



## The Library and Information Association of South Africa Free State Newsletter

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### **LiSLIG FS visited the National Afrikaans Literature Museum**

*On Wednesday 6 February 2013 the LiSLIG members visited the National Afrikaans Literature Museum (NALN) in Bloemfontein to learn more about its resources and services.*

The curator, Mr Otto Liebenberg, received us and gave us background information regarding the museum:

NALN was officially opened on 24 March 1973 as the multi-theme cultural history depository of Afrikaans literature, music and drama (theatre). It is a collection-based literature museum and as such unique in its kind.

Approximately 750 000 individual items formed part of the museum.

With these collections and resources, that is sometimes nowhere in the world available, NALN provides an information service nationally and internationally.

Their collection categories are:

Books - more than 84 000 titles and 150 000 items.

Manuscripts - different stages in the development of texts, as well as certain publishers' archives (e.g. J.L. van Schaik) and author's archives (e.g. P.J. Nienaber), etc.

Clippings from newspapers and magazines - approximately 400 000 clippings on authors, background studies, book reviews, etc.

Magazines and newspapers - approximately 1 000 titles over 125 years.

Sheets of music - collection of George Payne forms the core of the collection, with additions from other sources.

Posters and programs - from literature, theatre and musical events and other festivals.

Art - more than 800 items of sculpture, paintings, illustrations, costume and décor designs.

Photographs and audio-visual items - approximately 50 000 photos in different formats, film, DVDs, sound tapes/cassettes, CDs and +10 000 records (gramophone, long play, seven single).

Textile objects - theatre costumes, authentic clothes of authors and academics, curtains and carpets from authors' studies, etc.

Furniture and other objects - authors' desks, chairs, book shelves, type writers, computers; historical objects from well-known persons; coins; medals; décor sets; theatre props; etc.

Electronic material - information on the +50 databases.

After sharing all this information with us, Mr Liebenberg and some of his staff members took us on a tour through the whole museum - seeing/witnessing areas not normally open for the public.

This concluded a morning spent with people who are passionate about their work and task to preserve valuable heritage for the generations to come!

The NALN's contact details are:  
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*LIASA is a professional non-profit organisation, 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 organisation that provides dynamic leadership in transforming, developing and sustaining library and information services for all people in South Africa.*

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In the photo above, Otto Liebenberg talks about the manuscript collection.



In the top left photo, LISLIG members at a meeting.

In the top right photo, Otto Liebenberg shows Theo Wassenaar's furniture/objects.



Left, Marietjie Lambrechts demonstrates the digital clippings process.

Right, Gerda Stroebel (second from left) shows the clippings





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## Innovative Users Group - South Africa (IUG-SA) Conference

The University of the Free State hosted the 2012 IUG-SA conference from the 12th to the 14th of November 2012.

The University of the Free State hosted the 2012 IUG-SA conference from the 12th to the 14th of November 2012. IUG-SA comprises of libraries, mostly university libraries, which use Millennium (Innovative Interfaces, Inc.) as their library management system. The conference was attended by 138 delegates from 23 South African universities and Universities of Technology, delegates from the National Library of SA, from the Human Sciences Research Council (HSRC), from our international counterparts, our neighbours from Botswana and Namibia, and our sponsors.

The theme of the conference was "Exploring Millennium", which was building on achieving the purpose of the IUG-SA annual conferences, namely to encourage the sharing of ideas and the optimum use of the innovative system among the users, to build relationships among the IUG-SA members, to promote communication among the IUG-SA members, and to convene an annual workshop for the discussion of new developments and resolution of problems experienced with the innovative systems.

The delegates were welcomed by the Director of UFS Library and Information Services, Mrs Betsy Elster, who likened their presence to an Ashanti Proverb: Cycles, which is reminiscent of the notion of life-long learning - sharpening one's skills and knowledge when it matters most. It goes like this:

### Cycles

*By going and coming, a bird weaves its nest. We watch the bird fly away and may be fooled into thinking that it has abandoned its work. But a nest is not built if the materials are not sought and brought back to the tree.*

*There are times when we must get away from our work in order to locate the resources we need to complete it. We may require new information or inspiration, or simply a break in which to rest and refresh our spirit. We don't need to feel guilty for these times and we should resist the taunts of others who do not understand our work habits or needs.*

*As long as we get back to our task, as long as we do not lose sight of our ultimate goal, we can fly away with impunity.*

*On this day, I will take five minutes to remember that there is a cycle to life, and the fact that I am not always on the scene does not mean I am not on the job.*

The keynote speaker was Prof Dennis Francis: Dean of Education. He started off by congratulating librarians on the sterling work that they do for the country. He talked about children books: the influence of and what we can learn about identity agency and social change. Drawing on two books, the story of Ferdinand (Munro Leaf) and Aida's Story (Kathleen Zoelfel), he argues that there is much that we can learn about how difference is treated in this society and how we can work for social justice. It's not a stretch to think of Ferdinand as more than just a symbol of peace, but as an icon for the outsider and Aida's emphasis in investing in the collective as essential for leadership and servitude. He concluded the paper with some implications for how we think about difference and social change.

The program further lived up to the expectations of delegates, which was aimed at building on the successful 10 years celebrated in 2011 at the University of Potchefstroom. The year 2012 marked the beginning of yet another 10 years of success, generating excitement for the future, bringing member libraries together to share, build

relationships and promote communication on the use of Innovative Interfaces, Inc. integrated library software products (Illi products). Speakers shared their stories and experiences in using the system, covering the following topics over the 3 days:

- Encore (discovery solution) & Sierra (integrated system platform) by Graham Woodruff & Maryvonne Enjiras (Ill)
- SEALS Sierra journey by Maretha Alwright (SEALS)
- E-books and course materials & their importance in the academic environment by Chantal van der Merwe (UNISA)
- VAM statistics by Cornelle van Wyk (UFS)
- Millennium LIVE logs using Weblog Expert analysis tool by Maretha Alwright (SEALS)
- Set up and use of Circa for inventory control by Wynand van der Walt (Rhodes)
- Bad code monsters by Desiree Minnaar (NIMMU)
- Weeding project by Bregda van Antwerp (UFS)
- The use of correct load tables for different cataloguing projects by Nonnie van Wyk (UNISA)
- How to use create list to find important information by Lita Ferguson (UP)
- Emotional and mental rollercoaster associated with making a transition from one library system to another by Monde Madiba (UFS)
- Millennium and physical process of selecting journals for binding by Molatoli Sefoko (UFS)
- Going green by eliminating paper based acquisition process by Runette Bleshoff (UNISA)
- Overview of setting up and scheduling auto-notices by Annette Lessing (UP)
- How virtual and cloud computing change the way information technology is implemented in organizations today by Bravismoe Mumanzi (UNAM)
- Determining in-house use of journals by Suzette Lombard (UFS)
- Review, monitor and verify access of Millennium functions by Modlehi Ramutloa (UNISA)
- The value of a library for academic libraries by Magodongo April Mahlangu (TUT)
- IUG enhancements process by Huldah Raubenheimer (UFS)

The IUG-SA has a floating trophy that is awarded to an institution that makes the most presentations at its conference, and this time around it was awarded to UFS with 6 staff members making presentations. Staff members seized the opportunity as hosts to showcase UFS LIS and share their experiences. The conference will once again be hosted by UFS in 2013.

For more information, visit [www.iugsa.co.za](http://www.iugsa.co.za).



Mrs Betsy Elster (top)

and

Prof Dennis Francis





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## Going green with your waste.

By Rina Janse van Rensburg

It was indeed a green afternoon with LIASA on Wednesday the 20th of February 2013, at Lourier Park Public Library!

A presentation on "Why we should go green" with our waste and recycling was given by Rina Janse van Rensburg. The presentation started off with an introduction on how we have the power to control most of our choices. This was followed up by an explanation on the impact we make, from where we live to what we buy, eat, and use to light our homes. She further explained that by embracing a greener lifestyle it is not only about helping to preserve equatorial rain forests, but it can also mean improving your health, padding your bank account, and ultimately, improving your overall quality of life.



Tips were given on how we can start making changes to a green work environment and rethink our everyday way of living. Explanations were given about what domestic waste is and what you do with domestic waste. Two slide shows were presented on "Vormkompost" and a "Green Waste Competition" that was arranged by Oilewenhuls Art Museum.

Rina also arranged with Oilewenhuls to display a special artwork created by Mbongeni Buthelezi. This artist use exclusively industrial plastic waste materials with various imprinting that he melted together to form artworks.



The presentation then took a practical direction and Rina introduced the audience to the work that has been done at her library. Lourier Park is involved in various skills development programs. One of these programs specifically accommodate local community women and is called Basadi ba Ikemetseng. In this program women are taught to recycle waste material to make products that they can use in their houses. Rina demonstrated very interesting and practical combinations of articles created by these women.

Ms van Rensburg also reminded guests about the Green office week in South Africa, 22 - 26 April 2013, with the theme "You can make a difference".

The presentation was ended by a positive slide show "Going Green with your Lifestyle and Waste".

## International Read Aloud Day

By Lianda Coetzer

On 6 March 2013 International Read Aloud Day was celebrated worldwide. This day is important to me as it closely links to the development of the whole child and establishing a reading culture. I decided, after talking to my colleague Mr Charles Seekoel here at the UFS South Campus Library, to contact the Koot Niemann Primary School in Tweespruit to discuss the possibility of a reading hour at their school.

The headmaster, Mr Bester, was very excited and I was immediately given permission to do a story hour on the 6th of March 2013.



The story I read was about a birthday party that is being arranged for the girl's birthday, so I also arranged for a piece of cake for each child.



## Racism & stereotypes in German children's books

One of Germany's oldest children's book publishers, Thienemann Verlag, has amended its new edition of Otfried Preussler's beloved 1957 tale "The Little Witch" ("Die kleine Hexe") (as seen here on the right) to remove certain questionable terms, including the word "negro".

The decision has sparked some heated discussion over how to handle outdated, controversial language in classic children's books.

For more on this article, please visit

<http://www.spiegel.de>

and search for this book.





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## World Theatre Day 2013

Every year World Theatre Day takes place on March 27, and is the brainchild of the International Theatre Institute. Its aim is to: "promote international exchange of knowledge and practice in theatre arts (drama, dance, music theatre) in order to consolidate peace and solidarity between peoples, to deepen mutual understanding and increase creative co-operation between all people in the theatre arts".

Every year a prominent arts leader is chosen to deliver the World Theatre Day international message. It is translated into more than 20 languages, read for audiences before performances in theatres throughout the world, printed in hundreds of newspapers and magazines and broadcast on radio and television.

This year's message will be delivered by playwright, actor and Nobel Prize winner Dario Fo.

Dario Fo was born on 26 March 1926 in San Giano, a small town on Lago Maggiore in the province of Varese. His family consisted of his father Felice, socialist, station master and actor in an amateur theatre company; his mother Pina Rota, a woman of great imagination and talent; his brother Fulvio and his sister Bianca; and his maternal grandfather, who had a farm in Lomellina, where young Dario spent his childhood vacations.

He received the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1997. His plays often depend on improvisation, *Commedia dell'arte* style. Fo currently owns and operates a theatre company with his wife, actress Franca Rame. His most famous works are *Mistero buffo* and *Accidental Death of an Anarchist*.

[Compiled by the National Drama Library  
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