

DEPARTMENT OF LIBRARY AND INFORMATION STUDIES

Professor Fay Durrant, *MLS Syracuse, BLS Toronto, BA Spanish*
(Hons) *UWT* – Head of Department



Management

For the 2005/2006 academic year the Department has:

- ❖ Introduced a new research-linked course for third year students
- ❖ Made a substantial input into the development of an Information Literacy project sponsored by COMLA and UNESCO
- ❖ Continued the development of a programme for Archives and Records

Seen an increase in research activities among the staff – two of whom have received Mona Research Fellowships with another on sabbatical. This has resulted in several articles being accepted for publication and two books are in the process of being written.

A more detailed picture of these and other Departmental activities overall follows.

Development and offering of new courses

A new course was introduced to meet the demand for a research-linked course for Library and Information Studies majors. **LS39A- Access to Information in the Caribbean** was developed and first offered in Semester 1, 2005/6. This research-linked course examines factors (e.g. content, usability, connectivity, affordability, policy development and intellectual property rights) influencing access to information in the Caribbean which is a timely issue in the region as various governments have put in place Access to Information legislation or they are in the process of doing so.

The two Archives and Records Management courses introduced during the previous academic year as part of the CIDA Project were also continued.

Promotion of Information Literacy

Dr. Shelley-Robinson coordinated a COMLA/UNESCO workshop on Information Literacy for Public Librarians across the Commonwealth in January/February 2006 and she has subsequently supervised the writing and editing of a Manual consisting of fifteen modules for the public librarians to use for training their staff on how to teach information literacy skills to library users. Two other members of staff, Mrs. Barbara Gordon and Mrs. Paulette Stewart, have contributed four modules to the Manual which is due for publication late 2006 or early 2007.

Staff Activities and Research

Professor Durrant proceeded on leave from January to December 2006 to continue work during her Mona Research Fellowship, while Mrs. Barbara Gordon was on sabbatical for the academic year and Dr. Shelley-Robinson returned from Mona Research Fellowship leave in January. These opportunities presented to staff for conducting research have resulted in eight papers and two chapters of books accepted for publication during the upcoming year and two books are also being written. The areas covered by these works include information literacy, school libraries, Caribbean children's literature, Internet use policies, E-government and Access to Information.

On the international scene, Professor Durrant was elected as Vice President of the Inter-Governmental Council of UNESCO Information for All Programme (IFAP) for 2006-2008.

Mrs. Paulette Stewart was awarded the International Association of School Librarianship Ken Haycock Leadership Award at the Annual Conference held in Lisbon, Portugal in July 2006.

In order to improve their instructional capabilities, staff members attended two workshops on teaching assessment that were organized by the Instructional Development Unit at the request of the Department.

Outreach Activities

The Department continues to provide leadership in library education in the region by developing and coordinating a two-part training programme for public library staff in the British Virgin Islands. The first part was offered in July with the second planned for 2007. In addition, during the

year Dr. Shelley-Robinson conducted a series of four workshops for public, school and college library staff in St. Vincent and the Grenadines as part of their Education Development Project funded by the World Bank.

In its drive to increase the visibility of the Department and keep information professionals abreast with the latest developments in the field, a public lecture on “Archives and Records Management: Issues of Privacy and Confidentiality” was given on April 6, 2006 by visiting lecturer, Professor Carole Compton-Smith from Douglas College, British Columbia.

Main Targets Set by the Department for 2006/2007 Onwards:

The following are some of the main targets set based on the new directions being taken by the University as well as developments in the world of learning and the wider society.

Online Access to Courses

To provide online access to library education for the wider Caribbean region by planning to convert all courses to an online format for delivery to the wider Caribbean, especially since the Library & Information Studies programme is only offered at Mona. One course- LS38A Archives and Records Management - is already online and has been well received. In this same vein, Professor Fay Durrant will also be coordinating a course on e-government in collaboration with UWIDEC. The conversion will be done in stages starting with the first year undergraduate courses.

Extending the Archives and Records Management Programme

A proposal has been submitted to CIDA to extend the programme for a further two years and to offer it to students at Mona as well as anywhere within the wider Caribbean since it is delivered online.

Programme Re-Design

In another effort to improve programme offerings, the Department will be re-designing the Bachelor of Education (School Librarianship) offered jointly with the Dept. of Education to bring it in line with the new directions being pursued by the latter department and developments in the field.

Curriculum Enrichment

To enrich the curriculum offerings the Department will have, under the aegis of CUSO, the assistance of a librarian for six months to set up and

demonstrate an e-based reference service for the benefit of staff and students.

Departmental Outreach

To continue to provide outreach services for library development within the Caribbean, the Department will be delivering the second part of its training programme for library personnel in the British Virgin Islands in summer 2007 and Dr. Shelly-Robinson will also conduct the final round of training for library staff in St. Vincent & the Grenadines.

In order to maintain a closer link with the working world so that the Department's programme will remain relevant to needs of society, a seminar will be held for librarians/information professionals who host our students for fieldwork. Secondly, a regional advisory committee will be established with representatives from all contributing territories and contact maintained electronically.

Physical Facilities

The present facilities are to be renovated for greater comfort, usability and efficiency in operation. This involves redesigning the present space and layout of the Department to make it more streamlined and accommodating for students and staff which should lead to greater efficiency in the use of space and the carrying out of daily operations.

Teaching Achievements as reflected in student's assessments:

	Mean Semester 1	Mean Semester 2
Lecturers	4.08	4.1
Courses	4.02	4.3

Number of academic staff members: 1 Professor, 2 Senior lecturers, 2 lecturers, 1 librarian, 13 part-time lecturers.

PAPERS PRESENTED

- **Fay Durrant.** "Openness, access to government information and Caribbean governance". FM10 Openness: Code, Science and Content Conference, Chicago, May 15-17, 2006.
- **Fay Durrant.** "Caribbean Libraries and the Protection of Cultural Diversity in the Information Society", The Annual Conference of the Association of Caribbean University Research and Institutional Libraries (ACURIL) XXXVI, Oranjestad, Aruba, May 28 – June 2 2006.

- **Cherrell Shelley-Robinson.** “Information Literacy in an Information Age” UNESCO/COMLA Seminar on Information Literacy for Public Librarians Across the Commonwealth, January 28- February 2, 2006.
- **Cherrell Shelley-Robinson.** “Information Books for Caribbean Children 1960-2004: an historical overview”. Annual Research Day Public Forum, Undercroft, UWI, Mona, January 27, 2006.

PUBLICATIONS

Refereed journals and articles

Fay Durrant

- * “Openness, access to government information and Caribbean governance”. *First Monday*: 11, 7 (3 July 2006)
http://www.firstmonday.org/issues/issue11_7/index.html

Income Generation

The Department continued to receive funding in 2005/6 for its Archives and Records Management courses through the CIDA project.

PUBLIC SERVICE

Professor Fay Durrant

- Vice President, UNESCO Intergovernmental Council of the Information for All Programme.
- Member, Jamaica Library Board
- Member, Board of Management National Library of Jamaica
- Member, Management Board of the Jamaica Sustainable Development Network.
- Member, Jamaica Advisory Committee on the National Information System
- Member, Jamaica National Commission for Unesco
- Chair, Information for All Advisory Committee of the Jamaican National Commission for Unesco
- Member, Caribbean Information Action Group (CARINFO)

Mr. Ownali Mohammedali

- Member, Library and Information Association of Jamaica
- Member, American Library Association

Dr. Cherrell Shelley-Robinson

- Member, UNESCO Information for All Programme (Jamaica)
- Member, International Association of School Librarianship
- Member, Executive Committee Library & Information Association of Jamaica
- Member, Institute of Jamaica Junior Centre Programme Planning Committee
- Life Member, Jamaica Reading Association

Mrs. Barbara Gordon

- Member, Research Publication Working Party, Library and Information Association of Jamaica
- Member, Jamaica Society of Scientists and Technologists
- Member, Collection Development Management Committee, National Library of Jamaica
- Member, Gloria Baker Scholarship Award Committee

Mrs. Hyacinth Brown

- Member, Library & Information Association of Jamaica
- Member, Jamaica Baptist Historical Society

Mrs. Paulette Stewart

- Chairperson, Library and Information Association of Jamaica, Schools Section
- Member, International Association of School Librarianship

CATEGORIES OF STUDENTS

Undergraduate

Students Registered 2005/6

PROGRAMME	Full-time	Part-time	Total
BA Library & Information Studies	71	75	146
BEd School Librarianship	17	0	17
Total	88	75	163

DEGREES GRANTED

BA Library & Information Studies

First Class	7
Upper Second	8
Lower Second	7
Pass	3
TOTAL	25

BEd School Librarianship

First Class	2
Upper Second	6
Lower Second	-
Pass	-
TOTAL	8

POSTGRADUATES

Students Registered

PROGRAMME	Full-time	Part-time	Total
MA Library & Information Studies	2	27	29
Master in Lib. & Info. Studies	4	31	35
Master of Philosophy	0	1	1
TOTAL	6	59	65

Degrees Granted

MALIS	2
MLIS	11
TOTAL	13

Prizes Awarded

Year 1 – Alumni Prize for Best Grade – Claudette Whyte

Year II – COMLA Prize for Best Second Year Student – Londa Brown

Dorothy Collings Prize for Best Grade – Natalie Deir - Undergraduate
Theresa Smith - Postgraduate

Amy Robertson Prize for Best BEd Graduating Student – Divia Nelson

Daphne Douglas Prize for Personal and Professional Development – Kerry-Ann Kerr