EDITORIAL

Pamela Francis

A capitation payment from the Association to the Journal Account will be needed to continue publication. Adverse publishing expenses are reimbursable. Council will consider this item at its next meeting.

Council will consider the option of reducing the frequency of publication. However, the association is dependent on the Journal for news and current events and the frequency of publication cannot be reduced further.

The establishment of an editorial board to act as a sort of watchdog over the activities of the editor was also considered. This was rejected on the grounds that it would add to the workload and that the financial problems could not be attributed to negligence by the editor.

It was agreed, however, that the editor should seek advice from former editors and that Council should closely monitor the situation.

Once new membership subscription rates are implemented, Council will be asked to authorize a capitation payment from the Association to the Journal Account.

Subscription: P.O. Box 3133, Salisbury, Zimbabwe

Editor: Pamela Francis

Quarterly Journal of the Zimbabwe Library Association

Vol. 13, No. 1 and 2

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P.O. Box 3133, Salisbury, Zimbabwe

E-mail: pamela@libraryassociation.org

QUOTES CASED NO. 19

People say that life is the thing.
Pamela Francis

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[Published November 1981]

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The Alison Report

Chairman’s Column

The Alison Report is a subject of much discussion amongst librarians and I see no reason why it should not be fully examined in Association circles. Council had a go at it last meeting but we would have had more insight into Government’s intentions if their representative, who had been invited, had turned up.

On the whole it would appear that the Alison Report has been well received by Government and steps are being taken to implement it in stages. For instance, a steering committee has been set up which is working on appointing a National Library Council — the logical starting point.

The Report states that in order to stimulate cooperation among libraries in the country this council should be composed of librarians of significant libraries, along with representatives of various interested professional bodies such as the Zimbabwe Library Association and the Teachers’ Association. The function of the National Library Council would be to advise the National Library Service Board who could also use it as a sounding board for projects under consideration.

Members interested in reading the Alison Report should approach heads of major libraries (e.g., National Archives, Government Library Service, the University, National Free Library) who should make it available for perusal.

I wonder if it would not be a good idea to have a series of seminars on the Report to give our professional views on the recommendations. Perhaps the branches might like to consider this proposal.

SMMad
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helped to inspire the publication of an extensive catalogue of Livingstone documents. This edition is supplemented by a register of other \npublications on Livingstone, which were not included in the earlier bibliography. The publication is

**History and Biography**

The bibliography of the explorer and geologist David Livingstone is particularly important, as \nmany of his works are rare and difficult to find. The bibliography includes a wide range of materials, \nincluding diaries, letters, and other personal records. The bibliography is a valuable resource for \nhistorians and researchers interested in Livingstone's work in central Africa.

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SALISBURY

76 YEARS SERVING THE COUNTRY
With Special Reference to the British Situation

Current Trends in Librarianship

O. T. Mupawaenda

Library Automation

Libraries and automation are integral parts of modern society, where the ability to access vast amounts of information is crucial for both personal and professional development. Automation in libraries is a process of transforming manual tasks into electronic processes, using technology to enhance the speed, accuracy, and efficiency of library services. Automation in libraries involves the use of computers, databases, and other technological tools to manage library resources, including cataloging, circulation, and document delivery systems. This transformation has shifted the focus from manual to digital processes, enabling libraries to provide faster and more accurate services to their users. Automation has also led to the development of online library systems, which offer users greater convenience and accessibility. These systems allow users to search for books, place reservations, and check availability from any location, making library services more inclusive and user-friendly. Despite the benefits of automation, there are also concerns about the potentialnegative impacts on library services, such as job displacement and increased costs. However, the integration of automation in libraries has been a positive step towards modernization and improvement of library services. The future of automation in libraries looks promising, with the continued development of innovative technologies and systems to support the needs of modern users.
Some subject areas are poorly covered, the participating libraries. In a manual operation, similar processes can/should be completed within a few days.

iv. Telecommunications problems. Telephones are difficult sometimes. The COM catalogues and the necessary fiche readers can be placed in different parts of a library — a very great advantage over the card catalogues contained in bulky cabinets.

v. Too many command languages. The hybrid system combines selected elements of computer output microfiche (COM) information and automatic serials control and avoids duplication, and the desire to find a cost-effective route to automation than the isolated and rather costly efforts of individual libraries desperately seeking to wear the 'progressive' label.

vi. Lack of standardization between data bases. The applicability of library automation is no longer in doubt. But, it must be pointed out that circulation can fairly easily be separated from other library processes.

vii. Typing mistakes. Management is aided, not retarded by machines. The librarian — the person himself — will forever remain the constant, in charge of the whole system.

viii. Not many data bases have abstracts — this is very often a great big complex operation. The hybrid system combines selected elements of computer output microfiche (COM) information and automatic serials control and avoids duplication, and the desire to find a cost-effective route to automation than the isolated and rather costly efforts of individual libraries desperately seeking to wear the 'progressive' label.

ix. Some data bases incorporated errors from inception, e.g. typing mistakes.

x. High training and capital cost of equipment. The development of standardization, e.g. MARC-based Automated Serials System, and encouragement of co-operative networks, standardization and centralization whenever and wherever possible, is likely to meet with approval and enthusiasm.

To sum up, there is no doubt that the hybrid system combines selected elements of computer output microfiche (COM) information and automatic serials control and avoids duplication, and the desire to find a cost-effective route to automation than the isolated and rather costly efforts of individual libraries desperately seeking to wear the 'progressive' label.

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Current Trends

Media studies competition which exist in the fast growing computer industry.

Media studies are an important subject area in British Schools of Librarianship today. The term 'media studies' embraces a wide range of non-book A/V and related materials—the 'new media' which many libraries acquire and lend just like books. Libraries are now, slowly but surely, developing into fairly complex multi-media and multi-purpose systems. If, as experts in the field suggest, properly co-ordinated seeing and hearing together account for about 50% or more of what people learn, then the new media are here to stay.

During the Leeds course every participant went through a media awareness course. One had the opportunity to handle different formats of the new media, to examine and learn to use the various types of equipment associated with the media. The equipment falls into three broad categories:

- Group 1—Visual
  - Microfiche, microfilm reader/printer and overhead projector.
- Group 2—Audio
  - Vinyl phonographs.
- Group 3—Practitioner, filmstrip audio-visual viewer, tape slide playback unit, and videotape playback unit.

In the Leeds Polytechnic School of Librarianship all librarians-in-training are obliged to go through the new media awareness course. The teaching methods employed are practical and effective. This stands the newly-qualified librarian in good stead as more and more British higher education institutions, particularly teacher training colleges, are building up and developing multi-media and multi-purpose resource centres. The learning methods employed are effective in training students to make the most of the resources available to them. The new media awareness course is one of the best examples in Britain.

There are, of course, numerous problems associated with the new media. Their bibliographic control is not as well established as that of books. The present multiplicity of sources makes selection and procurement exceedingly difficult. The much variety of formats needs special organisation and storage, reading or viewing facilities. The equipment required is often expensive and difficult to replace as technological changes are made.

Despite these problems, multi-media provision and learning resource centre development are worthwhile and important forms of investment.
A seminar sponsored by the German Foundation for International Development and the Pan-African Documentation and Information System (PADIS) on "The Use of Information and Documentation for Planning and Decision-Making" was held in Salisbury in August. Organized by the Senior Government Librarian, Mr. B. Mushonga, the seminar was attended by 25 senior civil servants selected from various government departments and was designed to create an awareness of the importance of an efficient national documentation and information service in government. The seminar was attended by representatives from various government departments, and was designed to create an awareness of the importance of an efficient national documentation and information service in government. The seminar was attended by representatives from various government departments, and was designed to create an awareness of the importance of an efficient national documentation and information service in government. The seminar was attended by representatives from various government departments, and was designed to create an awareness of the importance of an efficient national documentation and information service in government. The seminar was attended by representatives from various government departments, and was designed to create an awareness of the importance of an efficient national documentation and information service in government.

Recommendations

1. That librarians, information scientists and documentalists should be consulted on all matters relating to their field;
2. That each ministry and department should actively build up an information resource centre to back up planning and decision-making processes;
3. That librarians, information scientists and documentalists should continually assess their data banks and take positive action to fill any gaps that exist through research work;
4. That the creation of a National Information and Documentation Centre (NIC) was necessary and that all government departments and ministries should be involved in the planning of such a centre;
5. That traditional methods of data handling have serious limitations when it comes to the storage and retrieval of data and that these limitations may be circumvented by the use of high-speed computers, hence the need for a NIC.

Steering Committee

As a result of the seminar, a steering committee composed of representatives from several ministries was set up to coordinate the creation of a National Information and Documentation Centre (NIC) in Zimbabwe. The committee has met three times and the inaugural meeting of the Council is scheduled to be held on 28 October 1981. Once operational, the Council will coordinate all library services and information systems in Zimbabwe.

National Information and Documentation Centre (NIDC)

The function of the NIDC will be to establish a national data bank of information relevant to economic and social development, and to provide easy access to published and unpublished information needed by policy makers, planners, scientists and researchers. It will catalogue, index and abstract documents, operate current awareness and selective dissemination of information services, and supply information to domestic and foreign users. The installation of computers will provide access to data banks and regional information networks developed by PADIS, which contain materials relevant to development in Zimbabwe which were produced in the course of development and research carried out elsewhere.

A more detailed report on the seminar can be found in "Shelfmark: bulletin of the National Free Library, no. 89, August 1981, pp. 1-7. The full text of the papers will be published by the German Foundation for International Development in due course."
The Working Committee on a regional bibliographic centre and union catalogues for the Central Africa Sub-Region of the Standing Conference of Eastern, Central and Southern African Librarians has at last got off the ground after delay in appointing a representative from Zambia.

The Committee comprises Mr. Norman Johnson, Librarian of the University of Zimbabwe; Mr. Bradshaw Mushonga, Senior Government Librarian; and Miss Pamela Francis, Librarian of the Malawi College of Nursing, Lilongwe; and Mr. Derek Simons of the Serials Division of the University of Malawi and the Malawi National Library Service. The sub-committee represents the National Archives, the University of Malawi and the Malawi National Library Service. The sub-committee is able to present a cogent view-point to the Convenor.

The Working Committee has to consider the following resolution of the Fourth Standing Conference and report its findings to the Fifth Standing Conference to be held in Zimbabwe.

"The Conference recommends that SCECSAL should set up three working committees for Eastern, Central and Southern Africa to investigate the setting up of a regional bibliographic centre and union catalogues for the Central African Sub-Region. SCECSAL should also set up these working committees in liaison with the African Bibliographic Center (Washington) and the Pan-African Documentation and Information System have proposals to be resolved before the Zimbabwe Sub-Committee is able to present a cogent view-point to the Convenor."
Aberystwyth Conference

Mrs June Smith attended the IASL (International Association of School Librarianship) conference in Aberystwyth from 30 July-2 August, representing both the School Library Service of the Ministry of Education and Culture, who financed her trip, and the School Libraries Section of the ZLA. The conference was followed by a study tour from 3-9 August. There were 139 participants in all, representing 27 countries, of which only two others—Nigeria and South Africa—came from Africa.

School library development in the countries represented ranged from the highly sophisticated to the unorganised and underdeveloped. Question-time and seminar groups revealed that there were various problems in common, and Zimbabwe proved to be by no means the least developed in School Library Association terms.

The very full programme included, among the almost interesting and illuminating sessions, author-headmaster Michael Marland's exposition on how the library can and should be integrated into the whole curriculum of the school; addresses on multicultural environments and the role the school library can play; and the opening address by the Principal of the University College of North Wales in which he stressed the need for a national policy to co-ordinate school library development, to establish national standards and to conserve resources.

The study tour included visits to the Nottinghamshire County Library Service to Schools, a centralised support service; to a large comprehensive school whose lower school is specially built on an open plan that centres round the library; and to Basil Blackwell's to see their computerised book-selling operation that processes literally thousands of books from "order received" to "order despatched" in one day. It also included Chester, Blenheim, Oxford (where Mrs Smith's plea that she had come all the way from Zimbabwe earned her a pass to the innermost recesses of the Bodleian) and Stratford-on-Avon and attendance at a performance of A Midsummer Night's Dream.

Annual Course

This year's course for Library Assistants and Teachers in Charge of School Libraries—the fourth so far—took place from 14-18 September at Teachers' Hostel in Mount Pleasant, Salisbury. Forty-two participants came from 38 secondary schools, one primary school with a newly-opened library, and one new teachers' college about to organise its bookstock. Mounted by the School Libraries Section of the Association with financial support from the Ministry of Education and Culture, the course covered all aspects of school library organisation, administration, book selection and book repair. Equally—perhaps more—importantly, it stressed education for information retrieval and the dual role of the library in its support of the school curriculum and in its contribution to the personal development of the individual pupil.

Mr Made, Librarian of the University of Zimbabwe, gave the opening address, and the course was closed by the Secretary for Education and Culture. Tutoring staff included June Smith, Senior Librarian in charge of the Ministry's service to school libraries; Marjorie Parkes, Librarian in the Ministry's Head Office library; Roger Stringer, Librarian of Gwelo Teachers' College; Bradshaw Mushonga, Senior Government Librarian; Alison Orpen, formerly of the staff of the University Library; and teachers and library assistants currently working in school libraries.

The course obviously fills a need: applications came from all parts of the country and in spite of the late cancellation of residential accommodation at the hostel, 24 representatives from schools outside Salisbury attended, many having at the last minute to make private arrangements.

That the course is useful is supported by the fact that some schools have sent a different member of staff each year, and also by the Course Assessment comments made by those who attended. The Section can therefore be expected to mount its fifth course in 1982.
The library has a vacancy from 1st January, 1982 for a qualified librarian in its ACCESSIONS DEPARTMENT.

Applicants must be Chartered Librarians or hold a degree or higher diploma in library science, and must be conversant with the second version of the Anglo American Cataloguing Rules and the 19th ed. of the Dewey Decimal Classification.

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76 YEARS SERVING THE COUNTRY

The Zimbabwe Children's Literature Foundation was registered as a welfare organisation in September 1980. Memberships are open to writers, artists and other interested individuals and bodies. The objectives of the Foundation are:

1. To promote children's literature in Zimbabwe through the publication of books
2. To encourage the writing of literary works for children in the local languages
3. To develop and expand the library resources and collections in children's literature
4. To organise and conduct literary competitions
5. To conduct public readings and drama performances
6. To provide training and guidance for teachers and librarians in the field of children's literature

The Zimbabwe Children's Literature Foundation is a registered charity and is governed by a council of nine members, including the chairperson, who is appointed by the National Library Board. The board consists of representatives of the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Culture and Tourism, the National Library Board, and the Zimbabwe Publishers Association. The Foundation is supported by grants from government and private organisations, as well as by contributions from individuals and institutions. It also organises annual conferences and workshops on various aspects of children's literature, and promotes the use of children's literature in schools and libraries throughout the country.
for children by providing illustrators for

ECARBICA Conference Organising Committee, National Archives, P/Bag 7729, Causeway, for further information.

3. To sponsor the publication of children's books in Shona and Ndebele.

4. To promote the culture of Zimbabwe by providing such literature.

The ZCLF is running a literary competition which closes on 30 November 1981 and offers cash prizes for the best manuscript in Shona and Ndebele.

Information on membership and the literary competition is available from: The Secretary, Zimbabwe Children's Literature Foundation, P.O. Box 249, Salisbury.

The ZCLF is also running a writing competition in any of the above languages, more than V1 hour long.

Further information will be communicated as it becomes available.

**ECARBICA 7**

**SCECSAL V 1982**

The British Council Salisbury Library is due to open at the end of the year. Located at the corner of Stanley Avenue and Cameron Street, it is presently under construction.

The facilities will include, for those studying, an 'O' and 'A' Level Textbook Reference Collection of closed access stock and a base-room for British newspapers, general periodicals and specialist journals.

The Library will be open to the public from 9.00 a.m. to 5.30 p.m. during weekdays and from 9.00 a.m. to 12.00 midday on Saturdays.

A special Library Service will be available for particular user groups, and material will be for reference or loan as applicable. Included will be sections on British arts, play sets, bibliographies, current affairs, African affairs and travel in Britain. The two important subject areas are English Language Teaching and Education, both in Britain and developing countries.

The Library will be open to the public from 9.00 a.m. to 5.30 p.m. during weekdays and from 9.00 a.m. to 12.00 midday on Saturdays.

A number of distinguished historians and experts on archives have already accepted invitations to deliver papers. Members of the ZLA who may wish to attend the Conference should write to the Secretary, ZLA, c/o National Archives of Malawi, P.O. Box 62, Zomba, Malawi.

Further information will be communicated as it becomes available.

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A special Library Service will be available for particular user groups, and material will be for reference or loan as applicable. Included will be sections on British arts, play sets, bibliographies, current affairs, African affairs and travel in Britain. The two important subject areas are English Language Teaching and Education, both in Britain and developing countries.

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A number of distinguished historians and experts on archives have already accepted invitations to deliver papers. Members of the ZLA who may wish to attend the Conference should write to the Secretary, ZLA, c/o National Archives of Malawi, P.O. Box 62, Zomba, Malawi.

Further information will be communicated as it becomes available.

The British Council Salisbury Library is due to open at the end of the year. Located at the corner of Stanley Avenue and Cameron Street, it is presently under construction.

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