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newsletter, the WCHELIG News, which is a communication from the WCHELIG executive to the members, would be discontinued and the Western Cape news fed into the national newsletter. As you will see in the report back from the HELIG AGM at the 2004 LIASA conference, a decision was taken to action the 2003 request for a national HELIG newsletter. The good news is that the WCHELIG newsletter editor, our very own Rolf Proske, will stay on as the editor for the national newsletter.

Remember that you are WCHELIG and should you have any queries or developmental feedback, the committee members are only an e-mail or phone call away. The contact details of the committee are included in this issue.

One of the characteristics of the Western Cape Branch is that Interest Group chairs sit on the Branch Executive Committee meetings. In the interest of empowering the rest of the WCHELIG executive committee, the deputy chair, Petro Coreejas-Brink, and secretary, Mike Moll, have attended meetings in my stead. See their impressions and report back from the meetings they attended.

In mid November 2004, we held a very successful panel discussion on the academic status of librarians in higher education. See the report from the PRO, Annemarie Maritz, on the discussion. The object of the panel discussion was to open the debate. From the feedback on the discussion, it seems that members would like more. The committee will investigate opportunities for further discussion. In the interim, all practicing librarians should start preparing papers for publication and

FROM THE CHAIR

Dear WCHELIG people

We bring you a bumper issue of the WCHELIG News for the last issue of 2004.

It has been the position of WCHELIG that should the national HELIG distribute a

becoming accredited facilitators of learning to earn their status, in the same way that lecturing academics do, whether you agree that faculty status is what librarians should have, or not.

With the information literacy workshop in April 2004, the attendees agreed that the ACRL standards should be adopted as South Africa information literacy standards. At conference this year, the outgoing president announced that the adoption of the standards by SAQA had stalled. See in this issue an update by Jean Uys, Western Cape RETIG member for an update on the matter.

The calendar for next year is full and very interesting. Further details of the activities will be made closer to the time. However, be on the lookout for a very exciting announcement in this issue.

If you are driving over the holidays, be safe and buckle up.

With best wishes to you for happy holidays,
Fatima Darries

WCHELIG Chair

HELIG CONFERENCE AND AGM REPORT

Higher Education Libraries Interest Group
AGM and Conference report back

The session took place in Moretse, Light of Nations Church, Polokwane, Limpopo, on 29 September 2004. The AGM was held the morning and the conference session followed after tea.

John Tsebe chaired the AGM, and welcomed everyone to the meeting. The Minutes were accepted with corrections. The chair did not deliver his report and with permission of the meeting the elections took place first, followed by matters arising from the minutes.

For the term 2004 to 2006, the following members were elected to the National HELIG Executive Committee: Fatima Darries (Fatima@ctech.ac.za), Bonga Makrwede (ZingisaniNokubonga.Makrwede@nmmu.ac.za), Charlie Molepo (cmm@rau.ac.za), Gwenda Thomas (Gwenda@fotim.ac.za)

From the 2003 AGM minutes there were three items that were outstanding. Members were requested to propose amendments to the HELIG constitution. The constitution will be posted on the LIASA website. The request for a salary survey will be taken to the Representative

Council by the new national chair. The 2003 request for a HELIG newsletter was not actioned. The meeting agreed that the national HELIG newsletter will be distributed from the Western Cape. The Western Cape newsletter editor, having been elected in that position, will edit the national newsletter.

Joyce Gozo (who won the LIASA/SabinetOnline academic librarian of the year award) and Bonga Makrwede convened the conference session's papers and speakers. Five papers were delivered in the conference session, entitled, the future of higher education libraries and its strategic partners. The presentations of the speakers will be loaded on the LIASA website soon at www.liasa.org.za.

John Tsebe's paper dealt with the relationship between the NLSA and higher education institutions. He sees the relationship as a strategic partnership for lobbying and advocacy, to establish international relations and connections for amongst others leadership development, and to influence government policy regarding LIS.

Hannie Sander, in her paper entitled, The power of one consortia: strategic partner for HE Libraries looked at the development of consortia in South Africa and the rest of Africa. Consortia, for the purposes of collaboration and cooperation, has been around since the late 80's in

South Africa in the form of regional consortia. In 1999 the Coalition of South African Library Consortia (COSALC) in was established, with the vision to enhance access to information and the sharing of resources to the benefit of clients of library consortia in South Africa through national cooperation. Among the benefits of this coalition, is that the SASLI initiative saved higher education libraries 4.3 million in 2003. While there are challenges for consortia in the future, consortia are evolving and are here to stay.

Susan Veldsman spoke about the SARIS project, which she sees as empowering the researcher via access to online resources. SARIS is the acronym for South African Research Information System. The aim of the project is to create a single research information infrastructure and scholarly information communication system for the creation and distribution of scholarly information, the management of information rights and access, with system evaluation and underlying infra-structure being part of it. The project plan includes wide consultation, the investigation of all option, the selection of an option and a draft implementation plan to be completed by end 2004.

She identifies the role of the librarian in the research system as key to the success of such a system. To play this key role, however, librarians have to do the following, which is taken verbatim from Susan's presentation, but I believe the exceedingly important to repeat here.

- *“intellectual role very NB – have to regain their scholarship status – not just organisers of information*
- *library schools do not pay sufficient attention to IT (a passing phase!!)*
- *researchers need personal [customised] info assistan[ce] – a librarian*
- *Providing access is not good enough – need support & training.*
- *Information literacy is seen as a major role*
- *There is a definite role for librarians to 'bring it all together'. This requires the librarian to be knowledgeable so that they could steer researchers in the right direction when required*
- *Librarians have to find a place for themselves where they have the courage*

to and opportunity to 'sit down in the same space' as the researcher..

- *The costs associated with the library service (like having a librarian on site) should be factored into all projects. If librarians don't make this happen they will always be regarded as 'free' support services and not as professionals.*
- *Librarians have to be part of the environment so that they could maintain the balance and provide information at precisely the right time. If they provide information too early they are seen as creating wish lists. When they provide information too late they are perceived as incompetent.”*

Felix Ubogo talked about a proposed National Electronic Theses and Dissertations (ETD) Project aimed at improving management of, and access to theses at national level. Such a project is now made possible by open access. Already a few uncoordinated projects exists at RAU, Rhodes, UFS, UP, UNISA, Wits, UCT-dept computer science in institutional repositories. The proposal also raises the issue of whether a national metadata repository is required since UCTD and SaCAT already exists. However, these are not OAI compliant. Internationally, a holistic approach is taken towards the production, management, and access to theses and dissertations. National libraries play a key role in such endeavours. However, in South Africa, the NLSA may not have the capacity to drive such a project. He concludes, therefore, the Committee for Higher Education Library Directors of South Africa (CHELSA) should engage the NRF, as the most appropriate body to drive this project.

Bonga Makrwele provided a merger update on the Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University (NMMU). The NMMU was previously the University of Port Elizabeth, Port Elizabeth Technikon and the Vista campus in the Eastern Cape. They have made significant progress amongst which is the agreement of a library structure with one library director, an NMMU LIS vision and the name of the Library Service. She also spoke about lessons learnt in the process, important amongst which is to consider what the users gain rather than personal

gain and to consider national rather than institutional interest.

Fatima Darries
WCHELIG Chair

REPORT ON THE PANEL DISCUSSION ON THE ACADEMIC STATUS OF LIBRARIANS

WCHELIG ended their year's activities with a well received panel discussion on the academic status of librarians. Thirty-five people attended the event and the chair Fatima Darries welcomed everybody. She introduced the chairperson, Johan Engelbrecht from Stellenbosch University Library Service and the programme for the morning.

Johan Engelbrecht set the scene for the morning with an interesting introductory speech on the international perspective of the academic status of librarians by referring to the Association of College & Research Libraries' (ACRL) Guidelines for Academic Status for College and University Librarians, as well as the Policy Statement on Academic Status and Governance for Librarians at Canadian Universities by the Canadian Association of University Teachers (CAUT). Johan confirmed that the debate on this crucial issue has been ongoing for many years by referring to a book discovered in the Stellenbosch University Library, published in 1970.

The speakers' informative and lively presentations were well received by the audience. The first speaker, Pazuna Stofile, from the Human Resources Department at the Cape Technikon, noted that the key question one should ask as a support service trying to remain relevant in higher education was "what is the library doing to contribute to the institution's output?"

The second speaker, Sally Witbooi, lecturer in Library Science at UWC, gave a very lively run-down on what exactly constitutes academic status in terms of the job title, job description, remuneration, fringe benefits and the relative rating of the discipline with other disciplines. She followed her presentation with the responsibilities of an academic, namely: teaching, research, publishing, administration and working in the community, etc.

Amanda Barratt, Law Faculty Librarian at UCT, started with a declaration that librarians should have academic status because "we deserve it". She made a comparison between the work that librarians and academics do and juxtaposed the two viewpoints. Both groups do research (librarians by reading professional and subject literature), teach (librarians by bibliographic instruction and mainstream integration of information literacy) and administration (librarians doing "mysterious library things"). She concluded her presentation by giving a couple of reasons against academic status for librarians namely time constraints, academic qualifications, that the users will suffer and that there are enough professors at the university anyway! The librarian aim should be "the very best cats of our breed"!

Time was given for some questions from the floor and an interesting discussion ensued. Fatima Darries thanked the speakers and chair for presenting the different viewpoints and the trouble they took to prepare their presentations. Annemarie Maritz, PRO, presented them with a token of appreciation.

Of the 25 attendees, 22 returned evaluation forms. Attendees listed the quality of and the combination of speakers as the most-liked features of the event. Many would have liked a longer session.

GETTING PUBLISHED WORKSHOP

WCHELIG will be bringing you a workshop on how to get published on 13 June 2005.

Watch this space and list announcements for further details of the workshop.

GEMS FROM THE ELECTRONIC COALFACE – WINTER COLLOQUIUM

Join us at the first Western Cape Higher Education Libraries Interest Group (WCHELIG) Winter Colloquium on 14 and 15 June 2005 to share your victories in the electronic age. We believe that practicing librarians are highly skilled and have much experience and knowledge to share.

Do not miss the experience!

You are invited to submit proposals for papers or posters focussing on the following areas: client services, learning facilitation or collection development, enhanced by ICT.

The deadline for receipt of proposals is 25th February 2005.

Proposals, in electronic format (MS Word) must be submitted to:

Annemarie Maritz

Email: am1@sun.ac.za

Fax: 021-808-4336

Tel: 021-808-2743

GUIDELINES FOR SUBMISSIONS :

1. Papers and posters based on practical experience are favoured.
2. Priority will be given to papers on the theme and topics listed, although papers on related topics may also be considered.
3. Submissions must include:
 - a. full title of the paper;
 - b. name(s) of author(s),
 - c. institutional affiliation,
 - d. full contact details of author(s).
 - e. full title of the paper;

- f. name(s) of author(s),
- g. institutional affiliation,
- h. full contact details of author(s),
- i. each proposal should be named with the surname of the presenting author, e.g.:
Smith prop.doc

3. Authors of accepted papers will be notified as soon as possible after 14th March 2005.

TREASURER'S MEETING

The Western Cape LIASA BEC held a meeting of interest group treasurers at Ithemba Labs, Faure. WCHELIG was represented by the secretary, Mike Moll. In a very businesslike meeting, guidelines of financial control were discussed and requests passed on by the branch treasurer. What was also very good was to find out that WCHELIG is financially in good hands and in good health!

[Report by Mike Moll – WCHELIG Secretary]

BEC MEETING

Although the branch IG chairs report to the National IG, in the Western Cape the IG chairs sit on Branch Executive Committee (BEC) Meetings to co-ordinate activities and keep everyone in the loop. In the Western Cape, the IG also uses the Branch bank account for funds and transactions.

As Vice-Chair of WCHELIG I attended the branch executive meeting on the 17th November in the absence of Fatima (WCHELIG Chair). This meeting was held at Simons Town at the Institute for Maritime Technology. The picturesque view of the sea made this an outing to remember. I was quite impressed with the professional manner in which the committee planned the Breakfast meeting scheduled for the 24th of November.

Many thanks to Joanita Le Kay who hosted the meeting.

[Petro Coreejas-Brink – Vice-Chair]

STANDARDS UPDATE

At the Information Literacy Workshop on 7 April 2004, a request from the attendees was made that the ACRL Information Literacy standards should be accepted by SAQA as a standard for Information Literacy Programmes.

The process of unit standard writing had stalled both on the SGB (Standards Generating Body) side as well as on the SAQA side . This was confirmed at the LIASA Conference this year.

However, 15 units standards had been written and are with the SAQA representative, Ahmed Vawda.

Jean Uys, secretary of National RETIG (Research, Education and Training Interest Group) and registered member of the LIASA Standards Generating Body (SGB) writes about a meeting on the 4th November 2004 of the SGB with Ahmed Vawda.

The LIASA SGB will be reconstituted and standards setting will be fast-tracked. The focus will now be on qualifications that are lacking in the industry which are aimed at providing mobility for those in non-professional positions. According to Jean Uys the plan is to generate new standards for new, mainly certificate, courses.

In the interim, news from Karin de Jager and Mary Nassimbeni, who tested the information literacy standards across the country, is that they will soon be publishing their work. Details will follow in another issue with their permission.

COMMITTEE DETAILS

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IMPORTANT DATES FOR WCHELIG

Dates	Event	Venue
2005		
19 January	WCHELIG EC Meeting	CPUT, Cape Town
25 February	Colloquium proposals due	
3 March	WCHELIG EC Meeting	TBC
10 March	WCHELIG News distributed	
18 March	UCT 1 st term ends	
24 March	CPUT, SU, UWC 1 st term ends	
28 March	WCHELIG EC Meeting	TBC
29 March	UCT 2 nd term starts	
4 April	CPUT, SUN, UWC 2 nd term starts	
21 April	WCHELIG News distributed	
26 May	WCHELIG EC Meeting	TBC
13 June	Getting published	TBC
14-15 June	Winter Colloquium: gems from the coalface	TBC
17 June	SUN 2 nd term ends	
23 June	WCHELIG EC Meeting	TBC
24 June	UCT, SUN, UWC 2 nd term ends	
30 June	WCHELIG News distributed	
18 July	UCT, CPUT, SUN, UWC 3 rd term starts	
21 July	AGM	TBC
29 July	WCHELIG EC Meeting	TBC
11 August	WCHELIG News distributed	
29 August	UCT 3 rd term ends	
2 September	UCT 4 th term starts	
2 September	SUN, UWC 3 rd term ends	
12 September	SUN, UWC 4 th term starts	
23 September	CPUT 3 rd term ends	
26-30 September	LIASA Annual conference: Taking libraries to the people	Nelspruit, Mpumalanga
3 October	CPUT 4 rd term starts	
10 November	WCHELIG EC Meeting	TBC
17 November	Panel discussion	TBC
1 December	WCHELIG News distributed	
2 December	UWC 4 th term ends	
9 December	UCT, CPUT, SUN 4 th term ends	
15 December	CPUT closes	