



SOUTH AFRICAN
LIBRARY FOR THE BLIND

MAKWENZEKE

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Births

SALB not only explored the Magic but helped create the magic that was the theme of the 1st annual National Book Week (NBW) held at Museum Africa, Johannesburg from 6-13 September 2010. This international initiative was showcased by a four-day long event in which the SALB participated.

The opening ceremony kicked off with the Minister of Arts and Culture, the Honorable Lulu Xingwana, visiting all the exhibitions and venues NBW had to offer: comfortable reading rooms for both children and adults, colourful storytelling tents as well as activities and educational games for kids of all ages, and not to forget informative exhibitions and affordable sale books.

The Minister's visit to the SALB exhibition left her spellbound by the activities available for the youth, these being the SALB tactile books and the braille game.

After the opening ceremony, traditional storytelling was revisited as well as the sharing of the views of a number of successful personalities in the publishing and entertainment industry on developing a love for books. The event was officially opened to the public and energetic groups of school children filled the venues.

One aim of the event and the participation of the SALB was to level the playing field between all book lovers, the sighted and the blind, while fostering this love for books among everyone attending the event. To achieve this NBW hosted an extensive selection of displays with something of interest for every age. “Getting to know your library”, allowed scholars to become more familiar with the operation of a library showing them how easy and fun it can be to be part of a public library. Book sales were also held with top sellers at discounted prices.

A large focus was placed on book clubs as a

strategy to promote the culture of reading across South Africa.

Books on Bikes saw ten youth from the Youth Empowerment Project in Khayelitsha cycle from Cape Town to Johannesburg to raise awareness of reading. They arrived at the opening of NBW bearing all the books they had collected along the way with the assistance of Sun International. Sappi donated and delivered books to 24 libraries across the country once titles had been chosen by Librarians at Exclusive Books. Van Schaik also donated leisure books to schools and libraries in Gauteng.

SALB hosted an exhibition stall offering both adults and children a broader understanding of alternative reading formats, as well as creating awareness amongst authors to make their products available to the SALB.

On the second floor the SALB activity area drew children and adult alike. They quickly became engrossed in learning the braille alphabet and creating their own tactile pictures.

The event was a great success with a number of school groups attending the event exhibitions, story time and taking part in the hands on educational activities. The efforts of the South African Book Development Council (SABDC) and the Department of Arts and Culture (DAC) paid off and as the annual event grows there is much to look forward to in the future.

LOUISE WOLMARANS



DIRECTOR'S COMMUNIQUE



Think Globally... Act Locally (and vice versa)

Library members, library staff and library material – these are the three cornerstones of the South African Library for the Blind (SALB). There would be no need to have a library if there were no members. Members give the Library purpose. Members need to be served by somebody hence the need to appoint staff to do that. Staff are appointed based on the requirements of the work that needs to be performed. Therefore staff require certain skills and knowledge. The Library's responsibility as an employer is to enable the growth and development of staff members through training and other means. In order for staff to serve library members they need something to offer and that "something" is a library service based on library material.

Making library services and material available is one of the most important functions of the Library. This endeavor cannot be done by the Library alone. The limited number of titles available to blind and visually-impaired people is a well known fact and these limitations can be attributed to reasons such as inaccessible formats and Copyright restrictions. The Library is therefore always exploring opportunities to enable the expansion of access to reading material for our members.

There are various initiatives taking place where the Library performs an active role. One of the initiatives the Library is currently involved in is called the TIGAR project. TIGAR is an acronym for Trusted Intermediary Global Accessible Resources project. This is an international initiative and the Library is a member of the Steering Committee together with other countries, namely Canada, Brazil, United Kingdom and Switzerland. This project came about as a result of the merging of two different projects. The one project was the Global Accessible Library for the Blind. The SALB has been part of this project's Steering Committee for the past two years along with similar organisations who have developed a comprehensive plan for a Global Library for the Blind. This is not a physical library but a virtual library, based on agreements, cooperation and the exchange of digital content. The idea is that the Global Library will eliminate the duplication of the same title being produced by organisations across the world. Another objective is that by sharing electronic files of reading material across international borders, Libraries will be in a position to make the material available to its members. The project plan has been accepted by all the parties involved.

At more or less the same time the World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO), together with representatives of the World Blind Union, International Publishers, Libraries and other role players, initiated a Trusted Intermediary project. The purpose of the project is to establish "Trusted Intermediaries" in countries complying with a number of criteria. Publishers would then make their electronic files available to a Trusted Intermediary with the knowledge that they would not be abused. The Trusted Intermediary would make the content of these files available in accessible formats to their members. With the merging of these two projects and the involvement of international role players such as publishers, libraries, politicians, representative organisations, etc. it is anticipated that Libraries will constructively work towards a situation where they will have access to reading material all over the world, be able to download it and make it available in the required format to their members. Nothing like this has been done on this scale and level before. A substantial amount of work has already been done and progress has been made. Theories have moved to documents and plans and these documents and plans are now moving towards being tested in practice. The South African Library for the Blind is proud to be actively involved where the discussions are taking place and will be as involved when the models are tested. This involvement is in line with the Library's vision to commit to any initiative where the outcome contributes to the quality of life of our members through access to reading material, encourages independence and informed decision-making and where members are able to take pleasure in the enjoyment of reading.

Francois Hendrikz

LIBRARY CATALOGUE @ WWW.SALB.ORG.ZA

We are very proud to present the SALB library catalogue on our new website. An Online Public Access Catalogue (OPAC) is an [online database](#) of books or other material held by a [library](#) or group of libraries. Users search a [library catalogue](#) to locate books and other material available at a library. OPAC is an excellent tool for members of the SALB, who have internet access, to find out whether we have books by a specific author or on a desired subject, as well as specific titles and serials in the SALB collection.

Try it! Go to the left side of the SALB Website under “Shortcuts”. The last heading is “Library Catalogue”, simply click here and you will be linked to the Library Catalogue in seconds.

Basic search

The main search page allows members to search the entire Library Catalogue. Enter one or more keyword/s and click the “Search” button or press the “Enter” key. The Library’s database will be searched for all occurrences of the words across titles, subjects, author names, notes and publisher details.

A list of appropriate books will be displayed. If you would like further detail about the book, simply click on the title of the preferred book. There will be more options at the bottom of the page to either refine a search or to get more detailed information about the book such as the summary, format and reading level of the book.

Advanced features

At the bottom of the main page of the Library Catalogue various options are available. An “Advanced search” will enable members to do a complex search including keywords, author, title and various drop-down menus from subject interests, collection, and language, to reading level and format.

Members can also compile a personalized search profile, by clicking on ‘My preferences’, in which case the computer will remember all the features a user would like to include in a search.

“Email the Library”

Members may use this link to send an email to the Library. Once members have found their desired title, this link opens a new message addressed to the Library. The title of the book will automatically be placed in the subject line of the email and an individual’s preferred format will be sent to them.

We want to encourage you to explore and enjoy the Library Catalogue. If there are any queries, please contact ria.greaves@salb.org.za

Ria Greaves



TALKING BOOKS

Title: Netherland
 Author: Joseph O'Neill
 Accession No: DA 3125
 Narrator: Richard Roe
 Category: Contemporary Literature

Winner of the prestigious Faulkner Award for Fiction (2009), Netherland is the wittiest, angriest, most exacting and most desolate work of fiction we've yet had about life in New York and London after the World Trade Center fell.

About a couple and their young son living in Lower Manhattan when the planes hit, and about the event's rippling emotional aftermath in their lives. Discussing nearly everything: family, politics, and identity.

Hans van den Broek, a Dutch-born financial analyst, thirtyish and near the top of his profession, arrives there at the start of the millennium with Rachel, his English wife, herself a high-powered lawyer. But after the attacks of 9/11, Rachel returns to England with their infant son. Hans stays on.

O'Neill's novel is closely observed, emotionally racking, unselfconsciously in touch with how we live now.

Review by Dwight Garner (www.nytimes.com)

Title: Faith like Potatoes
 Author: Angus Buchan
 Accession No: DA 2510
 Narrator: Dudley Fletcher
 Category: Biography

Faith like Potatoes' is certainly one of the best faith-building books ever written.

Angus Buchan is a tough, straightforward South African farmer of Scottish extraction, whose gentle but uncompromising faith has carried him through drought, financial crisis and family tragedy.

Angus, not a university graduate, public speaker or celebrity, but a farmer, managed to gather a crowd of 35 000 people into a stadium in Durban one year to hear him speak and to join in prayer for rain. They were desperate and needed a miracle.

Scientists had warned the farmers not to plant potatoes that season unless they had irrigation and Angus knew very well that he didn't have irrigation. If the crop failed he would have lost everything that he had. Angus clearly expected a miracle.

"Faith like Potatoes' is a life-changing story.

Review: www.joymag.co.za

NEW DAISY TITLES

Please note that this list serves as an indication of the latest available titles

TITLE	AUTHOR	Category	Acc No.	TITLE	AUTHOR	Category	Acc No.
Jagseisoen	Francois Bloemhof	Thriller	DA 3043	The water-babies	Charles Kingsley	Juvenile Fiction	DA 2958
Brekfis met die shrink	Eugene Kemp	Psychology	DA 2888	Dreams from my father	Barack Obama	Biography	DA 2776
A new earth	Eckhart Tolle	Psychology	DA 3441	Umsila wembulu uncwadi yezibongo zesiXhosa	Welile Shasha	Poetry	DA 3135
On every side	Karen Kingsbury	Religious fiction	DA 3035	Post-cards from South Africa	Rayda Jacobs	Short Stories	DA 2458
The book of guys	Garrison Keilor	Humour	DA 3523	John	Niall Williams	Biography	DA 3032
Etshatile engatshatanga	Sizwe Satyo	Xhosa Novel	DA 3528				

PLEASE QUOTE THE ACCESSION NUMBER WHEN ORDERING YOUR BOOK CHOICES

LIASA CONFERENCE & NEW EC CHAIRPERSON

The LIASA Conference, an annual get together of librarians from across South Africa, was held this year at St George's Conference Centre from 27 September to 1 October 2010. The conference kicked off with the induction of the new LIASA Executives, who would govern the organisation for a two year term, 2010 – 2012. The SALB's Mrs Busi Mbiyo will be chairperson of the Eastern Cape region.



A pre-conference seminar was held on Collection Development: the future is calling – or is it? After this the conference was officially opened by the Minister of Art and Culture, Ms Lulu Xingwana, who emphasized the importance of libraries in our country. Thereafter the keynote speaker Mr Pieter Geldenhuys, Director: Institute of Technology Strategy and Innovation, took delegates beyond the cyberspace in his address, illustrating how technology is taking over our world.

In a presentation by Ms. Ellen Tise, IFLA President, it was also pointed out how libraries are primary tools for driving the access to knowledge and therefore libraries must be innovative and always developing. The cyber librarian's core responsibility is to equip library users with e-skills, enabling them to use the internet and other formats.

Mr Steven Kerchoff, an international guest from the USA echoed the same vision as earlier speakers, pointing out the paradigm shift from knowledge to interactive knowledge. While Mr Puleng Kekana, Director of Library Policy and Coordination from the Department of Arts and Culture, discussed the library and information service in South Africa, reporting that the draft South African Community Library and Information Services Bill was with a committee of parliament.

After the Conference, the LIASA AGM took place on 30 October, where issues such as the impact of the Protection of the Information Bill, One school, One Librarian, the LIASA statutory status and the role of the NCLIS (National Council for Libraries and information Services) in regulating the profession were raised. There was an added privilege of having Justice Albie Sachs presenting the Albie Sachs freedom award to a member of the LIASA team for his outstanding contribution to the profession.

LIASA Conference 2011, is something to look forward to as it will be held on the shores of the Eastern Cape and hopes to exceed all expectations.

Busi Mbiyo

NEW CD MAILERS



SALB is in the process of replacing the bulky blue CD mailer in an effort to make the mailer more convenient for both the Library and its members.

The reasons for the change are that the current blue carriers are bulky; take up a great deal of shelving and storage space; are expensive to purchase; and are difficult to open and close.

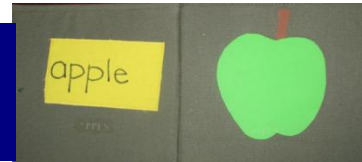
What we are looking for in the new mailer is a mailer which is thin; reduces storage space, but still sturdy enough to protect the reading material. It must also allow for SALB address cards and should carry a printed return address. In addition it should have an easy re-sealable flap, simple enough for our members to handle, but still cost effective. Most importantly, it should be easy to use.

In this time consuming process, SALB has made contact with numerous South African suppliers as well as suppliers used by our overseas colleagues. The Library is currently looking at what is available as well as what can be produced locally. The final choice will be dependent on the quality, quantity, availability and most importantly the price.

We will keep you posted and ... on the same page!

Melton Kivitts

“BRAILLE IS NOT A LANGUAGE BUT THE GATEWAY TO MANY LANGUAGES”



The heading of this article was the theme of the workshop held in Cape Town on 6 October 2010. It was a joint initiative by the University of Cape Town's Disability Unit and the Pan South Africa Language Board (PanSALB). Its aim was to facilitate braille awareness in South Africa, highlighting the importance of its accessibility as well as how braille is able to empower the visually impaired.

The workshop included discussion and demonstration of braille as a gateway to education, work and recreation with the SALB's own Mrs Pasha Alden giving a presentation.

Justice Zak Yacoob, Guest of Honour and Chairman of the Board of the SALB, delivered the keynote address. He highlighted the role of braille in learning to read and write and the way it assisted with his legal career. Other guests of honour included Mr Chris Swepu, Deputy Director of PanSALB and Professor Cramer Soudien, Deputy Vice-Chancellor of the University of Cape Town.

The program offered a variety of insights from speakers using braille in their professions and also experts on braille from organisations in the blindness sector. Speaker Mr Andre van Deventer highlighted the fact that braille made information accessible for deaf-blind people, for whom audio alternatives were no longer an option. The importance of braille was also highlighted in maths and music, by Annette Dollman, in "*Braille and my life as a music teacher*", while Mariann Steyl elaborated on, "*How I became the maths teacher to blind learners*".

To emphasize the importance of tactile pictures for young braille users a presentation was given by Mrs Pasha Alden, the SALB's National Braille Consultant, who is responsible for overseeing the SALB'S pre-school tactile books project.

She defined a tactile picture for the audience and explained the significance of these pictures in the development of pre-braille skills and the development of tactile skills in preparation for subjects such as mathematics, geography and science. Prototypes titled: "In the Zoo", "In the Sea" and "Happy Sad" were received positively by respected experts in the blindness fraternity.

A positive outcome and milestone for the initiative was a pledge by the Premier of the Western Cape, Mrs Helen Zille, that the Provincial Government of the Western Cape would make access to information in braille as well as effective braille literacy a priority.

Should you like to hear the speeches made at the workshop, a full sound clip from the workshop is available on the UCT website.

Pasha Alden

SALB ACTS AS HOST

On Thursday 28 October 2010, the Library hosted the Annual General Meeting of the South African Book Development Council (SABDC).

The Director of SALB, Mr Francois Hendrikz, serves on the Council of the SABDC.

STAFF NEWS FROM THE HR DESK...

NEW APPOINTMENTS...

Mr Deon Daniels was appointed as Accountant on 1 October 2010. The Library is not an entirely unfamiliar workplace to Deon, as he spent 3 years at Registered Accountants and Auditors, Brandt Bowling and Co, the company responsible for the SALB Internal Audit. His previous work experience includes private healthcare, listed property management and most recently accounting/auditing public practice.

Deon seems to be an all rounder on the sports field and exercises these talents as a professional armchair cricket and rugby coach, captain and selector.

Deon enjoys golf, tennis, cricket, cooking and baking, but admits "because I enjoy it, by no means does that imply that I'm any good at it". Deon has been married to his wife, Tarin, for 4 years

Well experienced in the auditing field, we look forward to a long and mutually fruitful working relationship with Deon. Welcome to the SALB, Deon!



STAFF ON THE MOVE...

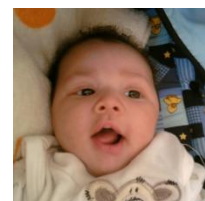
Ms Margaret du Plessis left the employ of the Library at the beginning of October 2010 after 17 years of service. She was initially employed as a Cleaner in May 1993 and later promoted to Receptionist – the post she held when she left the Library.

TRAINING & SKILLS DEVELOPMENT...

In October 2010, ten SALB staff members attended a one-day Microsoft Excel Foundation Course presented by Addskills, Port Elizabeth. A 100% pass rate was achieved – well done to all the smart attendees!

BIRTHS...

October 2010 saw Rostienne Mager of the Technical Services Section become a proud father for the first time. His son, Riley Owen Mager, was born at Settlers Hospital on 11 October at 14:50 and weighed in at 2.98 kgs. Congratulations Rostienne and Odette Hilpert from your SALB family!!!



DEATHS

It was with great sadness that the SALB learned of the passing of Mr Marc Davis in Durban on 17 October 2010. Mr Davis joined the Library in 1989 and during that time he read 1,538 books. Library staff will remember him for his humbleness and positive attitude towards life. Whenever he communicated with the Library he always had a joke or two. He participated earlier in 2010 in one of our Tele-book club meetings. The Library has lost a good friend. We wish to extend our condolences to Marc's wife Guanita and his family.

CIRCULATION SNIPPETS



It is summer in our lovely country and Christmas is around the corner, so please let us know if you would like extra books over the festive season. The SALB wishes you all a blessed Christmas and prosperous New Year. We appreciate all your input over the past year. The Library will be closed from 25 December to 3 January. Many members phoned to update their profiles, if you haven't done so yet, please contact Helen (helen.samuel@salb.org.za).

NEW MAGAZINES

We have two new magazines in braille: the 'Joy' magazine and 'Juig' in Afrikaans, which are Christian family living magazines focused on Christian news, education and information. The Xhosa magazine Bona will be available in Daisy format in January 2011. Members who wish to receive the magazines must please contact Collette (audiolib@salb.org.za).

JOIN OUR TELE-BOOK CONFERENCE

Our tele-book club is a book club meeting which takes place quarterly, through the Telkom teleconference facility. Telkom will phone ten members and connect them to the Library to listen to an author as a guest speaker, or join a general discussion about books. Our next book club meeting will be at the end of January or early February. Please contact Ria by phone or e-mail (ria.greaves@salb.org.za) for more information on our tele-book club. It is great fun.

DAMAGED DISCS

We kindly request members to put a letter in the mailer if a daisy book gets permanently damaged. A fine of R50 will be charged if we receive a damaged Daisy book without an explanatory note

MEET A MEMBER

Mrs Annamarie Mans from Kimberley is this editions special member. She shares her relationships with the Library which began when her parents enrolled her as a member while she was still at primary school in Worcester. One school holiday, somewhere in the sixties, she came home to find big bags on her bed. To her delight her mother told her that it was braille books from the Library!!! Since then Mrs Mans has read nearly 2000 Braille and Audio books. She is a keen magazine reader and advised the Library on the quality and content of the first True Love magazine. Apart from reading, Mrs Mans loves music, especially classical music, and she is the owner of a large collection of tapes and CD's. Mrs Mans often listens to music while reading braille— explaining that the experience is very satisfying. Thank you Mrs Mans for supporting the Library for many years.

NEW BOOKS LISTS

If you would like to receive regular updates of new books on Daisy through e-mail or in braille please contact: ria.greaves@salb.org.za or helen.samuel@salb.org.za.

BOOK RECOMMENDATIONS

We are always looking for book reviews and recommendations. Please send your reviews to Helen (helen.samuel@salb.org.za) when you have enjoyed a book and want to recommend it to other members.

CONTACT DETAILS:

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Fax: 046 622 4645 or 046 622 7650

Or visit us on FACEBOOK

www.facebook.com/pages/South-African-Library-for-the-Blind

