

# BIBLIO

The Newsletter of the Library Association of Trinidad and Tobago (LATT) - P.O. Box 1275, Port of Spain

Issue 2

June 1999

## Message from the LATT President, Brenda James

*Dear Colleagues,*

This new Executive has assumed office at a very interesting time. Both locally and internationally, the profession is facing challenges. In some parts of the world, the resources made available to libraries are diminishing, and some libraries are even forced to cut back on service hours, or to close altogether. Here in Trinidad and Tobago, for example, school libraries are faced with a situation where no funds have been allocated for development for the past two years. At the same time, the changes in information technology have had a significant impact on the skills, knowledge and competencies required of the information professional.

It is therefore necessary that we re-evaluate the relevance of how we do what we do, in the context of our rapidly changing environment. We must strengthen our relationships with each other so that we can have the mutual support to meet the challenges that face us. We must continue to utilize our proven professional strengths – information organization, information needs assessment, information access management and excellence in service provision – as we adapt to the new paradigm.

It is important that we embrace

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the ethic of lifelong learning so that we maintain the flexibility required to acquire and adapt the best practices and technologies as they arise. We must also develop the capability to engineer our own information service initiatives to influence the growth and development of all sectors of the society.

We should seize every opportunity to become involved in the intel-

lectual life of the community and to play an active part in the discussions and policy-formulation exercises which impact on the quality of information access and transfer. Advocacy should therefore become an important part of our activities.

We must articulate positions on issues such as censorship, the Internet, national legislation on copyright and freedom of access to information. We also need to outline and adhere to guidelines for our conduct as professionals.

It is the vision of the new Executive to continue to transform the Association into a vibrant one, one in which all members of the profession are actively engaged in the work of the Association. We must seek innovative ways to make the Association a financially viable one. The involvement of all information professionals in the country is imperative if we are to achieve this.

LATT is what its members are, and we must strive to foster a sense of ownership of the Association so that all can play an important part in its development. The new Executive looks forward to your involvement in the activities of the Association.

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Dear Readers,

This issue of BIBLIO is the first produced under the direction of LATT's new Executive, 1999-2001. We are in the process of reviewing the function of the newsletter and how its form may need to reflect the changes which are inevitable. Your input is essential and we are inviting your feedback on content and style.

This issue's feature introduces you to the members of your new Executive through profiles of their experience and achievements and outlines their common vision for the Association.

While we welcome the new, we acknowledge with sincere gratitude the contributions of the outgoing Editorial team who published five issues of BIBLIO and whose work we are now continuing.

In the future you can look forward to an expanded newsletter which will include among other items:

- ◆ A quarterly spotlight on an information centre/library which is successfully applying new and not so new technologies in the provision

of improved services to its clientele.

- ◆ Interviews with members of the profession about their careers and views.
- ◆ Reviews of technological developments and how they can be utilized in our library and information centres.
- ◆ Descriptions of special collections which are being, or have been organized.

If you have begun a special project or are planning one, let us know so that everyone can benefit from your experience and you can be contacted by others who have completed or are undertaking similar projects.

We are also interested in publishing your opinions and insights on any topic of relevance to the profession. Have you read an interesting article or book? Send us a review. Have you attended a conference or workshop recently? We would welcome your report. Are you a recent graduate of a library/information science or library technician programme? Share your opinions about the experience. Become a live node on the LATT network by communicating and sharing your knowledge and views. This newsletter is

BY, OF and FOR LATT and its success is dependent on our collective input.

We hope that you will continue to enjoy receiving and reading BIBLIO!



### Amnesty!

An amnesty is in effect for all those whose LATT membership dues are in arrears. All debts outstanding up to the end of 1997 have been forgiven. Simply pay your dues for 1998 (\$60) and 1999 (\$100) and be in the clear! Your professional association depends on your financial support.

The Editorial team of BIBLIO would like to thank the following persons who provided information for this issue:

- Sally Montserin
- Pamella Benson
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Apologies to anyone omitted.

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BIBLIO is the newsletter of the Library Association of Trinidad and Tobago (LATT). It is published quarterly and distributed free of charge to LATT's members.

### Scope and content:

BIBLIO welcomes contributions relevant to all aspects of librarianship, documentation and information science as practiced in Trinidad and Tobago and the issues which impact on the profession. The newsletter usually contains at least one full-length feature article, news about the Association, the movements and accomplishments of its members, noteworthy projects, reviews of information resources, conference announcements and other items of general interest to the profession.

### Instructions for contributors:

Although we will receive article contributions via any medium, if you can, please supply us with your copy in MS Word format on diskette or as an e-mail attachment. Short announcements and news items can be communicated by phone to any member of the Editorial Committee. Articles of a more substantial and scholarly nature will be relayed to the Bulletin of the Library Association (BLATT) for review.

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