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### FROM THE SENIOR DIRECTOR'S OFFICE

It is unbelievable but 2008 is practically at an end and we are therefore presenting to you the last issue of *Bibnuus* for this year. It has been a busy and eventful year and we trust that we have been successful in conveying the year's library news in an interesting and useful way with our new-look publication to you, our readers.

In this issue we are giving some feed-back on one of the Library and Information Service's milestones of the past year – the Tenth Annual Symposium presented earlier in November to a bumper number of delegates from all over the country. Amongst other reports, you can also read about an important new acquisition to the library collection, the *African Writers Series*; some interesting facts about the library's extremely valuable collection of sepia sketches by DC Boonzaier which has recently found a new home in the Special Collections Division of the JS Gericke Library; and an interview with a very special benefactor to the Library and Information Service.

We hope you enjoy the read. We will be back in early 2009 with our next issue.

All that remain then for me is to wish you a peaceful festive season and happy holidays!

Ellen R. Tise

### TIENDE JAARLIKSE BIBLIOTEEKSIMPOSIUM



Mnr Chip Nilges (Vise-president Besigheidsontwikkeling OCLC, USA), me Ellen Tise (Senior Direkteur, US Biblioteek- en Inligtingsdiens)

Die Stellenbosch Universiteit Biblioteek- en Inligtingsdiens het op 6 en 7 November vanjaar sy Tiende Jaarlikse Simposium aangebied. Die tema vir hierdie jaar, *Shall the twain ever meet?: supplying the demand in an academic library and information service environment*, het 'n besigheidsperspektief op uitdagings in die biblioteek- en inligtingswese geplaas en het baie interessante menings en debat uitgelok.

Die biblioteek- en inligtingswese word nie tradisioneel geassosieer met die besigheidsbeginsel van vraag en aanbod nie, maar ingrypende veranderings in die inligtings- en gebruikersomgewings noop ons om wel hierdie beginsels in ag te neem en moontlik te gebruik om die

dinamika binne die biblioteeksektor te help interpreteer.

Mnr Steyn Heckroodt van die US Bestuurskool het die toon vir die simposium aangegee deur 'n omskrywing van die beginsel van vraag en aanbod te gee. Hy het ook onderskei tussen kommersiële en dienssektore en dus die beginsel in terme van die biblioteek- en inligtingswêreld goed verduidelik.

Daaropvolgende sprekers het oor die algemeen aangevoer dat vraag en aanbod nie versoenbaar is nie ("the twain shall never meet"), as gevolg van die dinamiese aard van die hoër onderwysomgewing en veranderende behoeftes daarbinne. Verder is praktiese kwessies soos bv. onvoldoende befondsing en onbevredigende toegang tot tegnologie en die internet, ook bespreek.

'n Stellenbosse kollega, prof Erick Strauss van die Departement Biochemie, het tydens sy referaat waardevolle insig gegee in die inligtingsoektogte van navorsers en het aangevoer dat maklike toegang tot inligting nie noodwendig maklike navorsingsuitsette tot gevolg het nie.

Nog 'n plaaslike kollega, mnr Kobus Ehlers (dosent aan die Departement Inligtingwetenskap), het die opspraakwekkende en teenstrydige opmerking gemaak dat die tradisionele biblioteek se dae getel is, maar dat biblioteke hier

is om te bly. Hierdie opmerking het baie stof tot nadenke vir alle bibliotekarisse gebied. Dit het aangesluit by dit wat ander sprekers ook gesê het ten opsigte van die feit dat akademiese biblioteke verandering moet aangryp. Biblioteke moet toeneemend innoverend en vernuwend wees en hulself herskep om relevant te bly. Die skep van fisiese leerruimtes het 'n integrale deel van die voorsiening van ons kliënte behoeftes geword, maar benewens dit moet akademiese biblioteke ook hul dienste aanpas en leer om afstand te doen van beheer oor inligting en die gebruiker toelaat om inhoud te skep en te manipuleer. Stof tot nadenke inderdaad.

Die aantal afgevaardigdes vir die 2008 Simposium het alle verwagtinge oortref en die aanbiedings was van hoogstaande gehalte. Die geleentheid was 'n mylpaal vir die Biblioteek- en Inligtingsdiens.



Mnr Kobus Ehlers, me Dudu Nkosi (Unisa) en prof Erick Strauss

## NEW RESOURCE: AFRICAN WRITERS SERIES

In 1962 the well-established London firm, Heinemann Educational Books, started the *African Writers Series* with Chinua Achebe's *Things fall apart* as the foundation text. The series thrived, especially in the 1970's when Africa still had a flourishing system of public libraries and the major universities towns had well-stocked bookshops. Unfortunately the failing African economy caught up with the series and by 2003, having published 365 texts, the shop was closed. The last title to be published was Ama Ata Aidoo's *Changes*.

An introductory article on the AWS website maintains:

*Because of the diversity of origin, its continent-wide reach and catholicity of taste, and because it avoided distinctions between 'high' and 'low' literature – or high- or lowbrow readers – the African Writers Series remains the broadest (though neither the most comprehensive, nor the most representative) body of literature from Africa in the late twentieth century.*

These very important texts are now out of print and because Heinemann decided at the outset that this was to be an exclusively paperback series, the copies that the JS Gericke Library do own, have begun to disintegrate through excessive use.

Fortunately Chadwyck Healy/ProQuest decided in 2005 to gradually reintroduce the full series in digital format. Unfortunately this electronic series comes at a price and until recently this was just too high for the Stellenbosch Library and Information Service to purchase. Earlier this year, though, ProQuest offered the series to Stellenbosch at a very special price, and with the help of Professor Hennie Kotze,

**“The series can be said to constitute the classics of African writing produced in English”**

Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, the Library and Information Service was able to purchase this very important source.

Release Seven of the online edition already includes over 230 volumes of fiction, poetry, drama and non-fictional prose, including works by Chinua Achebe, Steve Biko, Nadine Gordimer, Bessie Head, Doris Lessing, Dennis Brutus, Shimmer Chinodya, Nelson Mandela and Can Themba. The series is available on the E-books webpage of the Library and Information Service and individual titles can also be accessed via the library catalogue.

The value of this product is illustrated by the fact that from August to October 2008 Stellenbosch library clients performed 257 searches and accessed 622 full texts on the electronic *African Writers Series*.

Professor Annie Gagiano of the English Department confirms:

*Having the complete set of the justly famous Heinemann African Writers Series, which first introduced many of this continent's most significant writers to the world at large, now permanently available online from our own university library, means that we have immensely enriched the modern African archive for local scholars (postgraduate students as well as staff researchers). The convenience and security of having these texts accessible online is an enormous advantage. The series can be said to constitute the classics of African writing produced in English (along with translations of important works from French, Arabic and Portuguese) over the past fifty years. Ms Naomi Visser is to be hailed for lobbying successfully to persuade our library funders to acquire this initially expensive - but invaluable! - resource.*

## PERSONEELNUUS

Lindall Adams, afstandstudentebibliotekaris in die JS Gericke Biblioteek, is gekeur om in 2009 deel te neem aan die NSS (North/South/South) Higher Education Network studente uitruilprogram in Finland.

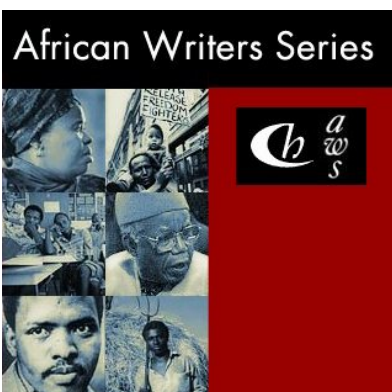
Lindall is tans besig met haar M-studie in Biblioteek- en Inligtingkunde aan die Universiteit van Wes-Kaapland en is deur hulle genomineer om aan die program deel te neem weens die hoë kwaliteit van haar akademiese werk en haar navorsingsbelangstelling in “Library 2.0”.

Die uitruilprogram word deur die Finse regering geborg. Dit is 'n koöperatiewe kurrikulumontwikkelingsprojek wat deelname van die Universteite van Wes-Kaapland, Stellenbosch en Namibië, asook drie Finse univerteite, nl. Oulu, Turku en Abo Akademi, insluit. Die doelwitte is onder andere om gesamentlike navorsing te onderneem, kurrikulum op na-graadse vlak te ontwikkel en om uitruilgeleenthede vir studente en dosente te bied.

Finland word beskou as 'n leidende kennisgemeenskap (“knowledge society”) en dus vrugbare grond vir Lindall se navorsing. Benewens die tyd wat sy in Finse biblioteke gaan deurbring sal sy twee modules aan die Universiteit van Turku moet afhandel en data insamel vir haar voorgestelde projek oor die inligtingsgedrag van sogenaamde “Generation Y” studente.



Me Lindall Adams





## IFLA PRESIDENT VISITS THE LIBRARY

The Library and Information Service was recently honoured by a visit from the current IFLA (International Federation of Library Associations) President, Claudia Lux. Staff members had the opportunity to listen to Dr. Lux on 6 October 2008 during a session in the library auditorium.

Dr. Lux was visiting South Africa for the LIASA (Library and Information Association of South Africa) conference and although it was not her first visit to South Africa, it was her first trip to Stellenbosch.

During her address, she managed to convey to us some aspects of what the IFLA presidency entails, preparing us for the road ahead when our own Senior Director, Ellen Tise, takes over the reins as IFLA President in 2009. She stressed how important support from staff is for the IFLA President and how she, in a sense, takes her own library around the world with her.

She also related some interesting stories about the challenges facing her own workplace, the Zentral- und Landesbibliothek in Berlin. Her address was followed by a stimulating discussion on trends in the library and information world and specifically the role of librarians. Dr. Lux is an inspiring ambassador for our profession and I'm sure the whole audience benefited from listening to her views.

Image: [www.daad.de](http://www.daad.de)



## DC BOONZAIER-SKETSE IN SPESIALE VERSAMELINGS

Die besondere reeks oorspronklike sepia tekeninge deur DC Boonzaier wat deur die jare die bewondering van vele besoekers aan die JS Gericke Biblioteek uitgelok het, het onlangs 'n nuwe tuiste gevind in die Dokumentesentrum van die afdeling Spesiale Versamelings in die JS Gericke Biblioteek.

Die stukke is sorgvuldig skoongemaak en ondersoek deur ons restourateur, Henri Wirth, voordat dit opgehang is teen 'n nuutgeverfde muur in die Dokumentesentrum. In hierdie omgewing sal die uiters waardevolle versameling veilig bewaar word en steeds deur besoekers en ander belangstellendes besigtig word.



Afbeelding van Thomas Hardy

Elke tekening is ná voltooiing aan die betrokke persoon gestuur met die versoek dat 'n handtekening as gunsie bygevoeg word. So het mnr. Boonzaier na 'n aantal jare oor die 300 stukke bymekaar gemaak en hulle later aan 'n vooraanstaande Kaapse sakeman en kunsliefhebber, mnr. Cecil Sibbett, verkoop.

Mnr. Sibbett se praghuis, "Mount Rhodes", by Houtbaai, is later deur 'n verwoestende brand in puin gelê. 'n Waardevolle Africana-versameling en Boonzaier se tekeninge het in hierdie brand verlore gegaan.

Maar, gelukkig nie almal nie. Die 22 tekeninge wat in die JS Gericke Biblioteek hang, is jare na die brand deur mev. Louis Herrman op 'n vendusie tussen 'n hoop papiere ontdek. Sy het hul waarde herken en die stukke gekoop.

In 1965 het Gregoire Boonzaier, die bekende kunsskilder, toevallig te hore gekom van die lotgevalle van sy vader se tekeninge en hulle aangekoop.

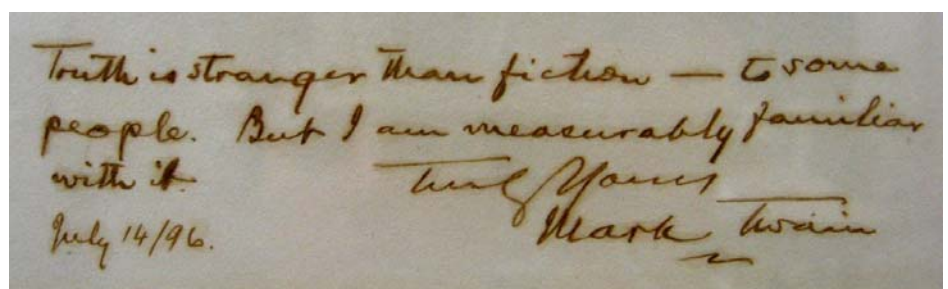
'n Hele paar groot biblioteke het daarin belangstel om die tekeninge te koop, maar Stellenbosch het voorkeur gekry en in September 1966 is hulle hier gehuisves.

Gregoire Boonzaier het destyds vertel dat 'n verteenwoordiger van die Universiteit van Yale toentertyd by mnr. Sibbett aangedring het om die versameling aan sy universiteit te verkoop. Mnr. Sibbett het uiteindelik ingewillig om slegs twee van die tekeninge aan Yale af te staan, t.w. dié van Cecil John Rhodes en Joseph Chamberlain.



Hierdie reeks oorspronklike tekeninge deur DC Boonzaier (spotprent-tekenaar van *Die Burger* gedurende die eerste dekades van dié koerant se bestaan) is die oorblywende deel van 'n veel groter versameling van oor die 300 tekeninge van beroemde, lewende persoonlikhede van die 19de eeu.

Die tekeninge is almal sorgvuldig met 'n baie fyn kwassie in sepia ('n bruin ink) saans voor 'n olielamp deur mnr. Boonzaier van foto's nageteken.



Detail van die boodskap en handtekening van Mark Twain

I've recently had the pleasure to browse through a new publication entitled *Democratic vistas : exploring the Raymond Danowski Poetry Library*. This beautifully illustrated book gives an overview of the recently established Raymond Danowski Poetry Library at Emory University in Atlanta, USA, highlighting some of the unique works in the collection, which consists of 75 000 volumes of modern and contemporary poetry as well as an extensive periodical collection – a near complete record of published English-language poetry of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. What makes this collection truly unique is that it exists due to the efforts of a single private collector.

Mr. Raymond Danowski lives here in Stellenbosch and we are honoured to call him a friend of our library.

Since the early 1990's he has been generously donating books to the Stellenbosch University Library and Information Service. To date, we have received over 6500 books from Mr. Danowski. These books, mainly in the field of the Social Sciences, form a significant contribution to our existing collections, expanding subject areas and research opportunities.

I recently had the opportunity to discuss with Mr. Danowski some of his donations to the JS Gericke Library.

MS: One of the books you recently donated to our Africana section is the beautiful Zaehnsdorf facsimile edition of *The journal of HMS Resolution, 1772-1775\** by Captain James Cook.

After receiving this treasure, we had it on display for a few weeks and the book attracted the attention of many a bibliophile who saw it. They especially admired the unique craftsmanship and the sheer beauty of the object. As a collector, how do you feel about the aesthetical aspect of books?

RD: *I remember the artist Louise Bourgeois asking me while chatting in her New York home how I had been spending my time. "Collecting books" I said. She exclaimed "O no, I am visual, not literary". "Louise," I rejoined, "books as objects!". With a "touché" she crossed to her massive book shelves (yes!) and selected a large book on Surrealism. "For you with my apologies"...*

*I love books as objects, I think of them as art objects and handle them as such. I*

*don't have any special feelings towards leather-bound books or books printed on special paper, because even ordinary books can be wonderful – the most minor book, even a comic book, can be a work of art and precious to hold.*

MS: Many of the books you have donated to our library have been on the subject of history and I know you also focused specifically on German history as that was one area where we felt we were under represented. On what do you usually base your decisions on collecting material on a specific subject?

RD: *Free association, mental leaps. For example, as a child born during World War II, a period during which extraordinary horrors were committed, in my early life and education there was a veil drawn over German culture. I did however come to realise the importance of it as a leg of our Western culture, so I began to consider it in depth – philosophy, art, history, science, poetry and music. I even became interested in the Merovingians and enamoured of a book titled "Before France and Germany : the creation and transformation of the Merovingian world" by Patrick Geary, published by OUP. This personal enthusiasm simply coincided with the need of Stellenbosch University Library Service to expand their collection on these subjects.*

MS: I have asked Mr. Niel Hendriksz, our faculty librarian for Arts and resident bibliophile, to name his favourite book from your gifts, as all donations go past his desk. He promptly produced a list of about 100+ "must reads"! He also related stories on how some of the books you have donated have helped students in research on very specific topics. Does it make you happy to hear this and do you feel a sense of satisfaction in knowing that you've helped someone in this way?

RD: *Yes, delighted! It is wonderful to have these connections with people without making a big deal about it.*

MS: On the subject of helping researchers, I believe there is an interesting story to tell about a Portuguese book you donated to the Library.

RD: *Yes, a few years ago a 1905 Steinway piano was on display at the Heuer music store here in town. I invited an Honours student studying piano at the "Konserve" to play it so we could hear*

*what it sounded like. Unbeknownst to me, the student, who happened to be Portuguese, wanted to write a paper on a Portuguese poet\*\*. When we met up he first exclaimed excitedly that he found the perfect resource for his paper at the JS Gericke Library and that it was donated by me. The book was by the author he was working on and in Portuguese, something he did not expect to find at the JS Gericke. He was amazed that I donated this specific book to the library. Well, I had read a glowing review of the book in the "Times Literary Supplement" and it seemed like a good idea at the time to donate it, even if only one researcher in a lifetime would find it. He was able to write his paper due to a random example of serendipity – completely magical!*

MS: You do not own a computer, how do you keep track of your collecting? Photographic memory perhaps?

RD: *When I was collecting I did have all the information I needed in my head. If you showed me a specific book, I would be able to tell whether I had it in my collection and probably also whether it had, say, an ink stain on page 3 or not. Perhaps when one is busy with a task and interested in what you are doing, it is easy to walk around with all the information in one's head. When you stop, however, it seems to start disappearing, and rather quickly.*

MS: Lastly, I know you do not read Afrikaans, but yet you also collected Afrikaans literature.

RD: *I love listening to Afrikaans poetry. The spoken language can be beautiful and harsh at the same time. I have great respect for 20<sup>th</sup> century Afrikaans poets. My favourite poem in any language is "Winterbome" by NP van Wyk Louw and I carry a copy of it around with me in the car at all times. Sometimes I ask people, even strangers, to read it to me or to offer a translation. Reading a poem can be a fleeting experience which enriches your life – like seeing a beautiful flower – it has a personal resonance at that moment that does not necessarily need to be analysed.*

\*Published: Guildford, Surrey : Genesis Publications, 1981. No 166 of limited edition of 500 copies, signed by Admiral of the Fleet, the Earl Mountbatten of Burma. Reproduction made from the British Library Copy of Cook's Journal

\*\* Luis de Camões

