Ms Tise has recently been invited to present the 19th Annual Mortenson Distinguished Lecture at the University of Illinois in the United States in her capacity as IFLA President in October 2009. The Mortenson Center for International Library Programs at the University of Illinois Library strives to connect librarians around the world with innovative programs.

Ms Tise’s lecture, titled *Isolation and Information Famine Stifling Africa’s Growth*, will focus on knowledge being a fundamental resource which needs to be accessed in order to alleviate poverty and stimulate growth in Africa. She will examine the important role of African libraries in breaking the isolation and information famine in Africa. In presenting this lecture, Ms Tise is doing much to focus the attention of the international LIS community on African libraries.

Earlier this year, Ms Tise also had the opportunity to speak on other occasions. In May she spoke on her Presidential theme, “Libraries driving access to knowledge”, as member of a high level panel at the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) forum in Geneva. She spoke to an audience comprising more than 300 representatives from governments, businesses and civil society.

Later, in July, she delivered two papers at the ALA (American Library Association) Annual Conference in Chicago. The ALA is the oldest and largest library association in the world and its annual conference is attended by more than 25 000 delegates.

Her first paper, titled “Asian, African and Middle Eastern librarians in academic libraries: challenges, expectations and rewards” addressed the Asian, African and Middle Eastern Section (AAMES). Her second paper was before the Africa Sub-Committee panel of the conference where challenges and successes of libraries and library associations in Sub-Saharan Africa were discussed.

More information on the above conferences can be accessed via links on the library’s homepage (www.sun.ac.za/library).
The Stellenbosch University Library and Information Service has recently subscribed to Syndetic Solutions™, a catalogue enrichment service from Bowker. Currently, the subscription includes cover images and TOC (Table of Contents).

Libraries face an ongoing challenge to ensure that their online catalogues and resources therein are optimally used. This new service allows the library to present its catalogue in a more informative and interesting way. Due to increased exposure to the internet, users expect and respond well to visual information.

The cover images seamlessly appear within the library’s online catalogue and clicking a cover image opens up a TOC enrichment option. Content is provided to our English, German, Spanish and Italian book titles from a large and growing hosted database which is updated weekly. Linking is based on automatic ISBN recognition and no maintenance is required by the library.

One can view our cover images and TOCs from anywhere in the world, confirming the library becoming an institution without borders, taking the library to the people.

Should the Library in future implement a one-stop Discovery-to-Delivery tool, Syndetic Solutions™ is sure to complement the new functionality.

Ms Renee Reagon was appointed to the senior management team of the Library and Information Service in the position of Director: Technical Services and Electronic Resources Management in June this year.

She completed her B Bibl and M Bibl degrees at the University of the Western Cape and worked as an information specialist in the Cape for several years at, inter alia, the Truth and Reconciliation Commission and Old Mutual, as well as Research Librarian, and later as E-Resources Librarian, at the University of the Western Cape. From the beginning of 2007 until her appointment at Stellenbosch University she worked as Business Development Executive at Swets Information Services in Gauteng.

Ms Reagon brings with her a wealth of knowledge and experience, particularly in the field of electronic resources and the publishing industry. In her new position at the Library and Information Service she takes overall responsibility for the Cataloguing, Acquisitions and Electronic Resources divisions.

Mev Elbie van Wyk, vir sowat 14 jaar faculteitsbibliotekaris vir Natuurwetenskappe in die JS Gericke Biblioteek, is vanaf Augustus 2009 aangestel as Senior Bibliotekaris: Inligtingsgeletterdheid en Leersentrumbestuur.

Haar verantwoordelikhede behels die bevoerdering van inligtingsgeletterdheidsontwikkeling op kampus, in samewerking met alle akademiese departemente en hulle onderskeie fakulteits- en takbibliotekarisse, asook die bestuur van die nuwe Leersentrum (die OSP-projek van die Biblioteek- en Inligtingsdiens) waarvan die oprigting binnekort ’n aanvang sal neem.

Mnr Philip de Villiers sluit op 1 September 2009 by die Bibliotek- en Inligtingsdiens aan as Senior Bibliotekaris (Hoof) van die Katalogiseeradelings in die JS Gericke Bibliotek.

Hy het sy BA-, B Th-, B Bibl- en Hons B Bibl-grade aan die Universiteite van Potchefstroom en Pretoria onderskeiddelik verwerf en vir bykans 20 jaar by die Biblioteekdiens van die Universiteit van Pretoria gewerk, onder meer in die bestelafdeling en as katalogiseerder, en sedert 2002 as Koördineerder: Katalogisering.

Mnr De Villiers is in sy nuwe hoedanigheid by die Biblioteek- en Inligtingsdiens verantwoordelik vir die bestuur van die prosesse en personeel van die Katalogiseeradefeling.

Ms Renee Reagon

Ms Renee Reagon was appointed to the senior management team of the Library and Information Service in the position of Director: Technical Services and Electronic Resources Management in June this year.

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The Suid-Afrikaanse Akademie vir Wetenskap en Kuns vier vanjaar sy eeufees. Die Biblioteek- en Inligtingsdiens het ook ’n rol gespeel ter herdenking van hierdie mylpaal, met die aanbied van ’n uitstalling in die Africana afdeling van die JS Gericke Biblioteek, is vanaf Augustus 2009 aangestel as Senior Bibliotekaris: Inligtingsgeletterdheid en Leersentrumbestuur.

Die uitstalling het die Akademie se verbin-tenis met die Universiteit Stellenbosch uitgebeeld deur te fokus op US figure wat ’n rol gespeel het in die totstandkoming en vroeë geskiedenis van die Akademie en Hertzogpryswenners wat oud-Maties of docente aan die US was. Items uit versamelings wat in die Dokumentesentrum bewaar word is uitgestal.

Die uitstalling is op 20 Mei deur me Ellen Tise (Senior Direkteur: Biblioteek- en Inligtingsdiens) geopen. Verskeie lede van die Wes-Kaapse Werkgemeenskap van die Akademie, asook bibliotekepersoneel en ander belangstellendes het die geleentheid bygewoon. ’n Artikel rondom die uitstalling, getiteld “Pioniers tot Pryswenners” het ook in die pers verskyn.
**2008 ANNUAL REPORT STATISTICAL SNAPSHOT**

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<tr>
<td>R 31 367 490</td>
<td>Amount spent on collections</td>
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**SERVICES TO CLIENTS**

| 8 284       | Visitors to the JS Gericke Library |
| 282 181     | Items checked out (renewals included) |
| 2 039 526   | Searches in top twenty databases |

**TRAINING**

| 11 025      | Number of clients who received group training |
| 6 696       | Number of clients who received individual training |

**STAFF**

| 101         | Permanent staff members |

**LIBQUAL AKSIEPLANNE**

Na afloop van die suksesvolle LibQUAL meningsopname in April 2008, het die Biblioteek- en Inligtingsdiens aksieplanne opgestel op grond van die resultate sowel as die individuele kommentaar wat gelever is deur studente en personeel. Die aksieplanne kan gelees word by: http://www.lib.sun.ac.za/Library/Libqual_2008/Actionplans_afr.htm. Aspekte soos opleidingsgeleenthede, plek vir studie, geraasvlakke, biblioteekure, onvoldoende rekenaars, inligtingsbronse en bemarking is ook word byvoorbeeld deur die aksieplanne aangeraak.

‘n Oplossing vir onvoldoende rekenaars en plek vir studie word onder meer reeds aangespreek deur die Biblioteek se OSP-projek, wat die oorlog van ‘n nuwe leersentrum in die JS Gericke Biblioteek behels. Die probleem van geraasvlakke in die JS Gericke Biblioteek is reeds in 2008 aangespreek deur middel van die stil studie-areas wat geldsetfiseer is. Die hersiening en implementering van ‘n funksionele ryk webblad is ook ‘n prioriteit op die oomblik.

Die resultate en veral die kommentaar van studente en personeel tydens hierdie opname het bygedra tot ‘n beter begrip van hulle verwagtinge en te pas. Terugvoer en kommentaar word egter ook deur met en verwelkom.

**CONFERENCE FEEDBACK**

Dr Reggie Raju, Director: IT Services and Communication, has recently presented papers on two occasions. He relates his experiences to us in this article.

LIASA held its CICD winter seminar from 29 June to 1 July in Pretoria. I was invited to present a paper on the second day which had the theme ‘Transformation within the LIS sector’. The title of the paper was Statutory status: is now the right time?. The issues raised in the paper centered around the issue of the acquisition of statutory status of the Library and Information Service profession within the current climate.

The 1st International Conference on African Digital Libraries and Archives (ICADLA-1) was held from 1 to 3 July 2009 at the United Nations Conference Centre (UNCC) in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The main theme of the conference was ‘Connecting Africans to Their Own Resources/Developing Policies and Strategies for Africa’s Digital Future’, which invited significant debate on preserving and accessing Africa’s cultural heritage and scholarship in digital form.

The paper presented at the conference was a joint effort between Stellenbosch University and Durban University of Technology. Titled The progression from repositories to institutional repositories: a comparative examination of repositories at the Durban University of Technology and Stellenbosch University, it was an analytical examination of the progression towards an institutional repository. A significant debate within the paper was the ease with which a newly formed institution could adopt and implement such an entity as an institutional repository. At a well established traditional research institution such as SU, it is a lot more difficult to create new entities. However, the reverse is the case when populating a repository, as academics in the established research institution value the increased visibility of their research output. On the other hand, at a newly formed institution like DUT, academics would prefer Dept. of Education funding and the growth of their research profile as opposed to visibility.

We feel that the growth of repositories has so much potential for the growth of open access forums or national and international discipline repositories, for the democratization of information, and for the sharing of research information. Libraries would be abdicating their responsibilities if they do not assume the role of championing repositories or driving the momentum for the creation and development thereof.

The Ethiopian conference concluded with the generation of a memorandum with regards to challenges that Africa faces in terms of preserving and accessing its cultural heritage and scholarship. The memorandum is to be distributed to all relevant stakeholders to solicit buy-in for the preservation of and access to ‘African information’.
END OF AN ERA: HENRI WIRTH RETIRES

The Stellenbosch University Library and Information Service recently said goodbye to master restorer Henri Wirth after 45 years of service. With his retirement, the operation of the restoration laboratory as we know it sadly also comes to an end as Henri’s expertise proved truly irreplaceable.

Born and bred in Germany, Henri came to Stellenbosch in 1964 and was appointed as a bookbinder in the then Carnegie Library. After many years of specialized training and experience in the restoration of a number of formats, Henri became head restorer of the JS Gericke Library in 1989. During his career he received two study grants from the Three Centuries Foundation. These enabled him to study at the Scuola d’arte per legatori artistici in Ascona, Switzerland, and afforded him rare opportunities to work at the Vatican Library, the British Museum and the National Library of Florence.

Back home in Stellenbosch in the specially equipped restoration laboratory, designed by Henri himself, he laboured tirelessly at saving and restoring the University’s art treasures, as well as the valuable books, maps and other documents of the library. In the Special Collections section of the library his legacy is especially apparent as most of the valuable items in this section was touched by his expert hands at some point. His groundbreaking techniques in preventative conservation has certainly prolonged the lifetime of hundreds of items in our collections.

One of the highlights of his career was the restoration of around 170 decaying works by well known South African artist Maggie Laubser, which was bequeathed to Stellenbosch University. Sensing that her work might someday receive international recognition, he worked on saving the collection for three full years.

Other accomplishments particularly pertaining to the library, include the restoration and preservation of more than 100 important Africana maps dating from 1540 to 1860, the restoration of an original title deed signed by Stellenbosch founder Simon van der Stel in 1693 and the restoration and framing of 19 miniature watercolours of Stellenbosch by 19th century artist Julia Bullock-Webster.

Henri played a significant role in the restoration profession in general, presenting talks on numerous occasions both nationally and abroad. He was a member of several international professional bodies such as IADA (Internationale Arbeitsgemeinschaft der Archiv-, Bibliotheks- und Graphik Restauratoren) and a founder member of SAPCON in South Africa. His methods of conservation framing developed specifically for South African conditions and his development of a new method of integrating an old document onto new paper using cellulose fibres have earned him recognition both locally and internationally by the restoration and preservation community. He was awarded an honorary medal by the South African Academy for Arts in Science in 1996, becoming the first and only person in the field of art and paper restoration to receive this accolade. His contribution to preservation is truly significant and he will always be respected for the way in which he embraced the preservation of the heritage of his adopted country. He will be sorely missed by the Library and Information Service which has for so long benefited from the luxury of having a master in their midst.