

LIASA Special Libraries Interest Group Eastern Cape
(LiSLIG EC)

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Cory Library, Grahamstown
Thursday 21st August 2008, 10h00

You are invited to attend the 2nd Annual General Meeting of LiSLIG EC which will be held at the Cory Library, Rhodes University, Grahamstown.

The AGM will include our biennial elections and the announcement of the new committee.

The AGM will be preceded by tea and a talk entitled ***“Redesigning for the next generation libraries: challenges and critical issues”*** by Gwenda Thomas. The abstract of her article on this topic is included after the meeting details.

DATE

Thursday
21 August 2008

PLACE

Cory Library,
Rhodes University
Grahamstown

TIME

10h00

DIRECTIONS

Members traveling on the N2 from Port Elizabeth and East London should take the Grahamstown turn off into Beaufort Street. At the first set of lights turn left into Somerset Street then first left, between the Settlers’ Museum and the Natural History Museum into Lucas Street. The Cory Library is situated on the lower floor of the Eden Grove Building. Parking is available behind the Settlers’ Museum.

ORDER OF MEETING

10h00 - 10h30	Tea	Sponsored by LiSLIG EC
10h30 - 11h30	Talk	<i>Redesigning for the next generation libraries: challenges and critical issues</i> by Gwenda Thomas, Library Director, Rhodes University.
11h30 - 12h15	Business Meeting	AGM and elections Meeting agenda to follow Items for the agenda to be sent to the Secretary: Lynne Crozier lacrozier@ananzi.co.za before 12th August.

R.S.V.P

Before Thursday 14 August

Lynne Crozier lacrozier@ananzi.co.za Dot Pitman Tel: 041-5840650 dot@bayworld.co.za

Title: Redesigning for the Next Generation Libraries: challenges & critical issues

Gwenda Thomas

Transformation is a current and future reality that is squaring up to academic and research library practice to challenge traditional service models, workflows, operations, staff skills levels and libraries as physical space as we currently know it. The Net Generation and/or Millennials entering our libraries and those on the brink of embarking on research careers have grown up in an Internet-dominated and digital world. They have different aptitudes, expectations and user needs for information content, libraries and information services. This generation of scholars, together with electronic information and fierce competition, is rapidly transforming teaching, learning, scholarly communication and research practice.

A new reality is emerging that is impacting the role of the “traditional” academic and research library faster than many library professionals and educators recognize. This paper intends to do some “straight-talking” and highlight some of the “hard-hitting” challenges that the academic library profession needs to look “square in the face” if it wants to avoid marginalization and obsolescence within the next decade. Factors to be considered:

- academic library practices are at the cross-roads between the traditional purpose and digital revolution;
- users are no longer captive audiences, as they have alternatives that enable them to bypass the library to meet information needs;
- emerging disconnects between the library culture and the Net Generation as academic libraries continue to model the digital environment as electronic counterparts of physical libraries
- recognize that the migration from the physical to the digital landscape requires revitalization through redesign of library spaces to meet changing student needs, supporting new methods of teaching, providing the latest technology for research and scholarship;
- reposition libraries and change attitudes from a content-focus (building and providing access to collections) to a user-facing orientation.