

**ZAMBIA LIBRARY ASSOCIATION
ZAMBIA COUNTRY REPORT FOR SCECSAL XIX
6 – 9 DECEMBER 2010
GABORONE, BOTSWANA**

**BY MRS FRANCINA MAKONDO
PRESIDENT- ZLA**

1. INTRODUCTION:

This report gives a brief state of libraries in Zambia and outlines some of the activities the Association has been engaged in during the period under review. A new executive committee was ushered into office in August 2009, the President being Mrs Francina Makondo, Vice President, Mr Charles Banda, Mrs Otilia Shitaki- Secretary, James Mulwila – Vice-Secretary, Philip Banda – Treasurer, Mr. Chagona Lembani –Vice-Treasurer, Mr.Kennedy Mutila – Membership Secretary, Mrs Muswa Suuya – Project Cordinator, Mr. Imanga Imakando – Publicity Secretary, Mrs. Mirriam Mumba – Committee Member, Mr. Mwikisa Mwikisa – Committee Member, Mrs. Sharon Mushya – ZLS representative.

We wish to thank the old executive for having steered the ZLA to higher heights.

2. THE STATE OF LIBRARIES IN ZAMBIA:

The fight for the enactment of legislation to support the development of Library and information services in Zambia continues.

Despite the absence of the Legislation there has been a number of community Libraries established by individuals and NGOs, to carter for less privileged in society. One such a Library is the Lubuto Library project run by Ms Jane Meyers and her management team, which opened its second community Library at a local basic school in one of the high density compounds in Lusaka. Another community library is in Kabanana, a suburb in Lusaka city. Room to Read has also established a number of School libraries though they have not networked well with the Zambia Library Association.

3. TRAINING:

The following training workshops were conducted with support from ITOCA, INASP and eFL:

1. Electronic resources searching
2. Project planning and management
3. Copyright for Librarians
4. Information Literacy

The University of Zambia introduced a postgraduate course in Library and Information Studies.

4. MEMBERSHIP DRIVE:

Membership to the Association remains low due to apathy mostly from older and more qualified professionals. We have about 100 registered individual members and 20 institutional members.

5. SCECSAL XVIII:

We wish to pay special tribute to the previous executive, under the able leadership of Mr Benson Njobvu for a job well done in hosting the last conference, which took place in Lusaka. Everything went quite well except some Conference money was stolen on the day when SCECSAL was being officially opened by the Minister of Education the Professor G Lungwangwa. The money stolen was part of the money received during registration. This matter has been reported in the Audited reports presented. After Police investigation failed to find any culprits, ZLA Annual General Meeting of 2009 wrote off the loss.

We are thankful though to partners who helped us fund SCECSAL XVIII. The sponsors included the Zambian Government, Emerald, Finish Library Association, Danish Library Association, IFLA-FAIFE. Environmental Council of Zambia, Copperbelt Energy Cooperation and Konkola Copper Mines. Zambia Library Association managed to pay for all SCECSAL XVIII services because of the support of the partners mentioned despite the unfortunate situation of money being stolen.

Library Week Activities:

Zambia Library Association successfully hosted the Library Week activities which are annual events. There was a lot of publicity of Library Week activities and the Association networked with a number of individuals and Organizations during the activities.

Zambia Library Association Publications:

We are glad to report that we managed to publish three issues of The Zambia Library Association Journal since 2008. We plan to continue publishing funds allowing. However, funding has been a hindrance to publishing more issues.

6. CONCLUSION:

Despite all the challenges we plan to continue lobbying government and stakeholders for the enactment of the Information Bill and the Library and Information policy. We will continue creating an enabling environment for the establishment of community libraries by NGOs and individuals. On behalf of the ZLA I wish to thank all of you for the support you gave the Zambia Library fraternity in participating in SCECSAL XVIII.

We thank You.