of ground you have covered in the short three days that we were here."

The national Chairperson reported that the next step in the strategic planning exercise was to present the report and proceedings of the Gweru workshop to the National Council's Strategic Planning Committee. The National Council through the committee will finalise the document and then present it to members of the Association during the Mid-Term (Year) Conference.

Who is who and where?

THE first person to be featured in our column **Who is Who and Where** is none other than Dr Buhle Mbambo.

Dr Mbambo is the first black woman to head the University of Zimbabwe Library after years of male domination. She joined the University of Zimbabwe in October 2001 from the University of Botswana Library.

She got her PhD in Librarianship from the University of Pretoria. Other universities she attended include University of Zimbabwe and University of Botswana.

Dr Mbambo brings back home a wealth of experience and ZimLA would like to congratulate her on her educational and professional achievements.

Dr Mbambo's doctoral thesis is entitled: *The Internet as an information conduit in developing countries: an investigation of World Wide Web usability among small and medium textile enterprises in Botswana.*

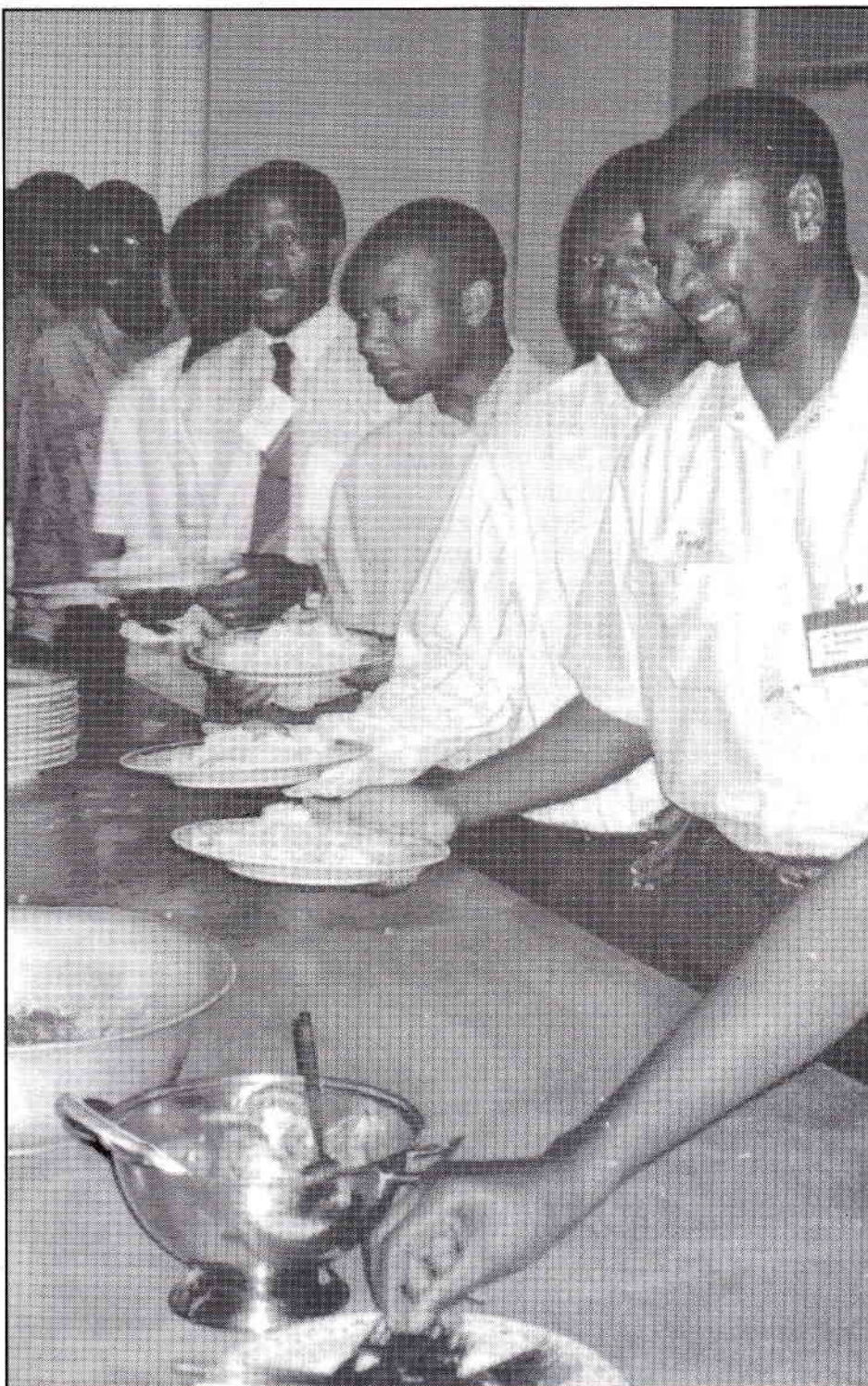
Abstract

The Internet has been called the technology of century because it is expected to reduce the development gap between developing countries and developed ones. This thesis examines the validity of that assertion. The research examines Internet use at two levels: the first level is the macro level of issues of Internet connectivity in developing countries, and the second level is the micro level of the usability of the World Wide Web for information management in a developing country, Botswana.

The two research methodologies of content analysis and case study are used in this study.

The findings of this study are that while there is a need for macro policy to create national and global environments for using the Internet, sustainable connection should not be universal but should rather be based on the information management needs of a target population. Inherent infrastructural and socio-technical challenges should then be tackled as part of the effort to create a sustainable Internet use.

Lunchtime . . .



PARTICIPANTS to the ZimLA Manicaland Branch Teacher Librarian workshop enjoying lunch after a gruelling morning session.

Local delegation attend

THE Standing Conference of Eastern, Central and Southern Africa Librarians (SCECSAL 15) was held in Johannesburg from 15 to 19 April 2002. ZimLA would like to extend its congratulations to LIASA for a well-organised conference. The theme of this year's conference was: *From Africa to the World: the Globalisation of Indigenous Knowledge Systems*.

A sizeable group of Zimbabwean librarians attended the conference and managed to organize a brief meeting with other fellow Zimbabwean librarians based outside our borders who are either working or studying.

The conference had a lot to offer in the form of workshops, seminars, exhibitions and tours.

For more information on the conference you can visit: www.scecsal.org.za.

Or see your branch representatives who attended the conference for its proceedings.

The chairperson Mr Lawrence Chikwanha presented the following country report:

Introduction

The past two years since SCECSAL 14 was held in Namibia have seen mixed fortunes for the Zimbabwe Library Association (ZimLA).

The major highlight of the period under review was the election into power of a new National Council at an extraordinary annual general meeting in October 2001. The following are some of the major activities that occurred during the period under review:

Workshops

The Zimbabwe Library Association organised the following workshops of note during the period under review:

The IFLA/ALP/ ZimLA Regional Workshop

This conference was funded by the International Federation of Librarianship Advancement of Librarianship programme in response to a ZimLA project proposal. The following countries were invited to this workshop under full sponsorship; Botswana, Kenya, Malawi, Namibia, South Africa, Zambia and Zimbabwe. Delegates from Sweden and librarians from Norway and Ghana also attended the conference. Important resolutions were passed and these are awaiting finalisation for submission to the relevant authorities. Plans for the publication of the papers presented at this workshop have reached an advanced level.

The ZimLA mid-year conference

For the second time in a row, ZimLA's co-operative partner, the Swedish Library association funded the mid-year conference that was held in Bulawayo. Important resolutions were passed at this workshop and a consolidated document is being compiled for circulation to members.

Zimbabwe Library Association Workshops

The four branches of the Association held a number of workshops for teacher librarians. Emphasis on school libraries is due to the fact that these libraries form the majority of the members of Association.

Zimbabwe International Book Fair

ZLA participated in the 2001 edition of the highly popular Zimbabwe International Book Fair. The major highlight activity that the Association conducted during the Book Fair was holding a seminar for librarians. This seminar entitled, "Libraries and Intellectual Freedom" was convened by ZimLA in conjunction with the Norwegian Library Association, the Swedish Library Association, the Norwegian Non-Fiction Writers and Translators Association and the IFLA Free Access to Information and Freedom of Expression programme and was well attended by librarians from a number of countries.

Constitution

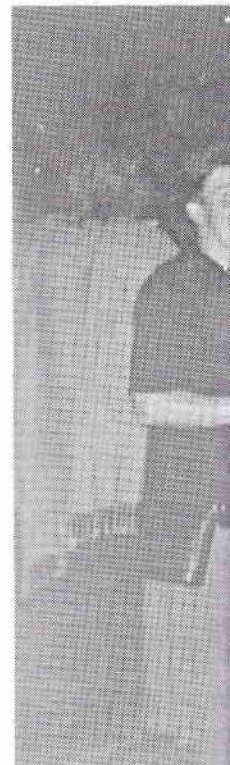
After a lengthy consultative exercise, the ZimLA constitution was finally adopted at an extra ordinary general meeting held in Gweru. Now that the Constitution has been finalised, the Association is now focusing its attention on holding consultative meeting and formulating a Code of Conduct for the profession.

School Libraries Task Force

ZimLA has set up a school libraries task force to oversee the formation of a School Libraries committee of ZimLA. A large number of the members of ZimLA are school librarians and the Association has resolved to form a School Libraries Section rather than form a separate Association for school librarians.

Library School at the National University of Science and Technology

During the period under review, the first Library and Information Science degree awarding institution in Zimbabwe was opened at the National University of Science and Technology. This move is to be applauded as there was no degree awarding library school in the country. Of note



THE Zimbabwean based abroad and Mariri, C Hungw Gurubraar

s SCECSAL conference



contingent to SCECSAL included some friends of ZimLA Zimbabwean librarians in the Diaspora. From left is C Chiduwa, A Chinyemba, (a student in South Africa), Kari the Norwegian Library Associations and L Chikwanha.

the cooperation between the library school and ZLA.

Interest Groups

The Zimbabwe Library Association recognizes the need for librarians with same interests to group into working relationships and therefore encourages the formation of interest groups. To date, the following groups have the backing of the Association: The Zimbabwe Isis User Group, Zimbabwe Association of Academic and Research Libraries, the Zimbabwe Association of Music Librarians and the Association of Librarians in Higher Education and College Libraries. A consortium of University Libraries has recently been formed and the Association is exploring the best way to create maximum synergy between such consortia and itself.

Representation.

ZLA is represented in important fora involving players in the book chain and stakeholders in the library and information science profession. The Association has maintained contact with other organizations that are involved in information and libraries and is a member of the Zimbabwe Book Development Council, the National Library and Documentation Services Board, the National Arts Council of

Zimbabwe and was recently appointed to the Zimbabwe International Book Fair Board of Trustees.

Links and Co-operation

The Association has maintained its links with international organizations involved in libraries and information work. ZLA cherishes the good working relations that exist between itself and the Swedish Library Association, the Norwegian Library Association, the International Federation of Library Associations and the Commonwealth Library Association. ZLA has also continued to participate in regional associations with the same interests like SCECSAL. These links and cooperative arrangements with these organizations are making the running of the Association a less stressful exercise through their financial and technical support.

SCECSAL 16

ZLA withdrew its bid to host SCECSAL 16 in 2004 but would like to bid to host SCECSAL 17 in 2006.

Challenges / Constraints

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

Sub-Committee on school libraries in formed

A LARGE number of Zimbabwe Library Association's membership comes from school/teacher librarians. This sector of libraries has greatly been hit by limited interest from the stakeholders. Since the abolishment of the schools librarian post within the Ministry of Education, little attention has been given to the establishment and development of school libraries.

At the Gweru Extraordinary General Meeting, school/teacher librarians highlighted the need to give special attention to this sector, as this is the stage at which a reading culture is cultivated.

In response to the call, the National Council set-up a taskforce to look into this issue and this comprises Mr C. Mabhiza and Mr V Hungwe from the National Council and the following representatives from the Branches Mrs L Midzi (Manicaland) Mr. Chirume (Mashonaland) Ms N Ngwenya (Matebeleland) Mr G Madhimba (Midlands/Masvingo).

EU pumps over \$1m into library

■ ALLOW me ladies and gentlemen to say a few words about the school library and the role it plays in enhancing the teaching and learning process in schools.

According to the UNESCO School Library Manifesto, the school library provides information and ideas that are fundamental to the functioning successfully in today's society, which is increasingly information and knowledge based. The school library equips students with life long learning skills and develops their imagination.

The school library therefore serves as a central source of a variety of instructional materials to teachers and pupils. With the library in place there is no need for the teacher to confine himself to one textbook. The teacher should therefore regularly visit the library to source materials to supplement text in Language, Science, Maths, and indeed any other subject.

The role the library can play in a school is multipurpose and includes:

- Supporting and enhancing educational goals as outlined in the school's mission and curriculum.

- Developing and sustaining in children the habit and enjoyment of reading and learning and the use of libraries

- Helping students become critical and be able to evaluate sources of information.

- Promoting reading and the resources and services of the school library to the whole school community and beyond.

As one secondary school library association says "...the library is not merely a physical space in which various media are stored; It is a concept, a tangible expression of the school's

The 5th of July was a day of jubilation in Checheche Communal area when Checheche Secondary School officially opened its library. The library comes courtesy of the Zimbabwe/EU Microproject Programme. The day was marked by drama, traditional dance, songs and poems. According to the Zimbabwe/EU Microproject Programme – Mutare Office, "Projects are undertaken at the initiative and with the active participation of the local community, meet a demonstrated and observed need, and have economic and social impact on the life of people. The support given is based on the self-help principle. At least 25 percent of the estimated total project costs should be contributed Zimbabwe/EU Microproject Programme. The Zimbabwe/EU Microproject Programme injected Z\$1 808 175.53 into the building of the library. The Zimbabwe Library Association Chairperson Mr Lawrence Chikwanha was the Guest of Honour and delivered the following speech which has a message which was not only targeted at the Checheche community but all involved in the spreading of a reading culture-

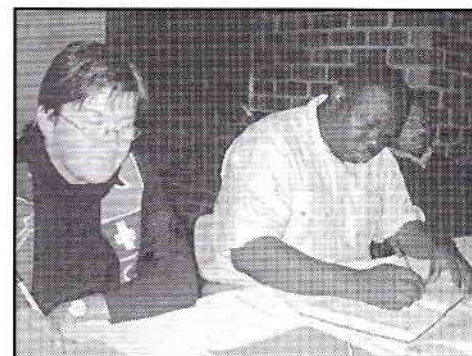
ethos and values, its approaches to equity of opportunity, the moral and spiritual development of children and young people and its educational purposes.

It has the potential to introduce young people to the world of literature and information and to enable them to develop skills which will enhance their lives as adults. The school library can provide staff and pupils alike with unrivalled resource with which to support learning in school".

I have included the community here deliberately – for it is this community that worked tirelessly to supplement the donation that was provided by the EU Micro Projects Finance and they should also benefit the fruit of their hard work.

From what I have said above, it follows that specialists must man this nerve centre of a school. Our librarians must no longer be keepers of books but must be trained information specialists. Gone are the days when any worker in the school would be tasked to be the librarian. A person you employ to staff the library must be one who can work in collaboration with his/her teaching colleagues to meet the demands of the school curriculum.

This person should not be identified with a specific subject area but rather have expertise in matters relating to information handling, learning



Mr Lawrence Chikwanha (right) and ZimLA national Secretary, Mrs Cecilie taking notes at the Strategic Workshop.

resources and the learning process. I am therefore urging the responsible authorities of this school to examine the possibility of a qualified librarian to maximise the use of this resource that the EU Microprojects have provided us.

If the recruitment of a full time librarian is impossible, I would like to inform you that the Manicaland Branch of my Association runs workshop every school holiday to equip teachers with basic librarianship skills.

The Zimbabwe Library Association has also set-up a Sub-Committee on School Libraries whose terms of reference among others include establishment of partnerships among libraries and the identification and recommendation of training needs of school library personnel. I am therefore urging your school to join my Association so that it can benefit from such programmes.

As I have said previously, one of the core functions of the library is to encourage children to read. However, there can be no formula that we can sit down here and agree that we have drawn up a formula for promoting reading in schools. Individual librarians have to devise home grown solutions to tackle poor readership in their schools. Strategies on how to increase access to and use of reading materials will need to be formulated if we are to hook young readers and keep them hooked to reading forever."

Information boost for Midlands State University

PROVIDING effective information services for a newly-established university can be a challenge, especially in these times of economic hardship. We at MSU are grateful for the efforts of our fellow international colleagues at Book Aid International, Keele University, INASP as well as OSI for their relentless initiatives in providing information resources.

Since its establishment in March 2000, the Midlands State University received the following donations:

- 208 volumes in 2001 from Book Aid International (UK)
- 401 volumes in 2002 from Book Aid International (UK)
- 746 volumes in 2001 from Keele University

The financial value of these donations adds up to millions of dollars. These consignments cover a wide range of subjects that are offered at MSU.

The most pleasing aspect of the donations was their relevance and currency. The donations have become the backbone of our short loan section and both students and staff rely heavily on this collection to meet their research, teaching and learning needs.

The Keele University donation, was solicited by the MSU Acting Dean of Arts and Social Sciences, Mr Christopher Gwatidzo, who is an alumni of Keele University.

His former Lecturers in Keele's Department of Human Resources Management and Industrial Relations, Professors Mike Ironside and Roger Seifert co-ordinated the collection of books from friends and institutions in the UK.

Like most institutions, the MSU Library has been experiencing difficul-

Library gets books worth millions

ties in subscribing to international journals. This can be attributed to

- High subscriptions
- Unavailability of foreign currency and dwindling budget allocations

For two years, our users were unable to adequately access current journal information. When all hope seemed lost, the International Network for the Availability Scientific Publications (INASP) embarked on an information access and dissemination initiative called PERI (Programme for the Enhancement of Research Information). Through this program, libraries and researchers across Africa now have access to current academic journals.

- EBSCO - host - 5000+ (all disciplines)
- Swets Blackwells - 300+ (all disciplines)
- Deal - 300+ (all disciplines)

Due to this magnificent gesture by INASP and the Open Society Institute (OSI) we are assured that the MSU community has easy access to a wide wealth of information especially for their research.

Our Research Board Project proposals are now on the increase and we are optimistic that the quality of research from our students and staff will contribute positively to the development of

Zimbabwe and the world at large.

To all those who are working tirelessly in improving the quality of our information service, we say thank you, *mazvita, siyabonga*.

Univeristy libraries form consortium

UNIVERSITY libraries in Zimbabwe recently joined hands to form the Zimbabwe University Libraries Consortium (ZULC) for the purpose of addressing concerns of mutual interest.

According to its Constitution, the mission of ZULC shall be:

- To promote and facilitate mutual cooperation and understanding among the University Libraries in Zimbabwe
- To provide a forum for sharing information and experiences about university governance in relation to the provision of Library and information services
- To promote and facilitate the teaching, learning, research, information and recreational needs of users within the participating members' institutions by acquiring, developing archiving and disseminating data and documentation in print or electronic format
- To promote and facilitate cooperative acquisition schemes among members in the organisation
- To provide students with greater access to information resources available in participating member libraries
- To establish Union catalogues and Web OPACS that provide access to participating member libraries collection of print and electronic resources

Chance to improve qualifications

APPLICATIONS are invited for the Anthony Thompson Award .

Anthony Thompson was the first full-time IFLA Secretary General, from 1962 to 1970, and the trust fund was set up for the study of international and comparative librarianship.

The award enables a qualified librarian from outside the UK to visit and study some aspects of UK library and information work. Applicants should have at least 5 years experience, have not made a previous professional visit to the UK, and be under the age of 40 on the closing date.

The selection panel encourages applications for the 2003 award from Africa. One of the themes that we are interested in is Community Information, but other themes will be considered.

Normally visits last for around 3-4 weeks [and will include 2-5 July 2003 to coincide with the Umbrella conference organised by CILIP], and the funds support airfare, UK travel and a small daily maintenance allowance. Applicants must write a report of not more than 5000 words with-

in 6 months of their visit for publication in *Focus* the ILIG journal.

A panel comprising members of ILIG committee and CILIP International Relations Panel will consider applications.

Their decision will be final and they will not enter into correspondence on it.

The deadline for receipt of proposals for the 2003 award is Friday 29 November 2002. The successful applicant will be notified in December 2002.

Applicants should submit a formal proposal in English of up to 500 words [equivalent to 1-2 pages of A4 paper] using the headings of Objectives for the visit and Planned approach and content, and attach a full curriculum vitae with the names of two referees in senior posts.

The proposal should be sent to the Secretary, Diana Rosenberg, by email to drosenberg@gn.apc.org or by post to Roadway, The Ridge, Bussage, Stroud, Gloucestershire GL6 8BB, UK



**DESERV
D BREA**

|||
Gweru
strategic
planning
workshop
partici-
pants
break fo
tea
|||



PARTICIPANTS at the school/teacher librarians workshop held in Manicaland.

Manicaland chapters out

By Brian Kutiwa
Manicaland Chairperson

THE Zimbabwe Library Association Manicaland Branch has introduced an innovative way of taking its services to its members.

Realising that the Manicaland Province is a very vast province covering 36 459 square kilometres, the idea of holding regular branch meetings and other activities in Mutare whilst being a noble one was not the best for its members. The distance some members covered in travelling to Mutare is almost similar or more than the journey from Mutare to Harare (270km).

Coupled with the issue of distance was the fact that the majority of members of ZimLA Manicaland Branch are school librarians and teacher librarians.

These members often have problems which need more of "home grown solutions" rather than prescriptive solutions

designed at far off institutions.

Also the teacher librarians and school librarians needed to blend in well with the current district by district organisation structures that is prevalent in the educational and school administration system in this country.

All factors thus pointed to a need to be responsive to the requirements of the majority of the members of the branch.

In 2001, the Executive of ZimLA's Manicaland Branch came up with the idea of forming District Chapters to ease the plight of its members in this far-flung province. ZimLA Manicaland Branch undertook to form district chapters in each of the seven districts of Manicaland.

These seven districts are Mutare Urban, Nyanga, Chipinge, Chimanimani, Makoni, Buhera and Mutasa. The launch of these District Chapters was done in a blitz over two

consecutive weekends. Members of the Branch executive were grouped in pairs and each pair was given a district to visit and launch the District Chapter.

Various activities were scheduled at each of the District launches. Firstly there was a presentation of a paper on how to establish a school library. This paper was presented to capture the interest of the audience as it dealt with an issue very pertinent to the majority of the members.

After the presentation of the paper, the next activity was distribution of ZimLA's constitution accompanied by an explanation of ZimLA's objectives and the benefits of membership. The election of a District Executive comprising of at least a Chairperson, Secretary and Treasurer completed the activities of the launch of the District Chapter. The chairperson of each district chapter automatically became an ex-officio member of the branch executive.

ZimLA Mission Statement

ZimLA salutes Norwegian, Swedish counterparts

By Cecilie Mariri

ZIMBABWE Library Association (ZimLA) would like to express its gratitude to its donors, the Norwegian and Swedish Library Associations (NLA and SLA).

These two sister associations have sponsored a lot of ZimLA activities during the past years, including participating in the Zimbabwe International Book Fair (ZIBF). Thanks to these Nordic associations! Some ZimLA members have not only been sponsored to attend the ZIBF but, several seminars within the framework of ZIBF have been arranged as a cooperation between Norway, Sweden and ZimLA.

This year, the SLA sponsored three Zimbabweans to participate in SCECSAL 15 in Johannesburg. ZimLA's National Secretary was also sponsored by NLA to attend the conference in her capacity as a representative of the NLA in the cooperation with ZimLA.

They also pay our subscription fees to SCECSAL and IFLA – fees in foreign currencies are very difficult to pay from Zimbabwe at the moment.

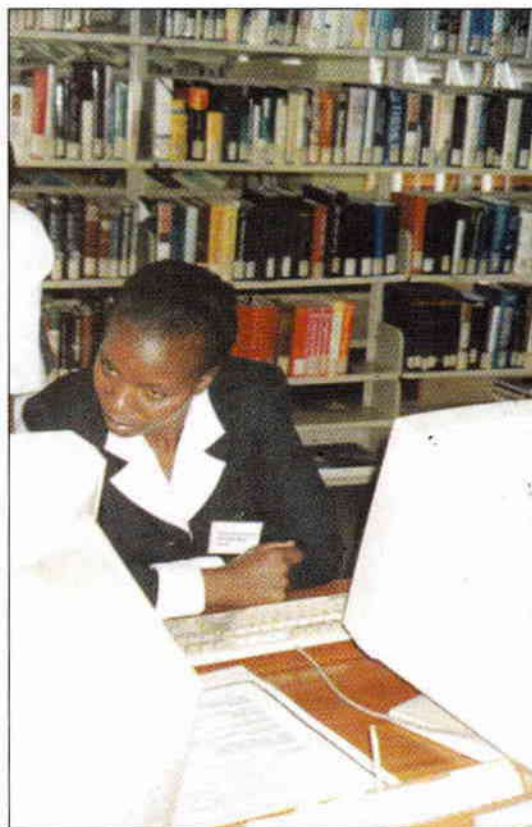
Recently, NLA sponsored ZimLA's first Strategic Planning Seminar – held outside Gweru, on 28-30 June 2002. The seminar brought together 18 participants from the National Council and Branch Councils. The seminar was very intensive, and very useful!

During the seminar, participants managed to formulate a vision for ZimLA, a mission statement, and a plan of action to be finalised by National Council.

Of course, ZimLA's ultimate goal is to be self-sustaining and not to dependent on donations from abroad, but until it reaches

that stage, ZimLA is very grateful for the Nordic support. We know it is not easy to support anything in Zimbabwe these days, but we hope our Nordic friends will stand by us in the crucial process of making ZimLA into a member-friendly, transparent organisation, which in the end will emerge as the association "no Zimbabwean librarian can be without", and which will have a heavy impact on the development of the library policy in Zimbabwe.

THANK YOU, Library Associations in Norway and Sweden!!



A PARTICIPANT at the ZimLA Manicaland Branch Teacher Librarian workshops during the practical session on the use of computers in the library at the Jokomo / Yamada Library at Africa University.

To be the leading and driving force behind information provision

VISION:

To develop, advance and enhance library and information services, and interests of information professionals by:

- Promoting the interests of library and information professionals,
- Promoting and supporting the development of library and information services
- Promoting effective co-operation among all types of libraries
- Stimulating an awareness among stakeholders of their responsibilities in providing adequate library and information services
- Developing and maintaining a professional managed association
- Encouraging the use of up-to date information and communication technology in libraries and information centres
- Fostering co-operation and partnership with related professional associations and organisations.