International School Library Month (ISLM)
October 2012

School libraries: a Key to the Past, Present and Future

PROCEEDINGS OF THE ZIMBABWE LIBRARY ASSOCIATION [ZIMLA] – Matabeleland Branch Activities of the ISLM 2012

19 October 2012:  Commemorations at Coghlan Primary School, Bulawayo

20 October 2012:  Stakeholders Workshop for Librarians, School and other Librarians, School Heads, SDC / PTA representatives: Small City Hall, Bulawayo

COMPILED BY:  THE SECRETARY GENERAL
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ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The Zimbabwe Library Association’s National Executive Council (NEC) would like to extend appreciation to the ZimLA Matabeleland Branch Executive, chaired by Mr. Jerry Mathema (Librarian and School Media Specialist from Masiyephambili College); for organizing the commemorations of the International School Library Month on 19th and 20th of October 2012.

The resourceful presenters, who shared their vast knowledge and experiences, on both the 19th and the 20th of October 2012, we extend our heartfelt thanks for assisting Mat Branch.

The City Father – His Worship the Mayor of Bulawayo City, Councilor T. Moyo, represented by Councilor M. Moyo for a warm welcome to the City of Bulawayo. Thanks for the very wise words on Schools and Public Libraries synergies! It was much appreciated to have Ms. J. Ncube, Director, African Languages – Ministry Of Education, Sport Arts & Culture; representing Mr. I. Ndlovu, Education Officer – Arts and Culture in the Ministry. The EO pledged support of the development of school libraries to become effective agents in support of learning.

Appreciation goes to Coghlan Primary School administration, with Mrs. Mabeza at the Headmistress, for hosting the commemoration occasion on 19 October 2012.

We extend our sincere gratitude to Magwegwe High School staff and students, and to Masiyephambili students for making the event a success by participating in the march from the city centre to Coghlan Primary School. All institutions that allowed their Librarians to participate are highly applauded.

The Bulawayo Public Library is appreciated for the use of the Book Bus during the march and activities at Coghlan Primary School to market library services and reading.

The presence of the Zimbabwe Republic Police (ZRP) for providing escort services during the march from the Bulawayo Public Library to Coghlan Primary School on 19 October 2012 was very much appreciated.

A special thanks to Ms Maude Hell, who posted primary school library books from Sweden as a donation to Coghlan Primary School. Ms Maude has become a support pillar of ZimLA through networking and synergies.

Institutions that seconded their Librarians for the Stakeholders Workshop on 20th of October 2012 are hereby acknowledged.
PREAMBLE

The Zimbabwe Library Association (ZimLA) takes keen interest in recognizing national and international events in line with the profession. School Libraries (and Librarianship) has been on the agenda for the ZimLA National Executive Council – ZimLA NEC, to actively participate and lobby for viable school library services.

As such, after the International Association of School Librarianship (IASL) devoted the month of October to recognition of school libraries in 2008, ZimLA has adopted an annual culture of recognizing this unique month through activities by its Branches. This document spells out activities from the ZimLA Matabeleland Branch, hereby to share with each other their experiences and possibly create more networking and learning from one another.

Yes, we are proud of being Librarians and we do Love the L sign.

Secretary General
ZimLA – National Executive Council
sg@zimla.co.zw
Introduction

The ZimLA Matabeleland Branch organized two day activities for the celebration and commemoration of the ISLM October 2012. A special Organizing Committee had been set up by the Branch Executive, chaired by Mr. Jerry Mathema, a School Library Media Specialist at Masiyephambili College, Bulawayo. Activities revolved around the 2012 International Association of School Librarianship presidential theme: *School libraries: a Key to the Past, Present and Future*. Furthermore, the Branch decided to continue enhancing the concepts of the 2011 theme: *School Libraries - Empower Learners for Life* as well as the 2010 theme: *School Libraries – one School, one Librarian*

Activities included a march from the city centre by the Librarians and students to the venue, Coghlan Primary School on the 19th of October 2012 and a full day stakeholders’ workshop on 20th October 2012 at the Small City Hall, Bulawayo. Activities of the two days are detailed below.

**MATABELELAND BRANCH ACTIVITIES**: (mat@zimla.co.zw)

The Zimbabwe Library Association (Matabeleland Branch) invited Public librarians, School Library Media Specialists, Student Librarians, Principals, School / Teacher librarians, Parents, Pupils, tertiary institutions (LIS & RAM Departments) and organizations with vested interest in school librarianship in Bulawayo and the two Matabeleland provinces to join in commemorating and celebrating the above-mentioned event.

The celebrations ran over a period of two days and were characterized by two separate events, a march to a local hosting primary school; where several invited speakers were expected, followed by a workshop for School Principals, School Librarians and School Development Committee Chairpersons the following day 20th October 2012. An exhibition by reputable booksellers was to run concurrently. However, Booksellers did not come through. The International Association of School Librarianship expected all the countries of the world to partake on the celebrations of the above-mentioned month and Zimbabwe was not an exception to this request.

Every October since 1999, school librarians globally are encouraged to create activities to help their school and community celebrate the essential role that strong school library programs play in student’s educational career.
School libraries have an undisputed positive impact on students and learning. Research also shows beyond any reasonable doubt that there is a positive relationship between professionally staffed school libraries and student achievement, regardless of the socio-economic or educational levels of the community.

Schools were encouraged to bring as many students as feasible for the march and proceedings. Students who were talented in poetry, music and dance had to liaise with their respective school / teacher librarians so that they could be included in the main program. Speakers were very dynamic and we were very much encouraged as an Association to continue being vigilant to have our cause realized. As always, the Mayor of the City of Bulawayo has always been very supportive of the Library services. Hence several Municipal Branch Librarians attended the celebrations. The NLDS, NUST and the Bulawayo Public Library librarians spoke of their services. It would have been an opportune time to market the NLDS Schools Libraries module, had it been out.

The Ministry of Education, Sport, Arts & Culture advised the Branch that it was important to plan ahead for such events in order to have them included in the national school calendar.

Below were the Programs for the two days, 19th to 20th of October 2012 Activities.
March from Bulawayo Public Library to Coghlan Primary School

**Time:** 08:00hrs  
**Venue:** Coghlan School Hall  
**Date:** 19 October 2012  
**Time:** 09:00hrs

## PROGRAMME

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>09:00 hrs – 09:05 hrs</td>
<td>Director of Ceremony <strong>Mr. L. R. Fusire</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>09:05 hrs – 09:10 hrs</td>
<td>National Anthem (led by Magwegwe High School students)</td>
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<tr>
<td>09:10 hrs – 09:30 hrs</td>
<td>Opening prayer &amp; devotions <strong>Rev. C. Nkomo</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>09:30 hrs – 09:40 hrs</td>
<td>Welcome address – Headmistress, Coghlan Primary - <strong>Mrs. Mabeza</strong></td>
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<td>09:40 hrs – 10:00 hrs</td>
<td>Mayoral address Mayor of the City of Bulawayo, <strong>Clr Mr. T. Moyo</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>10:00 hrs – 10:15 hrs</td>
<td><strong>Entertainment</strong></td>
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<td>10:15 hrs – 10:30 hrs</td>
<td>History of ISLM and School Library Proclamation <strong>Mr. J. Mathema</strong></td>
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<td>10:35 hrs – 10:55 hrs</td>
<td>ZimLA Presidential Speech ZimLA President, <strong>Mr. T. G. Bhowa</strong></td>
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<td>10:55 hrs – 11:10 hrs</td>
<td>IASL President’s Message <strong>Mr. N. Tazibona</strong></td>
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<td>11:10 hrs – 11:20 hrs</td>
<td><strong>Entertainment</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>11:20 hrs – 11:40 hrs</td>
<td>Education Officer – Arts &amp; Culture Speech - <strong>Ms J. Ncube</strong> representing <strong>I. Ndlovu</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>11:40 hrs – 12:00 hrs</td>
<td>Guest of Honour <strong>Mrs. E Maisiri, Deputy Dean,</strong> representing <strong>Dr. L. Hikwa, (NUST) Dean,</strong> Faculty of Communication &amp; Information Sc.</td>
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<tr>
<td>12:00 hrs – 12:05 hrs</td>
<td><strong>Entertainment</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>12:05 hrs – 12:35 hrs</td>
<td>Presentations <strong>NLDS, BPL, NUST &amp; Bulawayo Polytechnic</strong></td>
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<td>12:35 hrs – 12:45 hrs</td>
<td>Vote of thanks <strong>Mrs. H.R. Ncube – ZimLA Secretary General</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>12:45 hrs – 12:55 hrs</td>
<td>Closing prayer <strong>Rev. C. Nkomo</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>12:55 hrs – 13:00 hrs</td>
<td><strong>Entertainment and end of programme</strong></td>
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### PROGRAM : 20 October 2012
Stakeholders Workshop: Librarians, School authorities, School Development Committees & Parents/Teachers Association

**Venue:** Bulawayo City Council, Small City Hall.  **Date:** 20\textsuperscript{th} October 2012

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>09:30 hrs – 09:35 hrs</td>
<td>Welcome to Participants &amp; introduction of the MC – Ms H. Ncube, ZimLA National Secretary General</td>
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<tr>
<td>09:35 hrs – 09:40 hrs</td>
<td>Workshop MC – Mr. Njabulo Tazibona, School Librarian, St. Columba’s High School, Bulawayo</td>
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<tr>
<td>09:40 hrs - 09:45 hrs</td>
<td>Opening prayer</td>
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<tr>
<td>09:45 hrs - 10:30 hrs</td>
<td>Registration &amp; Payments ($50.00 per person) – Ms. L. Ndlovu, Librarian, Bulawayo Public Library, Branch Treasurer</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:30 hrs – 11:00 hrs</td>
<td>Tea Break &amp; Networking</td>
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<tr>
<td>11:00 hrs – 11:05 hrs</td>
<td>Introduction of Session Chairperson - Mr J. Mathema, ZimLA Mat Branch Chairperson, Librarian, Masiyephambili College</td>
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<tr>
<td>11:55 hrs – 12:15 hrs</td>
<td>Discussion of Papers – Chaired by Mr. J. Mathema Lunch Break &amp; Networking</td>
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<tr>
<td>12:15 hrs – 13:00 hrs</td>
<td>Ms. H. Ncube, NRZ Librarian &amp; ZimLA Secretary General</td>
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<tr>
<td>13:00 hrs – 14:00 hrs</td>
<td>Session Chairperson Practical strategies for School Libraries with limited resources– Mr. Jerry Mathema, Librarian &amp; School Media Specialist, Masiyephambili College, Byo.</td>
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<tr>
<td>14:10 hrs - 14:40 hrs</td>
<td>What is Librarianship – Mr. Jerry Mathema, Mat Branch Chairperson</td>
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<tr>
<td>14:40 hrs - 15:00 hrs</td>
<td>Tea Break &amp; Networking Discussion of papers</td>
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<tr>
<td>15:00 hrs – 15:15 hrs</td>
<td>Evaluation &amp; Resolutions - Chaired by Ms H. Ncube, ZimLA SG</td>
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<tr>
<td>15:15 hrs - 15:45 hrs</td>
<td>Closing prayer</td>
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<tr>
<td>15:45 hrs - 16:15 hrs</td>
<td>End of programme</td>
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<tr>
<td>16:15 hrs - 16:20 hrs</td>
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The Workshop was attended by local librarians and two School librarians from outside the City of Bulawayo. One was from John Tallach High School, the other was from Fatima High School, located in Mat North over 200 km away from Bulawayo along Falls Road. The cost was $50.00 per participant.

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**Observations & Comments**

19th October 2012 – Coghlan Primary School, Bulawayo

- There were few schools participating this year in 2012 than in 2010. This was attributed to: a) the late decision about the events date; b) the possibility of students and teachers being engaged in preparation of end of year exams, making it difficult to release the Librarians.
- The IASL Presidential address was read by Mr. Njabulo Tazibona, a School Librarian at St Columba’s High School, and also member of the Mat Branch Executive being the Secretary.
- The ZimLA Presidential address was read by Mr. Jerry Mathema, a School Librarian & Media Specialist at Masiyephambili College, and also member of the Mat Branch Executive being the Chairperson.
- It was appreciated that “permanent” friendship between ZimLA and the Swedish lady Ms Maude Hell had developed. The donation of children’s books to the host Primary School was very much appreciated by the ZimLA Mat Branch, and more so by the recipient.
- The host school Coghlan Primary School appealed to ZimLA to help find the school a qualified School Librarian. Mrs Mabersa said the school library was rich with resources, however was malfunctioning due to lack of a qualified Librarian. The Branch Executive will make a follow-up on the request to discuss a way forward and to critically examine how that School Librarian would be remunerated.
- Team members in the Mat Branch Executive were commended for commitment and willingness to meet every Tuesday from beginning of September organizing these events to the last minute.
- The Branch was to make a critical analysis of the October activities in a bid to make it even bigger and better in years to come.
- The original intention was to include rural teachers & teacher librarians as well.
The Workshop was held in a conducive large venue, the Bulawayo Municipal Small City Hall.

Participants did not complain about the $50.00 charge which included their two teas, lunch and Workshop materials that included presentations from individual facilitators and a copy of the School Library Manifesto to each participant, courtesy of the ZimLA Secretary General Mrs. H. Ncube.

Mrs Ncube had warned on the onset that she would discuss the issues of School Libraries according to her observations and experience without any reservations. Particularly, she stressed that Librarianship & Teaching were two different professions, equally important; hence the term Teacher/Librarian internationally means an individual with both the professional qualifications.

Of emphasis from the participants was the Organizational structure in many schools where the Librarian reports to the Bursar rather that the Deputy Head like other Heads of Departments. Mrs Ncube recommended pro-activity on the Librarian’s part to initiate dialogue with the School administrators, stating precisely why the current scenario was not conducive for the Library Section. However, she emphasized that to be recognized like how teachers are recognized then the Librarian must also be trained in the field.

A point hammered home by professional librarians was that the School Librarian MUST be trained, even if it meant through staff development programs. It was noted that as long as School libraries are run by non-professionals recognition of the Librarians in schools would continue to suffer.

Mrs E. Maisiri, Deputy Dean from NUST, gave the participants full information on requirements for training at NUST. She urged that individuals must not be afraid to visit the university and discuss their individual training needs. That way NUST would also stay informed and offer informed advices.

It appeared the school administrators did not attend the workshop. a number of schools indicated that it was not affordable to send one than one person.

Participants had lively discussions and networking during breaks, and all agreed that the Workshop had taught them a great deal.
Workshop Resolutions

1. The School Librarian must be part of the institution’s Buying Committee.

2. The Ministry of Education, Sport, Arts and Culture must re-instate & unfreeze the post of Schools Librarian.

3. Institutions must ensure that their School Libraries are manned by trained and or qualified Librarians.

4. The School Library is a Department on its own entity and merit; hence the School Librarian must be equated to the Head of Department on the Schools’ organogram.

5. The School Librarian must report to the Deputy Head of the School to enable more relevance in dealing with Library matters.

Conclusion

19th October 2012

Activities were well appreciated by all, and pertinent issues were discussed on both days. Of paramount importance was the role of the school library in support of the school curriculum and activities. Another point stressed was the role of the school library in developing a reading culture among pupils and students, and creating an environment of user friendly libraries. It was emphasized that school librarians encourage pupils and students to use public libraries which had such activities as storytelling, story writing and quizzes for children, to further develop their skills outside the school peripheral.

Among challenges was lack of trained librarians to efficiently run the school libraries; lack of adequate financial resources to equip school libraries with the latest technological gadgets.
20th October 2012

Workshop participants included some trained school Librarians from mission schools. Of concern was limited appreciation and support towards school libraries. Financial challenges were mentioned.

An area affecting many was the reporting structure for the School Librarian in the organization. Many mentioned the dilemma of reporting to the school bursar, who was a non-librarian and yet the Librarians were not involved in the buying of any library materials. Librarians considered reporting to the administration a more ideal situation.

Librarians were encouraged to be pro-active in marketing their services not only to the students but to the school community as a whole. In view of limited budgets for libraries in general, several fund-raising activities were suggested in the presentations for consideration by the schools and the SDC authorities.

Participants claimed to have gained considerably the knowledge to assist them perform more effectively and efficiently in their school libraries.

Participants were given a copy each of the School Library Manifesto to refer to during the course of their operations.
Appendix I

Some pictures taken during the commemorations

Magwegwe High School Headgirl Shylet Gwadzoka and Headboy Bigman Ndlovu displaying the banner during marching activities – 19 October 2012
Part of the group of students arriving at Coghlan Primary School – 19 October 2012

Headmistress Coghlan Primary School, Mrs Mabeza receives book donations sent by Ms Maude Hell in Sweden through the ZimLA Mat Branch Chairperson Mr. Jerry Mathema to mark the ISLM celebrations.
Councilor Martin Moyo stressing a point to the Deputy Dean, Faculty of Communication & Information Science – NUST, Mrs. Esabel Maisiri. Ms J. Ncube, Director – African Languages, Ministry of Education, Sport, Arts & Culture, Bulawayo checks her speech.

Librarians and school teachers following the proceedings – 19 October 2012
Students following the proceedings at Coghlan Primary School – 19 October 2012

Mat Branch Treasurer – Mr. Njabulo Tazibona with Librarians and Masiyephambili College students at Coghlan Primary School – 19 October 2012
Part of the Stakeholders Workshop participants at the Small City Hall, Bulawayo. 20 October 2012
UNESCO and the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA), have launched two declarations of principles which should guide the creation and operations of public libraries and school libraries worldwide.

The **Public Library Manifesto**, adopted in 1994, proclaims UNESCO's belief in the public library as a living force for education, culture and information, and as an essential agent for the fostering of peace and spiritual welfare through the minds of men and women.

In 1999 IFLA (International Federation of Library Associations) and UNESCO approved a School Library Manifesto Titled “**The School Library in Teaching and Learning for All**,” the document asserts that the school library provides information and ideas that are fundamental to functioning successfully in today's information and knowledge-based society. The school library equips students with life-long learning skills and develops the imagination, enabling them to live as responsible citizens. The manifesto states that the mission of the school library is to offer learning services, books and resources that enable all members of the school community to become critical thinkers and effective users of information in all formats and media. School Libraries link to the wider library and information network in accord with the principles in the UNESCO Public Library Manifesto.

To that end, school library resources should complement textbooks, and include a variety of formats. Services need to be provided equally -- and free -- to all school community members, and accommodate individuals with special needs. The manifesto concludes that collaboration between teachers and librarians, as well as partnerships with outside entities, results in improved student literacy and communication. School Libraries must have adequate and sustained funding for trained staff, materials, technologies and facilities. Joint-use libraries must maintain the unique aims of the school library. A couple of essential factors might be problematic in some regions:

The **School Library Manifesto** adopted in 1999, aims to define and advance the role of school libraries and resource centres in enabling students to acquire the learning tools and learning content that allow them to develop their full capacities; to continue to learn throughout their lives; and to make informed decisions.