

THE UGANDA LIBRARY & INFORMATION ASSOCIATION (ULIA): COUNTRY REPORT FOR THE PERIOD 2008- 2010

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ULIA Secretary General

1. INTRODUCTION

The following Uganda Country Report covers the period 2008 – 2010, and features developments and achievements in the country's library and information sectors during the time under review. The report is structured under sub-topics reflecting the key sectors under which the Uganda Library and Information Association (ULIA) seeks to report.

2. CHANGE OF LEADERSHIP

During the Annual General Meeting of the Uganda Library and Information Association held on Friday 6 June 2008 at Hotel Africana in Kampala, the Uganda Library and Information Association elected a new Executive Committee for the Term of Office 2008 – 2011. Electoral process was overseen by Mr. Justine Kiyimba who served as the Returning Officers. The following table presents the details of the New office Bearers.

Office	Holder
President	Mr. Innocent Rugambwa, Parliament of Uganda
Vice President	Dr. Constant Okello Obura-EASLIS, Makerere University
Secretary General	Ms. Sarah Kaddu- Project Coordinator, WDL NLU
Asst. Secretary General	Mr. Dixon Ampumuza, Monitor Publications Limited
Ag. Treasurer	Ms. Samalie Florence Namukasa, NLU
Chief Editor and Publicity Secretary	Richard Sennoga, United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs

Regional Representatives	
Central	Mrs. Gorreti Kabatangare, Makerere University Library
Eastern	Mr. Abdu Karim Isala, Busitema University Library
Northern	Mr. Ongaya Kizito, Gulu University Library
Western	Ms. Sadres Twinomugisha- Bishop Barham University, Kabale

Committee Members	
Ms. Lydia Namugera	Makerere University Library
Ms. Maria Nankya M.	Makerere University Library

EX-Officials	
Former President	Professor Elisam Magara, EASLIS, Makerere University
Former General Secretary	Mr. Charles Batambuze, Executive Secretary, National Book Trust of Uganda

3. ULIA Activities

3.1 Professional Dinner

In a bid to establish a clearer understanding of Who's Who in the Library and Information Profession in the Country, and to enhance effective networking the Annual Professional Dinner was held on 6th November 2009 at Hotel Arirang, Kampala city. The Guest of Honor was the Rt. Honorable Professor Apollo Nsibambi. The Guest Speaker was Professor I.M.N. Kigongo-Bukenya, on the theme: The Past, Present and Future of Uganda Library and Information Association.

Distinguished Awards were handed to the following Professionals for their outstanding contribution to LIS Profession in Uganda:

- a) Mr. Justin Kiyimba, former Chairperson, Uganda Library Association, and former Kyambogo University Librarian
- b) Mr. Frederick Mukungu former Vice Chairperson- ULIA
- c) James Tumusiime, an outstanding Uganda Book Publisher
- d) Ms A. Nakazi, former Secretary General, Uganda National Commission of UNESCO.
- e) Prof. Kigongo-Bukenya - former Secretary, Chairperson ULIA, COMLA Councilor and distinguished LIS Educator; and
- f) Ms. Gertrude Kayaga Mulindwa – Director of the National Library of Uganda, former, Librarian Nkozi University and Serving LIS Professional

3.2 Head Teachers' Workshop

A One-Day Head Teachers Workshop was held on Thursday June 18 2010 at The East African School of Library & Information Science (EASLIS), Makerere University to sensitise Head Teachers about the importance of School Libraries.

3.3 The Author Mentoring Seminar

The Uganda Library and Information Association (ULIA) organized a seminar aimed at building capacity of young authors in producing literature for Library and Information Science (LIS) professionals, educators and students. The two day seminar sponsored by INASP took place on 2nd - 3rd April, 2009, at Naigara Hotel, Najjanankumbi, along Entebbe Road. Topics discussed at the Seminar included: Authoring and Publishing academic papers which are research and experience based, authoring and publishing teaching materials like text books, and publishing indigenous LIS text books for students at primary, secondary and tertiary levels.

Participants included: Dr. Peter Mwathi from Kenyatta University, INASP Consultant and both mentors and young authors. Mentors were involved as a strategy of maintaining the authoring skills by constantly helping the young authors to practice and perfect the authoring skills.

The training involved three aspects

1. Authoring and publishing academic papers through publishing research and experience based, articles in LIS journals targeting the professionals and extensive users.
2. Authoring and publishing teaching materials for example text books, etc, required by LIS educators for teaching and research in LIS Departments and Schools.
3. Publishing indigenous LIS textbooks for students at all levels.

3.4 Effective Management of School Libraries/Resource Centers Workshop 16th September 2010

ULIA took the initiative to organize a course geared to the management of school libraries/resource centers in the country. The objectives of the course were:

1. To teach basic theory behind the administration of a school library to give practical/hands on experience/practice in school library routines
2. Teaching communication skills like report writing, compilation and interpretation of statistics, etc
3. Teaching basic ICT skills to the school librarians

4. ESTABLISHMENT OF INFORMATION SCIENCE FOUNDATION OF EASTERN AFRICA (ISFEA)

4.1 Introduction

ISFEA was founded in 2005 to bring together expertise from across the region's information and knowledge management fraternity, to link communities more effectively and to encourage new partnerships to develop between the many different areas and organisations that they represent. ISFEA aims to build wider awareness and take stock of the information and knowledge management profession's valuable contributions to national, regional and global development, and to encourage others to make greater use of this expertise. The Executive Members of ISFEA include the following:

1. Richard Sennoga- Chapter President - Uganda
2. Sarah Kaddu- Vice President – Uganda Chapter
3. Robert Ntalaka
4. Charles Sebandeke
5. Ann Apio
6. Harriet Apio
7. Rhoda Nalubega- Treasurer

4.2 Trustees

ISFEA Trustees are:

1. Pro. I.M.N. Kigongo-Bukenya
2. Prof. Maria Musoke

4.3 Activities

ISFEA organised an International Conference on ‘Knowledge Architecting for the National Memory: Libraries at the front’ 21st -23rd October 2009 held at Protea Hotel in Kampala, Uganda in conjunction with Gurteen Consult – UK Kampala, Uganda. It principally addressed the following thematic areas:

- a) Knowledge Generation and Usage through Research for Development
- b) Library Science and Knowledge Management
- c) IT Paradigms and Tendencies in Knowledge Management

4.4 Distinguished Service Awards

ISFEA made Distinguished Service Awards to:

1. Mr. Penny Birungi - distinguished services as Director, Public Libraries Board, Deputy Executive Secretary NCHE, and former Chairman ULIA, and SCECSAL Organising Committee, 2004
2. Ms. Gertrude Kayaga Mulindwa, National Librarian in the Diaspora (Botswana), currently Director, National Library of Uganda
3. Mr. Charles Batambuze, former Public Librarian, Initiator of the Digital Book Mobile Project, Former ULIA General Secretary, and currently the Executive Secretary, NABOTU, the Uganda Coordinator of the Publishing and Alternative Licensing Models for Africa (PALM Africa) project. He has written several media, book and journal articles highlighting key issues affecting the book sector and sometimes promoting how the sector is impacting society.
4. Ms. Sarah Kaddu - a Rising Star: First winner of the IFLA/OCLC Fellowship, 2008; Winner of International Visitors’ Leadership Exchange Programme (USA), 2008, Deputy General Secretary, Uganda-US Alumni Association and currently, Secretary General- ULIA, Deputy Secretary General, Project Coordinator, World Digital Library (WDL) National Library of Uganda
5. Prof. I.M.N. Kigongo-Bukenya: Former Director, Public Libraries Board, former Director of EASLIS, awarded: International Exchange Visitor’s Programme Fellowship, 1977, Fulbright Scholar 1992/93, 1st Secretary; Uganda Library Association, 1st President, Uganda Library Association, 1st Uganda, COMLA Councilor, Member: Exec. Committee, IFLA Group of LIS Education in Developing Countries and Co-Editor: Ugandan Libraries

5. THE NATIONAL LIBRARY OF UGANDA

The National Library of Uganda (NLU) was established by the National Library Act 2003. It is a semi autonomous institution currently operating under the Ministry of Gender and Social Development.

One of its functions is “to act as a depository for the national and foreign publication for the purposes of promoting research and scholarship and for preservation of published national culture and intellectual output” (National Library of Uganda Act, 2003). In

August 2009, it signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Library of Congress for the World Digital Library Project.

5.1 The World Digital Library (WDL), Uganda

The World Digital Library (WDL) is an initiative of the Library of Congress in partnership with UNESCO. It seeks to make available on the Internet, free of charge and in multilingual format, significant primary materials from countries and cultures around the world.

Principal objectives of the WDL are to: Promote international and intercultural understanding; Expand the value and variety of cultural content on the Internet; provide resources for educators, scholars, and general audiences; Build capacity in partner institutions to narrow the digital divide within and between countries.

WDL Focuses on significant primary materials, including manuscripts, maps, rare books, recordings, films, prints, photographs, architectural drawings, and other types of primary sources.

6. EDUCATION & TRAINING

6. 1 Election of New Director of the East African School of Library and Information Science

Elected unopposed, Dr. Constant Okello-Obura replaced Professor Elisam Magara as Director, of EASLIS in June 2010.

EASLIS is at the advanced stages to form a College of Computing and Information Sciences with Faculty of Computing and Informatics Technology of Makerere University.

EASLIS has continuously organised International courses on Electronic Records Management that have attracted many participants across Africa.

EASLIS is currently engaged in educating and training Southern Sudan Librarians under EDLIB project

6.2 PhD. Recipients

David Luyombya - PhD. in Archival studies.

In November 2009, the Association learnt of the news of David Luyombya's successful defense of his PhD thesis at University College London in the United Kingdom. David takes the lead in undertaking high level research in records management in Uganda. The title of his thesis was "*Framework for Effective Public Digital Records Management in Uganda*". The awarding University can be visited online from <http://www.infostudies.ucl.ac.uk/>

Eunice Sendikaddiwa

Dr. Eunice Sendikaddiwa was awarded a Ph D Arts (Publishing) in 2009. She has transferred her services to the East African School of Library and Information Science.

Ruth Nalumaga

Ruth Nalumaga, a senior librarian at Makerere University Library successfully defended her PhD thesis in Library and Information Science of the University of Gothenburg, Swedish School of Library and Information Science, Borås. The thesis is entitled "Crossing to the mainstream: Information challenges and possibilities for female legislators in the Ugandan Parliament", ISBN: 91-89416-20-1, ISSN: 1103-6990. The Executive Committee of the Uganda Library and Information Association extend a warm message of congratulations to Dr. Nalumaga. The knowledge, skills and experiences obtained will no doubt contribute vastly to the development of human capacity in the library and information science field not only in Uganda, but in East Africa and the world at large.

Jane Kawalya.

Jane Kawalya, a senior librarian at Makerere University was awarded PhD in Information Sciences at the Swedish School of Library and Information Science, Borås of the University of Gothenburg. Her thesis was on the Role of Legal Deposit Acts in Uganda, part of a research project on the development of the National Library of Uganda funded by the Swedish International Development Agency (sida/SAREC), with cooperation between the Swedish School of Library and Information Science, Borås and Makerere University Library.

6.3 Faculty Promotions:

Robert Ikoja-Odongo, Elisam Magara, and Constant Okello-Obura were promoted to the ranks of Professor and Senior Lecturer respectively. Professor Kigongo-Bukenya was the pioneer LIS Professor in Uganda

6.4 Curriculum Development

- The Bachelor of Records and Archive Management (BRAM) curriculum was approved and accredited by Uganda National Council of Higher Education;
- The Diploma in Records and Archive Management was approved by Senate;
- The Revised PhD & Masters programmes in Information Science were approved by Senate.

7. MAKERERE UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES

Dr. Maria .G. Musoke, the university Librarian was appointed Professor of Information Science. She is the first female Professor of Information Science. Professor Maria Musoke was reappointed the Makerere University Librarian for another 5 years..

Developments at Makerere University Library

The Installation of the Integrated Library System – which makes provisions for Ordering, Security and Cataloguing completed. Information Literacy Programmes and outreach

services were started by the University Library and are offered annually to both academic and administrative staff and researchers.

8. DEVELOPMENTS AT UGANDA CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY (UCU)

The Bachelor of Library and Information Science (BLIS) programme was started in 2006. The pioneer graduates on this programme passed out in 2009. The programme organised a two day seminar for its staff on the theme: “Towards Efficiency in LIS Departments: case study of the Programme of Library & Information Science, UCU”. The seminar was held at Naigara hotel Najjanankumbi on 11th-12th June, 2009.

UCU-LISSA (Students Association)

The Uganda Christian University (UCU) Library and Information Science Students Association (UCU-LISSA) was launched in 2009. It is fully operational. It has so far organised two workshops:

- 17 July 2010, a half-day seminar was organized on the them: Coping with too much Information – the Role of Information Professionals in the Information Explosion Environment
- October 17th 2008, it organised the workshop on the theme: Commitment beyond LIS Profession
- August 2008, it organised the workshop on the theme: Management of change in Library and Information Fields.
- UCU LIS Students Toured the School of Information Science during Nov 2009.

9. NDEJJE UNIVERSITY

A Department of Library and Information Studies opened at Ndejje University and offers a Diploma in Library and Information Science and a Bachelor of Library and Information Studies. The University was registered by the Government of the Republic of Uganda in 1998. The introduction of the Diploma in LIS was partly in pursuit of the overall University’s mission, leading to the design of a number Postgraduate and undergraduate programs that are relevant to students' needs. Admission requirements are available from the Academic Registrar’s Office and from the University’s website (<http://www.ndejjeuniversity.ac.ug/?q=node/26>)

10. Participation in LIS Professional Conferences

During the last three years participation in professional conferences like IFLA and SCECSAL by LIS professionals from Uganda has increased remarkably. Each year (the World Library Congress in Quebec, Canada (2008); Milan, Italy 2009; and Gothenburg, Sweden, 2010) over twenty participants from Uganda attended. Thanks to ULIA members for mobilizing support towards professional development through such for a.