

WCHELIG NEWS

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LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

Dear WCHELIG members,

The Interim Committee for WCHELIG has held a very successful first training workshop on information literacy. The workshop took place on April 7th and a full report appears in this newsletter.

By now you will have received nomination forms for the election of the new Executive Committee of WCHELIG. We hope that you have made use of the opportunity to either nominate someone or made yourself available to be nominated! See elsewhere in this newsletter for important dates in the election process.

The Interim Committee is now working on the organization of the first Annual General Meeting of WCHELIG so that the interest group can be formally and officially launched.

In the previous issue of WCHELIG News [No.2, March 2004] we indicated the AGM date as being the 29th of March – the AGM will now be held on the 15th July.

See details in this newsletter.

The stronger the membership, both in numbers and in participation and involvement, the stronger LIASA is. I am therefore proud to announce that there has been a significant increase in LIASA membership in the Western Cape higher education sector since March 2003.

However numbers are not yet what we hoped for, and so I would like to challenge the WCHELIG membership to *each one recruit one!* If we all do that we can double our numbers.

AGM AT STELLENBOSCH

The Annual General Meeting will be held at the University of Stellenbosch Library Auditorium on 15 July.

Pat Busby will be giving a presentation on CALICO before we get down to business.

Everyone should have received the agenda by now, but if not :

Library Auditorium, University of Stellenbosch : Thursday 15 July 2004

14:00 Arrival and Registration

14:30 Guest Speaker : Pat Busby

Topic : CALICO

Questions and discussion

15:15 Tea

15:35 Business meeting

- Welcome and apologies
- Chair's report 2003/4
- Treasurer's report
- Election results
- Chair's acceptance

16:15 Closure

Welcome to the following who have recently joined the Western Cape Higher Education Libraries Interest Group:

Ms Deborah Becker - Cape Technikon

Ms Lungelwa Ciliba - UCT Graduate School of Business

Ms Peggy Myeza

Ms Marié Roux - J S Gericke Library, US

Ms Dianne Steele - UCT Libraries

We now have 96 individual and two institutional members!

INFOLIT WORKSHOP REPORT

The Chair, Fatima Darries, welcomed everybody to the workshop. The workshop was arranged by WCHELIG in response to an exciting and innovative workshop on information literacy that was held during the LIASA Pre-Conference in 2003.

Two of the original workshop presenters, Karin de Jager, senior lecturer, and Dr. Mary Nassimbeni, associate professor, Dept. of Library and Information Studies at UCT, presented well-prepared presentations.

Mary and Karin started the morning with informative presentations on standards, policies, curriculum and assessment strategies. Useful websites on information literacy policies, best practice and examples in information literacy education [ILE] from the US, UK and Australia were provided.

Both speakers emphasized the importance of collaborative relationships, "*we as librarians should become teaching colleagues with our academics.*"

Objectives of the workshop included the following :

- to clarify the understanding of the policy context of ILE in South Africa and trace the link between the goals of ILE and national goals
- to understand the role of libraries in ILE and the importance of an ILE policy
- to understand the role of assessment in ILE and identify assessment strategies for ILE interventions and to appreciate the role of standards for ILE plans

Group work sessions presented the ideal opportunity for sharing information and experiences as well as exchanging practical hints. Participants were assigned to groups and each group had to design an integrated curriculum for information literacy for their organization ; match the outcomes from the ACRL Information Literacy Competency Standards to the curriculum they designed ; and design a set of assessments that would test whether the outcomes had been achieved. Delegates were asked to provide examples from their experience.

Interesting and practical results were presented by the groups during report-back sessions. The presenters gave their comments on results and an opportunity was given for questions from the floor. An interesting discussion on how some librarians had succeeded in not only participating in an integrated information literacy course, but that the information literacy module was also credit bearing. It appears that such librarians used long established relationships with individual lecturers and/or were bold enough to recognize and pursue the opportunity for their participation when the special situations arose. However, some argued that rather than trying to implement Information Literacy Education in such a piecemeal way, it should be mandatory at all higher education institutions.

There was some concern that librarians did not have the skills to teach.

The discussion concluded that although there are opportunities for librarians to gain the skills and qualifications that they think they need, this should not be an obstacle to participating and collaborating with lecturers, and that indeed librarians have all the skills they need.

During the final session attention was given to South Africa's position on information literacy standards, and ideas were exchanged about the way forward.

Mike Moll, WCHELIG secretary, concluded a productive and informative day, with thanks due to the presenters and participants for their active involvement.