

# ZimLA News

GWERN MEMORIAL LIBRARY

Volume 2, Issue 1

July-December 2003

A newsletter of the Zimbabwe Library Association



**ZIMBABWE  
LIBRARY  
ASSOCIATION**

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finally take  
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## From the Editor's Desk

# Cutting edge stories from the association

HOT off the press is the third issue of ZimLA News.

The newsletter is growing from strength to strength and is now certainly a must read not only for members of the Zimbabwe Library Association but also for everyone in the library and information services sector. This issue is packed with loads of news that at one time I was tempted to increase the number of pages to cater for high number of articles I had on my desk.

Highlighting this issue are a number of newsworthy articles that include the Chairperson's visit to IFLA 2003 World Library and Information Congress that was held in Berlin, the holding of elections for ZimLA Council at ZIBF 2003, and a lot of other goodies.

As promised in the last issue we revisit the Annual General Meeting that was held at Elangeni in Bulawayo to give reports from the four branches that make up the Zimbabwe Library Association.

The branches are the "engine rooms" of the association and I personally advise you to not to skip this section. Unfortunately, due to space limitations I was not able to continue with the coverage of the ZimLA Mid-Term Conference papers in this issue.

Another newsworthy development is the drive by the Zimbabwe University Libraries Consortium to form a country consortium of Zimbabwean libraries. The article covers the report by a workshop that was held by ZULC recently to discuss the desirability of setting up a National Consortium in Zimbabwe, the mandate / terms of reference of the



VIMBAI HUNGWE: Out-going ZimLA Editor.

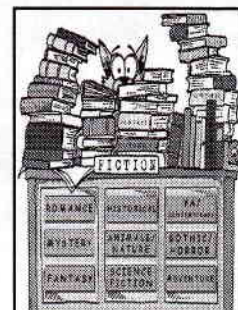
proposed National Consortium, the proposed governance and structure of the National Consortium and recommendations on the way forward.

Indeed as I said earlier, this issue continues the trend set by the two previous

issues of delivering cutting edge stories from the Association and from the librarianship profession as a whole. I cannot summarise the entire newsletter here so let me invite you to turn the page over and enjoy the articles.

## HOLIDAY MESSGE

THIS IS MY LAST  
ISSUE AS EDITOR - I  
WOULD LIKE TO WISH  
MY SUCCESSOR THE  
BEST - INFORMATION  
IS POWER. ON  
BEHALF OF THE  
ZIMLA EXECUTIVE, I  
WOULD LIKE TO WISH  
ALL OUR MEMBERS  
AND FRIENDS A HAPPY CHRISTMAS  
AND A BOOKFUL NEW YEAR .





# ZULC initiates setting up of national consortium

THE Zimbabwe University Libraries Consortium recently held a multi sector Consortia Building Workshop at the Bronte Hotel. The workshop was held on the 26th July 2003 and was attended by about 15 participants.

The participants were drawn not only from libraries but also from a cross section of stakeholders in the book chain in Zimbabwe.

Other organizations that were represented at this workshop include the Zimbabwe Library Association, the National Library and Documentation Services, the Zimbabwe Book Publishers Association, College and Research Libraries Consortium, the Harare Municipal Libraries and the Harare City Libraries. Representatives from all ZULC member institutions also attended this workshop.

The objective of the workshop was to set the foundation for the formation of a National Consortium of Libraries in Zimbabwe. To set the ball rolling, the Director of Library Services at the Zimbabwe Open University Mr. Jasper L. Maenzanise presented a paper entitled, "Zimbabwe University Library Consortium: where it is and where it would like to go". This paper was meant to make everyone aware what ZULC is and what it does and

also to give participants a picture of a fully functional consortium.

Dr. Mbambo, the University Librarian at the University of Zimbabwe presented another paper titled, "World Trends In Consortium Developments: What, why, who and how". This well presented paper covered a range of pertinent issues in consortia activities including what library consortia do, why consortia are particularly important now and key issues in consortia building.

After the two presentations participants of the workshop broke up into groups to brainstorm on the following issues:

- The desirability of setting up a National Consortium in Zimbabwe

- The mandate / terms of reference of the proposed National Consortium.

- The proposed governance and structure of the National Consortium.

- Recommendations on the way forward.

The reports from the groups were overwhelmingly in support of setting up a national consortium of libraries in Zimbabwe. The participants pledged to start working on the process immediately after the workshop. As for the way forward it was noted that a national consortium is a coalition of consortia so consequently it was important that each identifiable group

of libraries forms its own working consortium. This was identified as the first step in forming the National Consortium. Some of the identifiable groups of libraries that could form consortia were public and municipal libraries, college libraries, special and research libraries, school libraries and national libraries. When fully functional consortia have been established, these can now be united to form the national consortium.

The workshop ended with participants pledging to start working on setting up consortia for their areas.

The workshop facilitators emphasized that ZULC could not ensure that each group sets up its own consortium. ZULC as an already established consortium is willing to offer technical assistance to any group that needs to form a consortium but it cannot initiate the setting up of a consortium for any group. The consortium has to come from the group so that members can easily identify with the consortium and claim ownership of their consortium.

The workshop ended on this high note and we hope that all librarians are working for establishing consortia in their own areas. The dream is alive and let us see 2004 giving birth to a National Consortia of all types of libraries in Zimbabwe.

## 20 libraries participate in World Book day activities

**SPEECH DELIVERED BY J. L. MAENZANISE AT THE BOOK AID INTERNATIONAL (BAI) ZIMBABWE PROGRAMME TO MARK THE WORLD BOOK DAY CELEBRATIONS HELD AT DZIVARASEKWA LIBRARY, A BRANCH OF THE CITY OF HARARE LIBRARIES ON 6 MARCH 2003**

I AM sincerely humbled by the invitation extended to me as the current chairperson of the Harare Distribution Committee, to represent the Book Aid International, UK, at this World Book Day Celebrations.

We note that Book Aid International, UK, identified 20 libraries to participate in today's

World Book Day Celebrations. Ten of these libraries were selected from UK libraries and 10 were selected from the BAI partner organisations in various locations in Africa, the Middle East, the Caribbean and Asia (organisations, e.g. HDC, that the BAI work with to donate and distribute books in Africa in general, and in Zimbabwe in particular).

The City of Harare libraries was therefore selected as one of the 10 libraries throughout the world to participate in the celebrations. The City of Harare Libraries in turn have chosen the Dzivarasekwa Library, as one of its busy and well utilised libraries, to host the celebrations by bringing togeth-

er children to celebrate the day by reading and enjoying the book titled, "*A life like mine*" published by Dorling Kindersley.

Children in other countries are also gathered today at the other 19 libraries all over the world reading the same book.

The BAI has made readings possible at today's celebrations by supplying sets of up to 30 copies of this book for free as well as activity sheets, posters and fliers.

We are also sincerely grateful to the City of Harare Libraries, through your respectable office, for organising traditional dancing, poetry recitations by eminent and distinguished writers such as Mr.

Chirikure Chirikure here present and cultural dress shows that have graced this important occasion.

I wish to reiterate the importance of books in general and to our children in particular. The power of books, and hence the ability to read them, cannot be over-emphasised.

Our libraries function guided by the following principles espoused by one of our founding fathers in Librarianship, Ranganathan:

- Every reader to a book;
- Each book to its reader;
- Everybody must have access to a book;
- Libraries must provide free and equal access to books;

● To Page 10

# Matabeleland branch loses two key members

**By Macbeth Donald Ndlovu**

THE year under review has seen two major unfortunate events in the Matabeleland Branch.

On 15 October 2002, Mr Augustine Munzara passed away, he was Branch Librarian at Bulawayo Public library based at Ascot. He died at the age of 33 and is survived by his wife and child.

At the Branch General Meeting on the 19 February 2003, it was announced that Mrs Faye Letts was not feeling well and on the 27th February 2003, word reached members that Mrs Letts had died.

She was born in 1937, trained as a teacher in UK. She taught at Oriel Girls High in the early 1950's and then came to Mzilikazi High School, Bulawayo in 1971 where she was a teacher librarian. She was one member of the association who always gave us ideas as to how we should run the Branch.

May their souls rest in peace.

The Branch Committee was elected into office on the 9th May 2002. I would like to let you know that the Branch usually holds its Annual General Meetings two weeks before the National AGM but for the year under review, this has not been possible.

It was agreed that since the branch was tasked to organise and host this year's National AGM, the Branch AGM be held after the National AGM. It was felt this would not disrupt the Organising Committee's preparations.

## Branch Meetings

The branch managed to hold four meetings. The branch meeting held on the 7th July 2002 was a briefing on the Strategic Planning Workshop held in Gweru, 28-30 July 2002.

The main objective of objectives of the workshop was to develop the Association's vision,

mission and values and to initiate the development of broad strategies that will help the Association to discharge its core business effectively and efficiently.

At the branch meeting held in September 2002, Dr Evelyn Curry from (Texas Women's University on Fulbright Programme at the Department of Library and Information Science at NUST) gave members an insight of her experiences in other parts of Africa. She went further to talk about libraries in her home country. The National Chairperson: Mr L. Chikwanha also had the chance to clarify questions, which Branch members asked him pertaining to the National Council.

The February 2003 Branch general meeting were discussions on the following issues:

NLDS issue where the Board Chairperson, Prof S M. Made highlighted that he held meetings with responsible authorities in the ministry concerned and NLDS was allocated money for the 2003.

After revelations that money has been allocated to NLDS, Mr R. Doust felt the branch through the National Council should try to resuscitate the National Union Catalogue as this can make the issue of resource sharing more easier.

Thirteen members from Matabeleland Branch attended the Mid-term Conference hosted at UZ among the 13 were four who presented papers.

The April 2003 branch meeting raised a lot of interest as Mr R.W. Doust gave a talk on how libraries and information centres can get computers for free from Computer Aid International.

## Workshops

In a bid to keep its members abreast with the changing face of libraries in the electronic age, the Branch held two workshops on the use of computers in libraries. Topics covered includ-

ed finding information on the Internet, use of computers for word processing-mail and CD-ROM.

## Membership

I hope members in Matabeleland Branch have realised that the prosperity of any professional organisation is dependent on full total commitment of all individuals in the profession.

Seventeen cluster members of the Better Schools Programme Zimbabwe joined the Association and highlighted to the branch that their main request is for the association to offer professional help so that they can be in a better position to run their resource centres.

This was a welcome development to the Branch and the National Council. To fulfil the Zimbabwe Book Development Council's National Book Week theme, "Catch them Young," the branch has marketed itself to students at the Department of Library and Information at Bulawayo Poly Nust.

## Zimbabwe International Book Fair (bulawayo)

The Branch has witnessed two Books Fairs during the period under review. The 26-27 September 2002 Book Fair held at the Large City Hall showcased a complete set of Africa's 100 Best Books of the 29th century.

The opening of the 13-15 March 2003 Book Fair was marked by a commemoration of the 10th anniversary march led by the 1 Brigade band and Drum majorettes which included a donkey driven cart mobile library.

The other interesting feature at the 13-15 March 2003 Book Fair was the annual libraries draw, which was increased to \$500 000-00 from last year's \$200 000-00.

Ten lucky school libraries walked away with \$50 000-00 each. Fifteen primary, 15 secondary schools and selected ter-

tiary institutions received packs of books as complimentary prizes. Once again, Africa's 100 Best Books of the 20th century were mounted at the National art Gallery.

## Visits

Mr Jackson Ndlovu from Natural History Museum Library visited the Oxford University, Britain, from 26 November to 20 December 2002 where he gave a talk on the topic, "Preserving Rhodes Grave."

Mr R. Doust attended a UNESCO Conference in France where he presented a paper entitled, "Use of Donated Computers at Bulawayo Public Library, Zimbabwe: Successes and Problems."

From this presentation by Mr Doust, libraries in Zimbabwe have a chance to get computers for free from the Computer Aid International in U.K. I attended the 69th IFLA conference in Berlin, Germany from 1to 10 August 2003. The theme was, "Access Point Library: Media-Information-Culture."

## Bulawayo Polytechnic Sub-Advisory Committee (Applied Science)

I attended three Sub-advisory Committee meetings at Bulawayo Polytechnic. The Department of library and Information Science continues to grow as HND is now offered full time and the section successfully engaged two part time lecturers in May 2002 to assist in the new Records Management course full time with effect from January 2004.

## Bulawayo Polytechnic Library School

For the past years, Matabeleland Branch has been sponsoring prizes for the best students in the Department of Library and Information Science at Bulawayo Polytechnic. It is still the branch's aim to continue with the gesture. With the establishment of the Department of Library and Information Science at NUST, I urge members here



# What's happening in Midlands/Masvingo?

**By Hosea Tokwe**

IN my capacity as the new chairperson of the Midlands-Masvingo Branch allow me to present our Branch's Report. The report covers a full calendar year and spells out activities and events that took place throughout the year under review.

## MAJOR ACTIVITIES

### Gweru Strategic Planning Workshop

The branch has always achieved success in all its endeavours at National Level. After successfully hosting the Extra Ordinary General Meeting of ZimLA in October 2001, this time we did it again. The Branch hosted the Gweru Strategic Planning Workshop from 28 to 30 June 2002. The Workshop took place at Baptist Conference Centre in Gweru.

Our branch was represented by four members. It is pleasing to note that two of our branch members played an influential role in coming up with the draft of the Mission Statement for ZimLA which had been endorsed earlier on at the Mutare AGM. Some of their (Gweru branch members) recommendations are a major component of the Draft Strategic Plan to be adopted.

### Workshops

During the course of the year two workshops were held. The first, the Zvishavane Workshop, was held on 29 June 2002 and coincided with the Gweru Strategic Workshop. It was well organised. Presenters showed zeal and commitment despite a low turnout of participants.

The second workshop was the Kwekwe Teacher/School Librarian Workshop held at Kwekwe High school on January 2003. A total of 15 participants were in attendance. This workshop was a major success for the branch. Its success was a result of the initial campaign spearheaded by the Training Co-ordinator who lobbied school heads in and around Kwekwe on the importance of such workshops and their benefits to schools. Each participant paid a fee of \$30 000 to cover the workshop papers, meals and payment for the venue.

The following papers were presented:

**Role of the School Library**  
**Acquisition of School Library materials**  
**Cataloguing and Classification**  
**Circulation Management**

Recommendations made after the workshop were:

- Need for twinning with overseas School Libraries
- Need for Book Donations/ Computers
- Need for participants to be exposed/

visit well-established libraries

- Need to train in I.T.

### Current membership

Our current membership stands at 30 fully paid members. These members cover the whole parts of the Midlands province from Kwekwe to Zvishavane. We have of late distributed more than 30 Membership Forms in local schools in an endeavour to have more members within our communities.

### Current Branch Executive members

The following is the current Executive Branch of the Midlands-Masvingo Branch elected on March 2003.

Chairperson Mr H. Tokwe

Vice- Chairperson: Mr N. Manava

Secretary

Mrs E. Makeke

Treasurer:

Mr A. Makandwa

### Committee members

1. Mr L. Nyakatangure

2. Mr T. Mpofu

3. Mrs K. Tokwe

4. Mr G. Madimba

### CONCLUSION

There has been good communication and sharing of ideas within the branch and with other Branches during Executive Council meetings. Lastly I wish to thank the National Council for their financial support whenever attending Executive Council Meetings. We hope this kind of support will continue with the incoming Executive Council.

## University library appeals for donations

GREAT Zimbabwe University, which started operating in 2002 with a student population of 1000, has seen its operations rising tremendously.

The Library, which was conceived in May 2002 from scratch, now has a library collection of just above 2000 volumes of books.

However, due to the current high inflationary economy and lack of foreign currency the costs of publications both print and electronic has risen sharply and this has resulted in difficulties in buying library materials especially imports. In this regard, the library is appealing for donations in cash or kind to facilitate the availability of books for research, learning and teaching activities at Great Zimbabwe University.

Currently there are nine programmes

being taught and these range from undergraduate to post graduate programmes.

At undergraduate level the University offers Accounting, Marketing, Law, Religious Studies, Shona, Geography and Environmental studies, Human Resources Management, Special Needs Education and a post graduate degree in psychology.

The University also offers compulsory tuition to all its students in Ethics and Computer appreciation to embrace the digital age.

All donations can be sent directly to Great Zimbabwe University, P.O. Box 1460 Masvingo, Zimbabwe or can contact the Senior Library Assistant on Cell +263 11 864 645 for more details

## Reading project for orphanage launched

WITH the ever-rising number of orphans in Zimbabwe mostly due to the HIV/AIDS scourge many children find themselves having to grow-up in children's homes. Fairfield Children's Home is one such home situated at Old Mutare Mission of the United Methodist Church in Mutare.

While most people/organisations think of providing such things as clothing and food to children's homes the Africa University HIV/ AIDS Task Force thought of a unique project that can become a life-long gift to a child – READING. With financial support from the Health and Welfare Division of GBGM, the Task Force launched a reading project at the Orphanage. Under the project the Task Force has donated books and other stationery and according to the

Project co-ordinator, Mr Vimbai Hungwe

"The Task Force will try to make this project a permanent feature of its community activities". The Task Force engages Africa University Peer Educators who are the project implementers and these work with the children helping them to read.

According to Fairfield administrator, Mr Peter Mufute, "Their [Africa University HIV/ AIDS Task Force] efforts are already showing results. Our children's school work has greatly improved"

Anyone willing to donate towards the Reading Project can contact the Chairperson Africa University HIV/ AIDS Task Force P. O. Box 1320 Mutare Zimbabwe or email: [hiv\\_aids@africau.ac.zw](mailto:hiv_aids@africau.ac.zw)

# Impact of USIS, Bulawayo Public Library joint venture

By Robin W. Doust, M.A.  
(London), F. L. A.  
(U.K.) Librarian and  
Secretary, Bulawayo Public  
Library, Zimbabwe.

(Continued from last issue)

INTRODUCTION of the internet has had a dramatic effect on the operation of BPL in many ways almost all of them totally beneficial. These include:

- A huge extension to the information resources of the Library's Reference Department. The range of enquiries answered from the Internet sources has been staggering, and the availability of really current information has significantly enhanced the accuracy of information in many areas as compared with what was available from printed sources, many of which were already several years out of date.

- A major publicity boost for the library, which was seen to be visibly improving its services. The result was a huge increase in library usage, with many new users attracted to the library for the first time.

- For the first two years of operation, the service brought in large amounts of additional income at a time when BPL was threatened with closure due to massively reduced grants from traditional supporters. Although Internet income has now dropped somewhat due to the opening of alternative Internet services elsewhere in the city, income remains sufficient to meet most of the ongoing expenses of the service.

- In a third world country such as Zimbabwe, where access to a computer is confined to a small elite, the computer facilities at BPL have become a point of access to modern IT facilities for many hundreds of local people. The library has provided basic training in accessing the Internet and sending e-mail to local schools as well as individual users, and has taught basic computer literacy to many hundreds of users during the past three years.

- The Internet has provided



ROBIN Doust: The chief Librarian of the Bulawayo Public Library.

employment for a Computer Services Manager, who assists users and handles software installation and routine maintenance of the machines, and has given hands-on experience to many of the library's thirty staff members.

- The partnership has provided valuable equipment to BPL enabling it to extend its services at a minimal cost.

- The library has also been able to mount its own website. This provides information about the library and new acquisitions of books and tapes. The site was opened during 1998 at which time it is believed it may have been among the first African public library service to promote itself on the Web.

## IMPACT ON USIS

The USIS service has also gained significantly from its partnership with BPL in the following ways:

- Availability of the USIS educational advisory service has been extended to Zimbabwe's second largest city at a minimal cost. In 1999, at least 100 student visas were issued to students from Bulawayo travelling to USA com-

pared with little more than a dozen in the years before the BPL service became available.

- Direct access to American colleges by e-mail or website has been made possible, greatly reducing the time taken to communicate with US educational institutions.

- Fats, cheap communication with USIS in Harare has become possible by e-mail, enabling difficult or complicated enquiries to be referred to the specialist advisor in Harare when necessary.

- Use of BPL staff and premises (for which no charge made) has greatly reduced the cost of providing the educational advisory service in Bulawayo.

- Liaison between the USIS staff in Harare and local schools in Bulawayo has become possible through BPL, and Library is able to keep the Harare office informed of educational enquiry needs in Bulawayo

## CONCLUSION

Co-operation between USIS and BPL has enabled the two organisations to save a substantial amount. It has allowed BPL to introduce and maintain a viable public Internet service, and has made possible college education in the USA for at least 100 students within the year of introduction. Such partnerships could also extend the benefits of American college education much more widely within countries where the US Government maintains an embassy and thus improve the lives of large numbers of third world students, many of whom could be expected to return home with a better understating of the American social system and thus become ambassadors for greater co-operation between their home country and the USA.

The partnership between these two organisations- one a poorly funded Third World institution, the other an organ of one of the richest nation in the world, has indeed been a smart partnership, and is put forward as a model of what could be achieved if applied elsewhere in the third world.

# Jokomo

By C.J. Nsiyaludzu  
Harare Polytechnic

THE Jokomo / Yamda library is one of the best (if not the best) training grounds for students attachment. As a trainee librarian attached in this library, I have acquired a lot of skills that would have normally taken at least a full year to grasp, fortunately it has only taken three months.

The unwavering support and assistance of the library staff has helped me a lot to put theories that I learnt in college into practice.

The Jokomo / Yamada is a library par-excellence, it is equipped with the state of the art facilities which include a sensitising machine and a high tech security system, a library wide network and a wide range of CD-ROM and online databases. The library also has wall-to-wall carpeting and is conditioned.

If one needs hands on experience then Africa University is the place to be. I will bear witness to that because I left college with very little knowledge about computer application and also the day-to-day operation of the library. However, for the past three months I have been enlightened on how to use these facilities quite well. As now, I am now capable of using most of the computer based programmes namely the online catalogue, the Internet (including the various search engines), data entry and the online classification, just to name a few.

I have also mastered the practice of acquiring, processing, and disseminating information for a large number of patrons.

Students on attachment have the privilege of being treated as members of staff and therefore have the chance of attending some of the crucial staff meetings. I am very fortunate because I got the chance to attend a crucial seminar which was meant to teach librarians how to operate the new Inno-



# Student on attachment shares his sentiments

## **/Yamada Library the place to be**

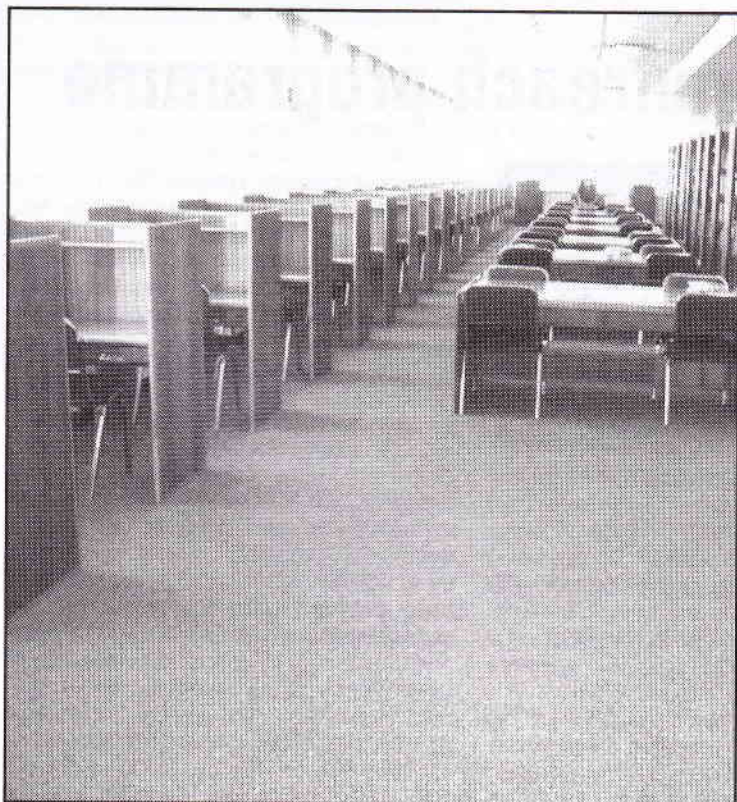
system that will be soon running in the library. I learnt a lot about this system and most advanced libraries use this system, meaning that I have a firm starting point if I ever happen to work in one of these libraries.

The next attachment for me will not be specifically meant for me to gain hands on experience, instead it will be an opportunity for me to sharpen and perfect the skills that I have already acquired in the Jokomo/Yamada library. It is a great challenge to work in the Jokomo/Yamada library as it serves a large community and work is always in abundance and the more the work the more one equips him/herself with the fundamentals of running a library.

It is really a great opportunity to be attached in the Jokomo/Yamada library and my advice to students seeking attachment places is that Africa University is the place to be.



*THE newspaper reading area at the Jokomo / Yamada Library at Africa University.*



*THE reading space (left) and the stacks of books in the Jokomo/Yamada Library at the Africa University.*



# Preserving indigenous knowledge main passion for MSU librarian

IN this issue's Who Is Who And Where we travel to the City of Progress – Gweru where we meet Ms Sheila Nomathemba Ndlovu.

She holds a BA (Hons) in History from the University of Zimbabwe, Post Graduate Diploma and an MA in Library and Information Studies from the University of London.

Her research activities include looking into the Role and Impact of the National Archives Library in Zimbabwe. She is also a compiler of the 1993/94 Zimbabwe National Bibliography.

Ms Sheila N. Ndlovu was appointed the Inaugural University Librarian for the Midlands State University (MSU) at the beginning of



Ms Sheila  
Nomathemba Ndlovu.

Librarians in Zimbabwe at a relatively young age and she says 'I believe working hard and aiming to do the best of my ability all the time has got me this far. Also many thanks go to Angelina Kamba who has been a great inspiration in my life'.

Her heart lies in the preservation of Indigenous Knowledge as this is unique knowledge to a people that she feels should be preserved for future generations.

## Who is who and where?

2003. Before her current position at MSU her working years have seen her through the National Archives of Zimbabwe Library, University of Zimbabwe Library and Solusi University Library

Sheila joins the ranks of six other women University

# Masvingo Chapter launched

THE Masvingo Chapter of the Zimbabwe Library Association Midlands Masvingo branch was launched recently at Masvingo Polytechnic College Library.

The relocation of a number of librarians to Masvingo necessitated the setting up of the Chapter.

The province now hosts a number of teachers colleges, technical colleges, training institutes, high schools, provincial branch of the Zimbabwe Open University and has recently seen two Universities granted charters.

This has triggered an influx of librarians

in the province among them chapter chairman, Mr. A Chinyama and Jacob Gwararaoma who both joined Masvingo Polytechnic; Juda Marowa, Emmanuel Mavhia and Mathew Moyo who all joined Great Zimbabwe University.

Masvingo University, which recruited a number of librarians, boosted the morale of librarians in the town. Masvingo Polytechnic however boasts of a huge number of librarians in the province.

These developments have prompted the members of ZimLA to form a chapter that operates under the auspices of the

Midlands-Masvingo branch. An interim committee has been formed to run the affairs of the chapter.

With time the Chapter will apply for a branch status so that the two provinces become independent of each other to cut costs in travelling when organizing workshops and /or meetings.

Librarians in Masvingo Province who are interested in joining hands with other professional librarians are encouraged to contact or visit Masvingo Polytechnic library.

## Have a laugh

How many reference librarians does it take to screw in a light bulb?  
Just a minute, I'll look that up for you.

\*\*\*\*

How many catalogers does it take to plug in a computer?  
Two, one to hold the plug, the other to look up how LC does it.

\*\*\*\*

A patron asked the librarian why *Tales of Robin Hood* had been withdrawn from the collection. The librarian replied, "Too much Saxon violence."

Old librarians never die...  
They just get withdrawn from the collection.  
They just get shelved in a better location.  
They just stop circulating.  
Old catalogers never die....  
They just fail to make an entry.  
They just get shipped to remote storage.  
They just go beyond description.  
They just seek better authorities.

\*\*\*\*

This chicken goes into a library and says to the Librarian, "Bawk" in a high pitched chicken's squawk.

The librarian looks down, says "Oh, you want a book?", and gives the chicken a book. The chicken walks out the door with the book but is back in five minutes, drops the book in front of the Librarian, and says "Bawk, bawk."

The Librarian says, "Oh, you want two books?" and gives the chicken two books.

The chicken walks out the door with the two books.

Five minutes later, the chicken is back, drops the books in front of the Librarian, and says, "Bawk, bawk, bawk."

The Librarian says, "Oh, you want three books now?" and gives the chicken three books. The chicken walks out with the three books.

This time the Librarian follows the chicken to see where the chicken is going. The chicken walks down to the pond below the Library and drops the books, one at a time, in front of a big bull frog.

The frog looks at the books as they drop and says, in his deep bullfrog voice, "Red-it, red-it, red-it."



# Mashonaland Branch report

**By Chenjerai Mabhiza**

THE current executive was unanimously elected at the previous annual general meeting. It was another turbulent year with the economy continuing to be depressed. The branch tried to remain active under these difficult conditions.

## Community Service/Activities

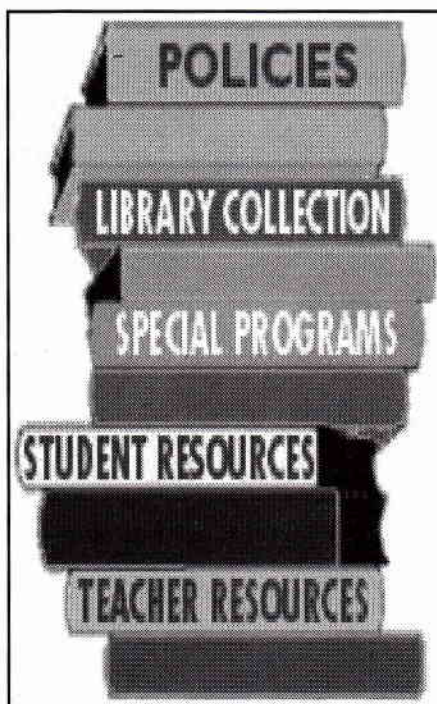
●**Harare Polytechnic and Standards Association of Zimbabwe:** The branch chairperson represented the association in the institutions. A few board meetings were held during the past year.

●**City of Harare:** The branch executive drafted a strategic turn around for City of Harare Libraries. The document is still under consideration by the city fathers.

●**Publicity:** The branch secretary attended the Mutare Book Fair on behalf of the chairperson.

●**School Libraries:** The branch participated in the drafting of the resolutions and the formation of the school libraries committee. A manual for training school librarians is being finalised by the editor, Mr Hungwe.

●**SCESCAL 2002:** The branch was represented at the conference by the National Secretary, Mrs Mariri and the branch vice-chairperson, Ms Chiduwa. All



participants reported the conference to be a great success.

●**ZIBF:** The association did have a stand at last year's event. A number of branch members however attended 2

workshops during the fair.

●**Strategic Plan and Newsletter:** The branch actively participated in the drafting of the 2 documents. The first issue of the newsletter has already been published and circulated to all paid up members. Members have been continuously urged to send articles for publication in the newsletter. The strategic plan is still at draft stage and shall be circulated at the forthcoming AGM.

●**Mid-year Conference, 25-27 January 2003:** The branch hosted the conference whose theme was "*challenges and opportunities for librarians*" held at the University of Zimbabwe. The branch wishes to extend its sincere thanks to the organising committee and the University of Zimbabwe Library for a well-organised event.

●**Editorial Board:** The branch chairperson is co-ordinating the formation of an Editorial Board of the *Zimbabwe Librarian* and other scholarly publications to be published by the association.

## CONCLUSION

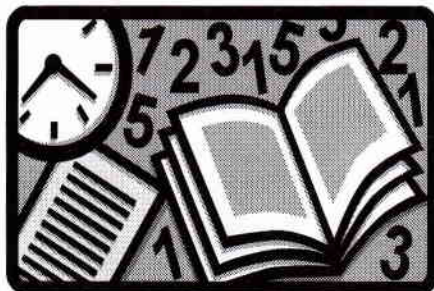
The branch treasurer left the country last year and is now based in the United Kingdom. He did not present a financial report before he left. Mr Chiwaka has been doubling up as secretary and treasurer.

# Schools benefit from outreach programme

THE Outreach Programme of The Jokomo / Yamada Library at Africa University in Mutare donated books to schools and libraries from May to July 2003. At total of 12 schools mainly in Manicaland province and four libraries benefited from the donation. The donated books covered a wide range of subjects taught in most primary and secondary schools.

The City of Mutare Libraries were the major beneficiaries. They received a total of 54 boxes. Mr. Mandowo, the City Librarian made the selections. The donation to the City Libraries came after part of the Turner Memorial Library was gutted by fire losing thousands of books and property worth about ZWD3 million. The Turner Memorial Library also distributed some of the books to its sister libraries in Dangamvura and Sakubva high density Suburbs.

The other library to benefit was the Zimbabwe National Army Staff College Library in Harare.



The donations are made through out the year. Schools submit applications for donations and are given a date on which to come and select relevant books.

However, during the semester, the University library is so busy and as a result, very few schools are invited. As a result, most schools are invited when the university students are on vacation. This was the second major donation by the Outreach Programme after the first one held at the Manicaland Showground in 2000. This time schools were invited to come and select their books from the

Jokomo / Yamada Library. This enabled the schools to select books that were relevant to their needs. This also gave the opportunity to the school librarian and teacher librarians to visit the University Library for the first time since its official opening in March 2001.

The Zimbabwe Library Association in conjunction with the Jokomo / Yamada Library Outreach Programme offers training to teacher librarian in the province at Beginners, Intermediate and Advanced Levels.

Participants get certificates of attendance. The donations were mainly targeted at schools with teacher librarians who have attended these courses and those schools with functioning libraries ZimLA and the Outreach Programme will visit the beneficiaries during school terms to see if the libraries are being run properly and if the students and pupils are really benefiting from the donations.

The next visits were during the 2003 schools third term.



# ZimLA Chairperson attends World Library congress

THE National Chairperson of the Zimbabwe Library Association Mr Lawrence Chikwanha attended the World Library and Information Congress, the 69th General Conference of the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions that was held in Berlin from 1-9 August.

More than 4 500 participants from 133 countries attended this highly successful event. The theme of the Congress was **"Access Point Library: Media – Information – Culture"** was reflecting on the role of libraries of all kinds as gateways to information, knowledge and culture.

The participation of the chairperson in this year's edition of IFLA Congress was made possible by the joint effort of the Norwegian Library Association and the International Network for the Availability of Scientific Publications.

Two other Zimbabweans attended this Congress. These are Dr Buhle Mbambo, the director of library services at the University of Zimbabwe, and Mr Macberth Ndlovu, the vice chairman of ZimLA.

Dr Mbambo presented a paper during the Africa, Asia and Oceania and Latin America and Caribbean Division's workshop on, **"Mapping our future: strategic planning for devel-**

**oping regions"**. The title of her paper was, **"Using strategic planning to support development activities"**.

The programme for the congress was a tight one with a number of sessions running concurrently.

Deciding which sessions to attend became a battle of wills as one would have liked to attend all the sessions. Lively presentations and debates featured throughout the various presentations and workshops.

Outstanding among several important keynote addresses was a presentation on the forthcoming World Summit on the Information Society by M. Adama Samassékou, president of the preparatory committee for the World Summit and formerly Minister of Education in Mali.

Describing the destruction of the Berlin Wall as "an historical celebration of liberty and solidarity", M. Samassékou went on to note that "there are other walls which divide human beings", there are those who can read and those who cannot; there are the information rich and the information poor. We speak of our planet as "globalised", but in reality it is torn by many divides – not only the so-called "digital divide".

Discussing the nature of the transition towards an Information Society, M.

Samassékou declared: "I am profoundly convinced that the role of libraries and information services in the creation and diffusion of knowledge and in formal and informal education will not only continue to be indispensable, but will become more and more important".

Another major highlight of the congress was the coming to an end of a six-year term of office, of the past president of IFLA, Mme Christine Deschamps, who handed over the presidency of the federation during the closing ceremony to Ms Kay Raseroka of Botswana, whose presidential theme for the next two years will be **"Libraries for Lifelong Literacy"**.

Another important event that occurred during the congress was the international trade exhibition where more than 150 companies exhibited their products and services.

The exhibition, covering more than 2 635 square metres, was a showcase of the latest products and services available to libraries. Of particular interest was the electronic resources and library software on display.

In addition to the daily sessions at the conference centre, IFLA 2003 also had a vibrant and diverse cultural and social events programme. To help us understand Berlin better, there was an orientation tour of Berlin

that was included in the registration package. This tour was an eye opener as it covered both parts of the city that was once divided by a man made wall that could not stand the unity of the German people.

The tour also passed through a mile-long stretch of the Berlin Wall. Evening functions featured wine, song and dance and food to help the participants meet and conduct business in an informal atmosphere.

Mr Chikwanha also had the opportunity to meet a number of colleagues including Charles Batambuze from the Uganda Library Association and Robert Moropa of LIASA. He also held a meeting with the Norwegian Library Association on the cooperation agreement that exists between ZimLA and the NLA.

The national chairperson would like to extend sincere gratitude to the Norwegian Library Association and the International Network for the Availability of Scientific Publications for making his participation at IFLA 2003 a reality. Special thanks to Kari Gulbraar and Anne Powell for the logistical support that made his trip a reality.

● Additional information for this article from the final press release of the IFLA 2003 World Library and Information Congress that can be found at <http://www.ifla.org>.

## 20 libraries participate in World Book day activities

● From Page 3

● Everyone has a right to access to books  
In our profession, Honourable Mayor, these are our guiding principles as good to us as the "Hypocritical Oath" is to the doctors.

Indeed, the right to access books [and information] is everybody's right.

Even for children here present because it is from reading books that our minds are opened, that new and more knowledge is

acquired, that we are all educated, that we are all informed of better choices to make in life, that we are empowered to be able to participate meaningfully in the democratic process, in the socio-economic and political development of our countries. Books make us aware of how other people live within and outside our borders.

The book, ***A life like mine***, therefore gives that opportunity to our children, to learn about the experiences of other children in other countries.

We need to inculcate the love to read and the reading habit in our children at this tender age, for it is at this stage that the nation's reading capacity, education and national development is assured, because today's children, will grow into tomorrow's, leaders, industrialists and business persons.

We are therefore grateful, Honourable Mayor, to be selected to participate in today's World Book Day

I thank you.



# ZimLA back at Book Fair after two-year absence

**By Mathew Moyo**

THE Zimbabwe Library Association was back in the Harare Gardens this year to exhibit at the Zimbabwe International Book fair 2003 after a two year absence.

The ZimLA stand, managed to attract the attention of a number of librarians and other stack holders. The stand was manned by Ruzivo Musimbiri, a student at the Harare Polytechnic's Library School and National Council members took turns to go and answers any queries visitors to the stand had.

Literature at the stand included ZimLA Brochure which defines the vision, mission and objectives of the association as well as details on how to become a member.

The ZimLA newsletter was also available for free distribution.

Also available was literature on the Norwegian Library Association (NLA) International Committee. NLA and ZimLA have been working together in promoting projects geared at promoting the development of Librarianship particularly in the latter country.

ZimLA also took this chance to take concerns from the various visitors and these included the following:

- Some librarians who passed through the stand wanted the Association to be more visible particularly in the rural areas were a number of them work as School Librarians.

- They said the Association should work more on its outreach programmes so as to cater for the rural librarians who feel neglected in the remote areas.

- Some called for more work-

shops aimed at teaching school/teacher librarians the basic skills in Librarianship.

- A number of other interesting visitors promised to join the Association after acquainting themselves with the ZimLA objectives.

- Some even showed ignorance on the existence of branches and also promised to join now that they had information concerning all the branches.

It is hoped that the association will be on the stand again

next year so as to increase visibility and contact with all stack holders.

More literature will be expected at the stand and hopefully ZimLA will be able to have more activities during next year's Book Fair

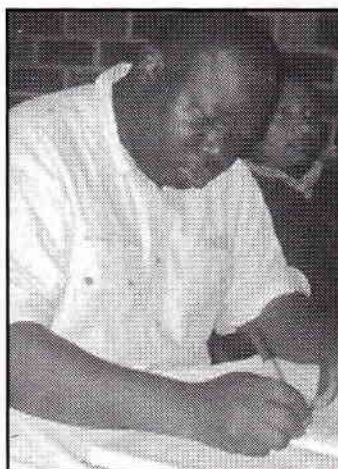
## Elections finally take off

**By Mathew Moyo**

ZIMBABWE Library Association (ZimLA) Annual general elections which failed to take off in April 2003 finally took off at an Extra-Ordinary General Meeting which coincided with the Zimbabwe International Book Fair 2003 in Harare on 28 July 2003. The venue of the meeting was the National Art Gallery.

Initially the elections had failed to take off in April at the Elangeni Training Centre in Bulawayo when members present could not form a quorum as stated by the ZimLA Constitution. Section 7.4 of the ZimLA constitution stipulates that the quorum at a General meeting and at an Extra-Ordinary meeting shall be 25 percent of the total number of members, of which at least 5 percent from each branch.

This requirement however has proved to be difficult to meet owing to a number of reasons which among them is the ever rising transport costs that has seen many librarians failing to attend. The out going executive had hoped that many librarians would attend since it was book fair time but that was not to be. The situation was made worse by some communication breakdown in branches as the election information fil-



*MR Lawrence Chikwanha was given another mandate to lead the association for another term.*

tered differently in the four branches of ZimLA. For the association to be able to meet its constitutional requirements, there is need for personal commitment on the part of each and every member.

Branches need to deposit membership lists with the National Secretary so that the association does not continue to violate section 6.4 of the constitution which stipulates that candidates who want to run for offices in the National Council must have been members for at least 3 calendar years, during which time they must have fulfilled their duties according to

codes of conduct and ethics, and must be paid-up to the association. Branches must come up with candidates whose track records do not breach these constitutional requirements as election candidates must be based on good track record.

Mr Sam, Dube, the Director of National Library and Documentation Service presided over the elections. Lawrence Chikwanha, the outgoing chair, was unanimously voted back into office, to lead the association for another term.

The vice chair went to Macberth Donald Ndlovu, who beat three other contestants.

The position of National Secretary went to Antonetta Madziva, a long serving member of the association and the only lady in this new look executive.

The out-going treasurer, Mathew Moyo, bounced back into contention after shaking off a challenge from M. Tevera.

The post of *ZimLa News* Editor went to Keith Munyengeterwa who fought it out with outgoing editor, Vimbai Hungwe, who though was not at this meeting because of work commitments. The five councillors will be joined by four branch chairpersons to form the full ZimLA National Council. We wish the team well.



# Guidelines for school/teacher librarian workshops

## ZimLa embarks on basic training workshops

MOST schools in Zimbabwe do not have trained librarians to look after their libraries and thus engage either teachers or any other unqualified people as library personnel.

While lobbying for the employment of trained librarians in schools, the Zimbabwe Library Association, through its branches, embarked on basic librarianship training workshops throughout the country targeting both rural and urban schools.

The prerogative of the course content for these workshops was left at branch level, and hence each branch had its own way of coming-up with its own curricular.

It is against this background that when the ZimLA Sub Committee on School Libraries was formed one of its tasks was to come-up with a standard curriculum to be used by all branches.

Following is a summary of the guidelines presented by the Sub-Committee on School Libraries and adopted by the National Council for use during Teacher/School Librarians workshops:

The purpose of this guide is to encourage branches to devise course content that will enable school/teacher librarians to:

- Develop a sound knowledge and understanding of role of libraries in schools

- Have basic knowledge on how to set-up and run a library

- Have basic library management skills

The topics to be covered in these workshops are as follows:

### **Historical Background**

Give a historical development of librarianship as a profession and the purpose of the workshop and its expected results.



*PARTICIPANTS at the ZimLA TEACHER-Librarians workshop held in Kwekwe.*

### **Setting-Up A Library**

Site, building design, furniture, lighting, ventilation security

### **Stock Selection**

User needs, stock selection policy, donations, purchases, prices, book fairs, content level

### **Library Management**

Role of librarian, library committee, role of community, rules and regulations, membership. Statistics

### **Classification**

Classification of books using Dewey Decimal Classification, recommend that you use the first 100 divisions.

### **Cataloguing**

Role of the Library's, types of catalogues, importance of all catalogue entries e.g. Date of publication, number of pages, publisher, etc. Actual cataloguing is to be restricted to first level cataloguing.

### **Care and Preservation of Materials**

Basic care and preservation of material; use of book marks, keeping away from water, dusting and general library cleanli-

ness. Where possible you can get a book-binder to teach basic book binding.

### **Library Circulation**

Why lend books out, types of lending systems, advantages of these etc

### **Library Promotion**

What is library promotion, how do you achieve this, benefits of such an activity.

Resource persons are encouraged to teach using participatory methods and materials should be kept as basic as possible, especially for this Basic Librarianship Course

## **APOLOGIES**

**WE would like to apologise for not being able to continue with the coverage of the ZimLA Mid-Term Conference Papers in this issue. Any inconvenience caused is sincerely regretted.**