

GLA Newsletter

Newsletter of the Ghana Library Association

Vol. 5 No. 4

ISSN: 0855 - 3904

DECEMBER 2011

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Welcome Note from the Editor

Dear Colleagues,

I take this opportunity to wish all of us a happy belated Christmas and a more peaceful, purposeful, Happy New Year.

I also thank all well meaning members who thought that I can continue to maintain the standards set for our newsletter if not improve upon it.

I must thank all those who had contributed and will continue to contribute to make our newsletter a success. I do single out the late Mr. A. W. K. *INSAIDOO* for his solo efforts most of the time.

I will reiterate from his last publication that this is one of our mouth pieces and we must all contribute to make our newsletter the best or we all perish.

On my part I do promise to hold the fort with your support and encouragement. On this note, our newsletter is back to the stands in our emails and members are to send developments going on in their respective areas for publication. We are reminded that it is a quarterly newsletter.

Thank you.
S.B. Aggrey (Editor –Newsletter)



AGM/Seminar 2011

The 2011 GLA Seminar and AGM took place on Friday 4 November at the Ghana Trade Fair Authority Conference Room at La in Accra.

The chairman for the occasion was Dr. Emmanuel Adjei and the special guest was Hon. Kosi Kedem. The Theme was *Reading, Information Literacy and Libraries*.

Librarians from all the regions attended. Reports from the President, Secretary and Treasurer were presented and discussed.

The 50th anniversary celebration of the Association was also formally launched with Mrs. M. Amisah-Arthur as the chairperson of the Anniversary Planning Committee. Other members of the Committee were also introduced.

A number of publishers from UK and India were around to briefly introduce their products.



REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVES

Below are the regional representatives of the Association. They are among other things to organize the Association at the regional levels. Members are encouraged to know their representatives and support them to make the Association vibrant.

Regional Representatives

Mr. Ibrahim Abass	Upper West Region
Mr. Owusu Acheaw	Eastern Region
Mr. Guy Amarteifio	Greater Accra Region
Mr. Frederick Baada	Brong-Ahafo Region
Mr. William Baiden	Central Region
Mr. Emmanuel Bani	Ashanti Region
Mr. Ntarmah	Western Region
Ms. Joana Pwawudra	Upper East Region
Mr. Bawa Sakibu	Northern Region
Mr. Alikem Tamakloe	Volta Region

APPOINTMENTS

Council duly appointed two people as editors in November, 2011 to handle the journal and the newsletter. They are:

Dr. Emmanuel Adjei (Senior Lecturer at the [Department of Library and Information Studies, University of Ghana](#)) appointed as Editor-in-Chief of the *Ghana Library Journal*. Members are to send their manuscripts to him at this account: eadjei@ug.edu.gh.

Mr. Samuel Bentil Aggrey (Assistant Librarian at the College of Health Sciences, Korle Bu) appointed as new editor of the *Ghana Library Newsletter*. Members are to send news items on new services and events, etc, to him at this address: sbaggrey@chs.edu.gh.

50th ANNIVERSARY PLANNING COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Below are members of the anniversary planning committee:

Mrs. M. Amissah-Arthur	Chairperson
Mr. William Baiden	Member
Mrs. Agatha Frempong	“
Mrs. Emelia Agyei	“
Mr. Charles Addy	“
Mr. Justice Appoh	“
Dr. Mrs. Helena Asamoah-Hassan	“
Ms. Olivia Kpodoe	“
Mrs. Comfort Asare	“
Mrs. Ewura-Abena Ahwoi	“
Ms. Korklu Laryea	“

The chairperson of the committee, which has already started work thanked members of the Association. She also outlined tentative activities and urged everyone to support them.

ASHESI UNIVERSITY COLLEGE

LIBRARY: a new building for a new campus, for a new generation of Africa's future leaders.

By Nina Chachu (Head Librarian) and Dinah Kotey (Assistant Librarian)

Website: <http://www.ashesi.edu.gh>, Location: 1 University Avenue, Berekuso, E/R

“A university is just a group of buildings gathered around a library”, Shelby Foote (historian of the American Civil War)

Ashesi University College officially inaugurated its permanent campus at Berekuso on Saturday 29 August 2011, with the rain and mist of the Akuapem Hills blessing the occasion. Built in less than two years from its foundation, phase 1 of the campus includes classrooms, labs, office, hostels for 300 students, with the most imposing and attractive building being the Todd and Ruth Warren Library – at present on the highest elevation below on page 4.

The library is a separate building – but as with the rest of the campus – connected by verandahs which give a panoramic view of the Archer Cornfield Courtyard. It occupies two floors and

there are glass windows with a greenish tint, all of which blend with the terracotta and cream external colour scheme, reflecting the earth, stones and vegetation of the hills not far out of Accra.



The ground floor of the Warren Library houses bays of shelves for books – approximately 6000 of them – to support courses in Business Administration, Computer Science and Management Information Systems, as well as Leadership and a Liberal Arts Core. Here also are spaces for using computers, tables for study, as well as more comfortable seating. The first floor, which is mezzanine-like, has more tables, carrels and easy seating, with a Learning Lab. and another seminar room available for group discussions. There are lots of sockets and data ports, and together with Wifi, to ensure that everyone can feel connected most of the time.

We now have seats for at least 150 users, with additional facilities such as a photocopier and a scanner which are available to all members of the Ashesi community. There are four full-time staff, and eight work-study students who assist during the evening hours and at weekends. Ashesi is also an active member of CARLIGH (Consortium of Academic and Research Libraries in Ghana) through which we gain access to most of our electronic resources.

Ashesi University College began instruction nine years ago with a small class of 30 students. Now the University's student population has grown to

over 500, with an alumni membership of over 300. Ashesi is committed to training its students to have a strong work ethic, a high level of integrity, and an inherent ability to solve problems. Ashesi has won global acclaim for its educational philosophy, which trains students to think critically and act responsibly, and will have a significant impact on Ghana and Africa in the years to come.

BALME LIBRARY NEW PROJECTS

The Vice-Chancellor of the University of Ghana Legon, Prof. Ernest Aryeetey on the 16th of November, 2011 inaugurated two modern facilities at the Balme Library on the University campus.

The facilities are the Knowledge Commons (KC) and the 24 Hour Reading Room. The Knowledge Commons has 150 computers and is located on the ground floor of the East Wing of the Balme Library.

The “24-Hour Reading Room” located on the fourth floor of the Balme Library has a seating capacity of 200 and to be supervised by trained security-men.



The University Librarian, Professor Ellis Badu among other things stressed the role of the library in meeting the challenges facing students due to the growth in the numbers.

The Guest Speaker at the function was Dr. Mrs. Helena Asamoah-Hassan, the University

Librarian of the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology, Kumasi.



She congratulated the management of the University of Ghana for blazing the trail with the Knowledge Commons facility which features access to the internet, the online catalogue, journal databases, access to KEWL, MS Office software, typing tutor software, printing and scanning facilities.

A postgraduate student Mr. Edwin Adika thanked the library and the University for establishing the two facilities to enhance quality education.



In attendance were the past and present university librarians from Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology, University of Cape Coast, and University of Ghana, as well as students, workers and alumni of University of Ghana.

TRAINING SESSIONS (CPD)

MARC 21 WORKSHOP.

The Education, Research & Training Committee of the GLA with sponsorship from Goethe-

Institute Ghana organized a 2-day training workshop on MARC 21 at the Balme Library University of Ghana on the 29th and 30th of September 2011.



The resource person was Ms. Mary Arkoful. There were 45 participants from libraries all over the country.



The University Librarian - Professor Ellis Badu, the Goethe-Institute representative - Mr. Kingsley Nii Addy, the President - Mr. Albert K.A. Fynn and Chairperson of the Education, Research & Training Committee of the Association - Mrs. P. Dadzie took turns to welcome participants and talked on the need for continuous professional education/training.

The two day workshop engaged participants through discussions, practical written exercises, lectures and the formation of a focal group on MARC 21. Participants were taken through various aspects and concepts of MARC 21.

Participants were given certificates of participation at the end of the second day.

IRC/GLA SEMINAR

**TOPIC: EFFECTIVE LIBRARY
MANAGEMENT: MOVING FORWARD IN
THE 21ST CENTURY**

**VENUE: AMERICAN CORNER, LECIAD,
UNIVERSITY OF GHANA**

**DATE: 11TH MAY 2011
TIME: 9.30AM TO 12:00PM**

The Public Affairs Section of the United States Embassy, Accra in collaboration with the Education and Research Committee of the Ghana Library Association held a one-day seminar on the theme “Effective Library Management: moving forward in the 21st Century.”

There were thirty-eight (38) participants at this seminar. Thirty-five (35) of them were GLA members whilst three (3) others were information representatives from the field of Education.

Three main speakers, Miss Myra Brown, Mr. B. East both from the Public Affairs Section, Information and Resource Centre and Mr. Guy Amarteifio from Ghana Library Board set the tone for the seminar.

Miss Brown mentioned that the seminar was supposed to be a brainstorming session to explore how to move information provision forward in Ghana in the 21st Century. Mr. East briefly spoke on the ABCs of grant proposal writing and shared with participants his

views on winning proposals.

Mr. Amarteifio spoke on the activities of Ghana Library Board and mentioned the efforts the Board has been making with its mobile library service.

All presentations generated interesting questions and contribution. In order to know how well the library is doing, two library users from the University of Ghana were given the platform to share their opinion on library services as well as their expectation of libraries. Their submissions informed participants about the need to create more awareness about the services rendered by libraries.

Participants then got into working groups to deliberate on four main topics namely:

Group A : Raising the image of libraries and the information profession/Customer service - presented by Mrs. Theodosia Adanu (Balme Library).

The summary of this discussion was that librarians must make themselves visible in their institutions and in the nation by being creative and innovative. A number of practical suggestions were made to this end. It was reiterated that libraries ought to be user-centered and flexible in order to remain relevant. To achieve this it was mentioned that there was a need for regular user surveys which would inform library services.

Group B : Funding sources – presented by Mrs. Theresa Adu (Wisconsin Int. Univ. College Library)

This group identified current sources of funding sources and listed them as government, private funding and donor support. They also encouraged libraries to form partnerships with institutions with mutual interest and to submit proposals to them for funding.

Group C : Social networking and how to use them – presented by Miss Alice Achampong (GIMPA Library)

An imaginary website: WATZUP CORNER@FACEBOOK was presented by this group. They selected current affairs as the theme and gave examples of the type of information that can be featured at this site. These include:

- institutional information (eg., "Third shift" in library management as currently practiced at UCC library during exams period (most libraries run two shifts);
- local information (eg. ban on noise making);
- national information (eg. third force in NDC);
- regional information (recent unrest in Cote D'Ivoire, Libya, Egypt, Nigeria, Uganda, Malawi)
- international information (death of Bin Laden, Microsoft buys Skype).

Group D : Technology needs of staff and how to encourage key staff members – Mac Antony Cobblah (Methodist University College Library)

This group mentioned that library staff need to be proactive in learning to use technology as this tool has become part and parcel of our work. Training in the use of technology should also be given to everyone instead of a few selected staff members.

The presentations were lively and interesting. Participants were encouraged to continue with the debate in their various institutions. One recommendation which came out was for participants to communicate frequently with each other through emails and other modern technological devices.

The host organizer, Miss Rita Boateng thanked participants for their presence and active participation and looked forward to more

collaboration with the Ghana Library Association. The seminar ended at 1:00pm

Submitted: Mrs. Perpetua Dadzie
Chairperson: Education & Research Committee.

EDITORS' FORUM BY MS. K. LARYEA

A five-day workshop on editing, with the theme *Effective editing for clear communication*, was organized by Step Publishers, under the auspices of Media International Associates.

The Editor-in-chief of the *GLJ*, Dr. Agyei and the Editor of the *GLN*, Mr. Samuel B Aggrey attended with sponsorship from the GLA. The Secretary's participation was sponsored by the University of Cape Coast Library.

The course content ranged from punctuation, the need to mentor authors and editors, managing the author-editor-publisher relationship and the need for documenting transactions. There was a panel discussion on the ethical and legal issues in the book industry which are often glossed over and have become the bane to the local book industry.

Mr. Martin Manser, a reference book editor and language trainer from the United Kingdom was the main facilitator. Mrs. Agatha Akonnor-Mills, a free-lance editor, and the local facilitator, shared her experiences in the field of editing.

REGIONAL NEWS

THE EASTERN REGION SENIOR HIGH SCHOOLS LIBRARY ASSOCIATION (ERSHSLA): IT'S SUCCESSES AND CHALLENGES

The Eastern Region Senior High Schools' Library Association (ERSHSLA) is an Association of Senior High and Technical schools in the Eastern region of Ghana. The Association consists of members who are basically representatives of the various second

cycle institutions in the region.

The Association was inaugurated on 26th October, 2007 through the initiative of the former Eastern Regional Director of Education, Mrs Ewura-Abena Ahwoi and the Librarian of the Eastern Regional Education Office, Mr. Christopher Kwame Filson.

The main objective of this Association is to see to the well being of school libraries in the Eastern Region.

VISION

The vision is to provide ideas that are fundamental to the effective utilization of school libraries.

MISSION

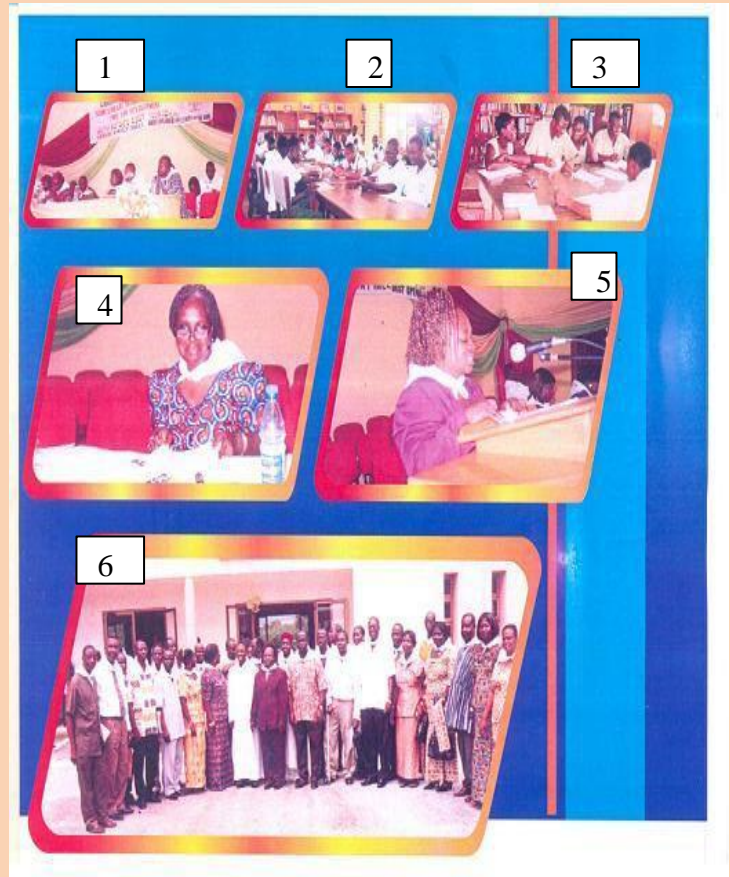
The mission is to bring together library staff as well as all who matter, in order to exchange and share ideas that will promote, raise and sustain the standard of school libraries to the level that will ensure the success of the teaching and learning process in schools.

SUCSESSES OF THE ASSOCIATION

Though it was not an easy task getting everyone to see the need for the formation of the Association, with the consent of the majority of Heads of second cycle institutions, the ball was set rolling. Consequently, a committee was set up to draft a constitution, which was debated upon and accepted as the constitution of the Association.

The primary task of the executives was to have the Association inaugurated. With nothing in our coffers, it became necessary to levy schools in the region, to fund this activity. Even though many schools defaulted, with the judicious use of the little resources at our disposal, we got the Association inaugurated. The inauguration was attended by the Founders, Mrs. Ewura-Abena Ahwoi and Mr. Christopher Kwame Filson, Former New Juaben Municipal Chief Executive, Nana Agyei Boateng, the then Deputy Eastern

Regional Director of Education, Mrs Maristella Djentuh, District Directors of Education in the Eastern Region, Representatives from Ghana Library Board, Koforidua branch, members of the Association and students.



Picture No. 1 some invited Guest at the inaugural ceremony. Picture No, 2 & 3 some school libraries in the region. Picture No. 4 Mrs. Ewura-Abena Ahwoi, the Founder of the Association, Picture No. 5 Miss Alice Gaba, the President of the Association, Picture No. 6 some invited Guest and Members of the Association.

To create the awareness of the existence of school libraries, the Association declared the last week of the month October as LIBRARY WEEK. During the LIBRARY WEEK celebrations members organize the following activities; reading competition, writing competition, debate, poetry recitals, storytelling,

games, give talk on the theme for the celebration, clean up exercises among other in their respective schools. Through the effort of the Association and the Eastern Regional Directorate of Education, Library Committee has been formed in every school in the region. On 1st December, 2011 the Association organised a seminar for members during which participants were taken through preservation, classification and cataloging of library materials.

CHALLENGES

Lack of funds as a result of low payment of annual dues is the major limitation of the Association, because of this it was agreed upon during a general meeting held on 15th January, 2010 that heads of institutions must be prepared to pay dues because of the following reasons;

The Association consists of members who are basically representatives of the various schools. The dues from the schools are the primary source of funding through which the Association operates.

Also, lack of support for the library staff has been one of the challenges. Some heads of schools are unwilling to sponsor their library staff to meetings let alone assist them implement programmes of the Association.

THE WAY FORWARD

The following are our dreams;

(1) To organize series of refresher courses for members.

(2) To equip our future secretariat with a computer and its accessories, photocopy machine and a secretary to manage it.

(3) To enter into publication of magazines, newsletters etc.

It is our prayer that God will turn these dreams into reality as we put in the necessary effort to see to the effective utilization of our school libraries, for the benefit of our students, teachers,

library staff, mother Ghana and to the greater glory of God.

By
CHRISTOPHER KWAME FILSON, LIBRARIAN
EASTERN REGIONAL EDUCATION
OFFICE, KOFORIDUA
&
ALICE GABA, PRESIDENT OF
ERSHSLA TEACHER –NEW JUABEN SENIOR
HIGH SCHOOL, KOFORIDUA

REPORT ON "ACCRA READS"

**BY GHANA LIBRARY ASSOCIATION
COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE, MS DORA
ALLOTEY**

INTRODUCTION

"Accra Reads" "creating leaders through reading" was the slogan. The programme aims at encouraging pupils and students to take reading as part of their everyday life in order to be in the lead among their peers.

PROGRAMME

The programme which is the second of its kind was organized by the Goethe Institute. It was launched at the Arts Centre in Accra and the reading took place at Accra Central Library, Nima Community Library, Salvation Army Church and Madina Queen of Peace Catholic Church respectively.

Day 1

This year's ACCRA READS started on the 6th of October, 2011 with a procession from the Light House in Accra Central precisely James Town to Arts Centre by three hundred school children selected from ten public schools in the district by the Ministry of Education's personnel in-charge of the schools. They bore placards on which were written "parents, buy us books to read", "reading develops our lives", "Mummy, Daddy buy me a story book on my birthday" etc. There was

Police escort amid brass band music.

At the Arts Centre the programme was launched by the Guest of Honour in the person of Prof. T. Acquah-Hayford. In the chair was Hon. Nii Tackie-Komey and also present was the Director of Goethe Institute, Robert Soberto, Mr. Guy Amarteifio, Ms Allotey and representatives from all the stakeholders including music celebrities in the persons of Paapa Yankson, Ayigbe Edem, Asem, and Reggie Rockstone.

Day 2

The second day of "ACCRA READS" was 7th October, 2011. There was a reading session at the Ghana Library Board Exhibition Hall with the celebrities reading to the school children after which there was interaction between them and the school children. The story book used at all the venues is a book entitled "Between Sisters" written by Adwoa Badoe

Day3

The third day on "ACCRA READ" was 14th October, 2011. It was held at the Nima Community Library with a reading session by the celebrities and three hundred school children selected from ten public schools from that area.

Day 4

Day four was at the Salvation Army Church at Mamprobi on 21st October, 2001. There were also three hundred school children chosen from ten public schools from that district, this time some of the children read and interaction was very good.

Day 5

The final day for "ACCRA READS" was 28th October, 2011. The programme was held at the Queen of Peace Catholic Church at Madina with

three hundred school children from ten public schools.

CONCLUSION

The whole programme was successful and improved each day. It is a good idea for Librarians getting to the public but not to sit in their comfort zone and wait for the reader to come to them at the library. It is also a way of creating awareness of reading and its importance to the society.

FREE E-RESOURCES

These are free e-resources to enhance our work of gathering and sharing information.

<http://www.doaj.org>

<http://journaltoocs.hw.ac.uk>

<http://www.icast.org.in/ejournal/ejournal.php>

<http://ipl.org>

<http://infomine.ucr.edu>

<http://vlib.org> <http://www.eldis.org>

<http://www.scienceupdate.com/index.php>

Members who know other sites can make it known to others through this section.

JOKES, JOKES, JOKES

An elderly man visits a house to look for an old time childhood friend. He knocks at the door and a teenager boy opens the door.

Oldman: Sorry, am looking for old Tim.

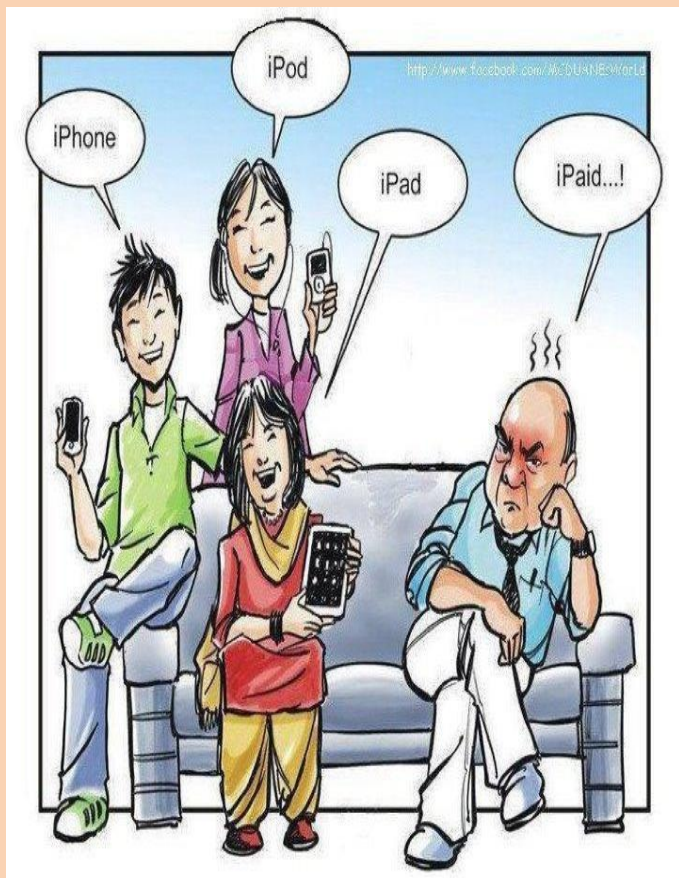
Teenager: Sorry and old Tim do not live here.

Oldman: where is your **grammar** and

Teenager: my **grandma** is upstairs

Oldman: see you.

Apologies to the older and non-I.T. compliant generation if offended.



DO YOU KNOW WHERE THIS KEEP FIT GROUP TRAINS? ...





***OR YOU ARE A MEMBER??? DO YOU
EXERCISE AT ALL?***

***PUBLISHED BY
GHANA LIBRARY ASSOCIATION
P. O. BOX GP 4105
ACCRA***

Designed by S. B. Aggrey

Next Issue: Coming Soon, So Please..

Send your inputs [sbagrey@chs.edu.gh](mailto:sbaggrey@chs.edu.gh)

Thank you.