



NPO 009-577

LIASA National Office

P.O. Box 1598

Pretoria 0001

Tel: (+27 12) 481-2870/5/6

Fax: (+27 12) 481-2873

e-mail: liasa@liasa.org.za

9 October 2008

Media Statement

ANNOUNCEMENT OF LIASA LIBRARIAN OF THE YEAR FOR 2008

ACADEMIC LIBRARIAN FROM FREE STATE WINS PRESTIGIOUS NATIONAL AWARD!

LIASA and sponsors, SABINET, announce that the LIASA Librarian of the Year for 2008 is **Dora Ackerman**.

Dora, Systems Librarian at Central University of Technology (CUT) in Bloemfontein receives an award of R25 000 to be used for any educational purpose (further studies, visits to relevant institutions locally or internationally, attending relevant conferences).

The Librarian of the Year is seen to be a role model to the rest of the Library and Information community and a person whose contributions make a lasting impact on the sector.

Dora's passion for her work has warranted the admiration of her colleagues as well as her supervisors. She is an innovative thinker with dynamic ideas which at all times hatch positive results in her workplace as well as in LIASA and the library sector.

Dora is involved in workplace projects changing the lives of the students at CUT through the achievement of information literacy skills. She has developed modules to assist learners from previously disadvantaged backgrounds to understand the use of ICTS in Education. Her Masters' dissertation featured the importance of community development in the use of ICTS.

In 2004 she was one of the candidates who received the South African Library Leadership Programme grant for a 2 month visit to the USA to receive training in Library Leadership. On her return to the Free State, Dora embarked on a number of activities and projects to plough back on the training received while in the USA.

Dora was nominated by the Free State Branch.

2nd place went to **Ujala Satgoor** who was nominated by the Gauteng North Branch. She receives an award of R3000.

Ujala is the Deputy Director: Marketing, Fundraising and Training, Dept. of Library Services, at the University of Pretoria.

She has a proven record as an outstanding library leader and her commitment to LIASA has been illustrated in all her activities since she was in charge of the South African Library Leadership Project (SALLP). Her mentoring abilities and her passion to train, educate and guide young LIS professionals is clearly illustrated in her dedication to the "Thinking outside the Borders: Library Leadership in a World Community" Project. She is involved in professional activities ranging from local to national and international level, professional in her approach and behaviour and an example of the type of librarian of whom our profession can be proud.

3rd place went to **Lindi Nhlapo** who receives an award of R2000.

Lindi currently manages the UNISA Library Florida Office, as well as recently being appointed manager for IFLA (International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions) Africa Region a position which she currently occupies.

She has had a long and exceptional career in librarianship and is the typical barefoot librarian who will travel anywhere for LIASA or any library activity, even if it means using five taxis.

Lindi was named as Gauteng South Branch Librarian of the Year.

All finalists have been selected by their branches as Branch Librarian of the Year for that particular branch. Each received a trophy and a certificate of acknowledgement.

The other finalists were:

- Naomi Haasbroek, Head of Library & Information Services, iThemba Labs, Western Cape Branch
- Ronelle van Vollenhoven, Librarian at Tlhabane Public Library, North-West Branch
- Esther Josias, Librarian at University of Limpopo, Limpopo Branch
- Myra Boyes, Librarian-in-charge at the Library at the Engen Oil Refinery in Durban, Kwa-Zulu Natal Branch

LIASA:

The Library and Information Association of South Africa (LIASA) is a professional non-profit organization uniting and representing all institutions and people working in libraries and information services in South Africa. It strives to unite, develop and empower all people in the library and information field into an organization that provides dynamic leadership in transforming, developing and sustaining library and information services for all people in South Africa.

The Association is divided into 10 branches that reside in each province in the country with two based in Gauteng. The Association is governed by a Representative Council elected by its members. An Executive Committee consisting of elected officials are mandated by the Council to implement its policies and programmes.

Sabinet:

With a sound history of more than 23 years in the information industry, Sabinet is firmly established as a leader in facilitating electronic access to information. Sabinet is one of a limited number of companies in this industry with a long track record of experience and effectiveness in addressing the diverse needs of a large and continually growing client base, spanning the corporate, academic and government markets.

www.sabinet.co.za

Dora Ackerman, the 2008 Librarian of the Year can be contacted at 072 245 2225.

For more information. please contact:

Naomi Haasbroek
President-Elect, LIASA
Tel: 021 8431259
Cell: 082 895 9934
Email: Naomi@tlabs.ac.za

Rebecca Senyolo
National Public Relations Officer
Tel: 011 717 1954
Cell: 083 740 8245
Email: mokgadi.senyolo@wits.ac.za