

No. 2 2014

MAKWENZEKE

Free Audio & Braille Book Services for the sight impaired



95
YEARS
1919 - 2014

An agency of the
Department of Arts and Culture



Celebrating 95 Years

South African Library for the
Blind celebrated **95** years!

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Audio Volunteers, we salute you!

It is that time when we look back at the years and wonder where the time has gone. Upon reflecting back, the South African Library for the Blind (SALB) would like to acknowledge the valuable contribution made by our dedicated silent partners: the volunteers.

Although the SALB is a state funded organisation, we rely heavily on our volunteers to assist us to produce audio books for our library. The majority of our volunteers do not get paid for assisting the audio production section and some have been doing it for more than 20 years.

The Audio Production Section would like to express our sincere gratitude and thanks to all our audio volunteers, who painstakingly and dedicatedly assisted us over the past years. Special thanks to Jeremy Riches who has reached 270 books this year; Freda Visser who reached narrating 200 books in 2014; Anne Eales who is currently narrating her 180th book for SALB; Jane Osborne who just narrated her 170th book; Caryl Oosthuizen who has been volunteering at the SALB since 1997; Aman Bloom who reached narrating 100 books for SALB in 2014; Cecél le Roux also narrated 100 books for SALB in 2014; John Ennis and John Judd both reached 70

books in 2014. Some of the names also worth mentioning, who also made a big difference in audio production are: Vink Roux, who narrated 405 books; Thamsanqa Kobe; Patricia Elston; Potlako Leballo; Peter Pienaar; Marion Swift; Fenji Materechera to name but a few.

To each and every other person not mentioned who assisted us in any way to produce audio material for our visually impaired members, we want to say thank you from the bottom of our hearts!

What is volunteering?

According to the free web based Encyclopaedia named Wikipedia: Volunteering is generally considered an altruistic activity and is intended to promote goodness or improve human quality of life. In return, this activity can produce a feeling of self-worth and respect. There is no financial gain involved for the individual. Volunteering is also renowned for skill development, socialization, and fun. Volunteering may have positive benefits for the volunteer as well as for the person or community served.



Thamsanqa
Kobe



Helen
Crawford



Jeremy
Riches



Anne
Eales



Jessica
Williams



Patricia
Elston



Jane
Osborne



Potlako
Leballo



Aman
Bloom



Fenji
Materechera



John
Ennis



Tumi
Sebopela



Vink
Roux

Donation for National Book Week

Displaying true team work



Our Braille Section printed 39 titles (94 volumes) which were donated to Pioneer School in Worcester for National Book Week. The Section managed to complete this task in a very short space of time, completing all these Braille books in just 3 short days. This task included the printing, binding, perforating, Braille labels and spine labels, as well as checking before and after printing. They even worked during lunch breaks to complete this huge and urgent job.

The entire Braille Section including some staff from the Library Services and Administration Section assisted to ensure the deadline was met. This dedicated and loyal team worked together resulting in another task well done, thus making a difference and adding value to the lives of visually impaired people.

SALB REACHES OUT TO SCHOOLS

to ensure that correct Braille standards are followed

During the months of June and September the Braille Consultant visited four schools for the blind. The schools visited were Khanyisa in the Eastern Cape, Sibonile in Gauteng, Pioneer in the Western Cape and Silindokuhle in Mpumalanga. The purpose of the visit was to provide support and monitor the use of Braille at schools and ensure that the correct Braille standards are followed.

Despite difficulties around Braille production, it was gratifying to observe the passion amongst some educators at schools for the blind. Braille is taught in accordance with the Braille standard. However, attention is needed with regard to producing Braille in accordance with the Unified Braille Code.

Furthermore the visits to schools presented the Consultant with an excellent opportunity to promote the services of SALB.



Technical Services

In the Technical Workshop the most often reported faults occurring on the Victor Reader Digital Audio Book players, are faulty batteries.



Following closely on this are faulty chargers and CD Rom drives. Fortunately we do not experience as many problems with these as with the more than 150 batteries that were replaced during last quarter. Amongst all these faults experienced with the players, we find that battery replacements are still the most frequent repair that needs to be attended to. Having to import these batteries is definitely not a cheap exercise for the Library - the weight of the batteries incurs high freight charges from the

United Kingdom, amounting to almost as much as the new purchase price of the batteries themselves.

The National Department of Public Works (NDPW) has finally agreed to the upgrade and extension of the Library's facilities. The Library had to submit updated needs assessments and norms documents and will have to initiate a fresh budgeting exercise with the Department of Arts and Culture. An NDPW architect has visited the Library and will soon produce plans to improve workflow in the library.

*I am only one,
but still
I AM ONE
I cannot do
everything, but still
I CAN DO
SOMETHING.
and because I
cannot do everything,
I will not refuse to
do something that
I CAN DO.*

Hellen Keller

On the morning of the 22nd of September, Godfrey Wessels, the Department's longest serving Technician passed away. He was at the Library for 26 years and will be sorely missed. He was both a hard worker and a good friend. Rest in Peace our dear colleague.



Human Resources

On the Human Resource front, things were quite eventful with the appointment of new staff as well as the implementation of a very successful Apprenticeship Programme aimed at blind and visually impaired learners. There were also staff members that left our employment over the above period due to different reasons.



New appointments

On the 1st of June 2014, Ms Patricia Kemka started at the Library as a Trainee Brailist. Prior work experience on her part includes 28 years of service at another institution rendering a service to the blind. 12 years experience was as a Proofreader and 16 as a Data Typist.

Ms Neli Kaunda was appointed at the Library on 1st of May 2014 in the position of Snr Manager: Library and Information Services. Ms Kaunda holds a Masters Degree in Science in Library Services; a Post Graduate Diploma in Business Management; a Senior Secondary Teachers Diploma and Bachelor of Education. She also completed a Practical Project Management Programme. She has a great deal of Training, Library and Library Management experience.

Mr Yasheen Ramcharan was appointed as the new Chief Financial Officer at the Library during Oct 2014. He holds a Bachelor of Accounting Science, was a member of the Institute of Municipal Finance Officers and past Executive Member (Treasurer) of the KZN branch. He completed a number of Management courses including an Advanced

Management Development Programme. He has more than 15 years financial experience.

Ms Lindiwe Chirwa was employed during May 2014 as a Library Project Coordinator in KwaZulu Natal. This is a contract post funded by the Department of Sports Arts and Culture in KwaZulu Natal. She holds a Masters in Education Sociology and also completed an Advanced Certificate course in School Librarianship and Management. She has experience as Teacher, School Librarian and Lay Counsellor to mention some of her roles.

Outgoing staff

Staff members who left our employment are Mr Garth Wilson (CFO), Ms Kimenisha May and Ms Collette Cobus. Mr Wilson left to attend to urgent personal matters after being in the position of Chief Financial Officer at the Library for 1 year. Ms May vacated her position as Braille Consultants Assistant after being at the Library for 7 years. Ms Cobus had to end her service for medical reasons after 22 years of service. Our best wishes accompany those staff members who left our employment.

Apprenticeship Programme

In terms of the apprenticeship programme launched at the Library during this year, we are excited to report that one blind and one visually impaired learner came to the Library over the period 6 to 10 October 2014. They were taken through each of the Sections of the Library (from Reception, through Finance, Human Resource, Audio and Braille Production, Braille Consultancy Services, Library Services and Technical Services) to expose them to the work being carried. They were afforded an opportunity to do some functions themselves and also to ask questions.

At the end of the programme, the apprentices were interviewed and asked to comment on their experience during the programme. They were very excited and said that it meant a great deal to them. Our own staff also believe that it was a huge success and worthwhile programme. The library intends to proceed with this successful programme.

Celebrating 95 Years

South African Library for the Blind celebrated **95** years!

The South African Library for the Blind – the only library of its kind on the African continent – turned 95 this year. The celebrations kicked off with the unveiling of a commemorative 1919 plaque in January.

Founded in 1919 with a collection of 100 Braille works, the library now has its own Braille printing press, and is amongst the world leaders in the production and distribution of audio books, according to board chair Dr William Rowland.

The initial collection was donated by British nurse, Eleanor Comber. On her return to England at the end of 1918, she persuaded Miss Josie Wood to take charge of the 100 Braille books and pamphlets, which she had acquired from England, to start a library

service. From those small foundations has grown one of the biggest free library services for the blind in the world.

While the historical roots are in Grahamstown, The South African Library for the Blind is a national library with over 5000 members. In order to serve the reading needs of the visually impaired



throughout South Africa, the library's postage room handles +- 123 000 items per year. The collection of 10 000 Braille books and 13 000 audio books grows monthly.

The Library also celebrated its anniversary through 2 other events. Four staff members exhibited the work of SALB at the SA Book Fair that was held during June 2014 in Cape Town. 600 people visited the library's stand. In addition to this, SALB hosted the first ever Art Exhibition by blind people as part of the National Arts Festival that took place in Grahamstown during July 2014. Interested visitors that attended this exhibition totalled 610. These visitors were privileged to view the unique works of blind authors and musicians as well as photography, craft works and various paintings on display.



SALB 95 Years highlights

SOUTH AFRICAN LIBRARY FOR THE BLIND

1918: The South African Library for the Blind was founded after a meeting between Miss Josephine Ethel Wood and Miss Eleanor Comber, a lady missionary from England. When Miss Comber was recalled to England at the end of 1918 she persuaded Miss Wood to take charge of the 100 Braille books and pamphlets she had brought with her from England and to start a library service.

1919: Miss Wood officially started circulating Braille books early in 1919 using a room in her home "Woodbourne" as a library. There were no shelves on which to place the books and very little funds available, yet the number of readers increased, so the Library provided a service and circulated books.

1923: At the end of 1923 a Library Committee was appointed to give the Library official status and to extend the service. During this year the Cape Provincial Council made the first public grant to the Library when they donated £100.

1925: The Bannerman bequest enabled the Council to buy an old building in High Street and have it transformed into a Library which was opened in August by Advocate R.W. Bowen. By now the number of readers has increased to 150 and the Braille book collection housed 2000 titles.

1927: The Braille collection grew to 2 161 titles. Membership grew by 36 and the total number of readers stood at 176. Fund-raising remained important and subscriptions and donations received came to £194 for the year and the financial position was considered to be sound.

1928: The library was represented at the South African Library Conference, in Bloemfontein and it was recommended that the Union Government make an annual grant of £500 to extend the transcription of works into English, Afrikaans and the "principal Bantu languages".

1929: Money was set aside for the special purpose of purchasing Afrikaans Braille school reading books from Worcester. 16 volumes were bought for which the library paid the cost of material, dictation of the book, proof-reading and binding.

1930: This was a sound financial year: a grant was received from the Carnegie Corporation which allowed the library to pay off its bond of £1200. Grants were also received from the Government, the Provincial Council and the National Council for the Blind.

1933: Readers made their own choice of books from the Braille and Moon catalogues. The Music catalogue was completed. Members enquired about "Talking Books", which were a combination of an electric gramophone and a wireless set, compact enough to be carried in a suit case.

1934: Postal rates were reduced and material weighing 3lbs cost a half-penny. Transcribers conformed to the new "Standard English Braille" and four books about South Africa were Brailled, as were two in Afrikaans. Four new transcribers completed their training.

1936: Talking Books appeared on the scene in 1936 in the form of discs. Special grants were made to the SALB by St Dunstan's and the S A National Council for the Blind. During this year the Robert Godolnton Wing was converted to provide more space.

1937: Miss Josie Wood received the Coronation Medal in recognition of her work in connection with the library. Transcribers concentrated on building up an Africana section.

1938: The three other Provinces made grants to the library. 37 members make use of the "Talking Books"

1939: Because of war risks at sea, the library experienced difficulty in borrowing material, which supplemented their own collection, from the National Library, London. The popularity of the "Talking Books" increased and 10,500 records were circulated.

1941: A grant was received from the Social Welfare Department. Training of transcribers was temporarily discontinued as writing machines were difficult to obtain and the paper shortage was acute.

1942: The library received its first Afrikaans double sided record "Droogte" by A-H Jonker, produced by Messrs. Gallo & Co.

1944: With a collection of 10 000 books, the need for more storage space became urgent and extra funds for a building scheme were discussed. A donation of the Gospels of St Mark and St Luke in Xhosa Braille were received.

1945: There was a need for more Afrikaans books and

sighted transcribers were offered 3 pence a sheet and non-sighted transcribers 4½ pence per sheet.

1946: Reorganisation of the library was undertaken. One of the two remaining flats were taken over and the Talking Book Department moved upstairs and a lift installed. The remaining downstairs space was utilised for Braille books. Automatic fire extinguishers were installed throughout the building. The Council offered an amount of £1000 for the production of Afrikaans Talking Books, possibly in America or England as production had been a failure in this country.

1947: A valuation of property was done and the value of the building and ground was doubled from £1 230 to £2 460.

1948: At the Annual General Meeting the Mayor suggested that a special appeal be made to all municipalities as the library served a "national purpose". It was decided to send out the Annual Report to all municipalities. Expenses rose as the subscription of £5 p.a. paid to the National Library for the Blind, London, for books borrowed, was, on request increased to 10 shillings per head for the 49 readers using their books on loan.

1950: By 1950 the number of readers receiving books from the Library had grown to 450.

1951: An exhibition on the history and activities of the library was mounted at the S A Library Association in Cape Town. Books were sent to the National Institute for the Blind, London, to be bound as materials obtained were poor and books were broken at the first posting.

1952: Once again, lack of space became an issue, the remaining tenanted flat was taken over and plans for extending the back of the building were drawn up. Technology improved and Talking Book reader's were supplied with longer lasting sapphire needles and had to return their pick-up heads each time a new needle was required.

1953: Free postage on all reading material for the Blind was announced by the postal authorities. The Library now had seven members of staff.

1954: Eight English transcribers produced 87 volumes and three Afrikaans transcribers copied 28 volumes from books borrowed from Worcester. The building extension was completed in July at a cost of £3 325. The number of Municipalities from whom grants were received increased to 25.

1955: At last the shelving was completed and the new extension was officially opened. A second wheelbarrow had to be bought to cope with the increased loads of books and records which were going out. A total of 40 magazines were available to readers, of which one was a bilingual magazine from Worcester and to which the library contributed £20 p.a. for its production.

1957: The Royal National Institute for the Blind in England informed the library about the new technology in the medium of multitrack tape and a cost effective "reproducing machine" of simple design which would become available if the field tests were to be successful. Fibre cases, costing 9 shillings each, for packing records became available in South Africa, 400 were bought and more ordered.

1958: An agreement was made with the Braille Transcription Bureau of SABWO that the library's Afrikaans transcribers would work through the Bureau. 30 new A. C. model machines were received from England. The results of field tests were still being awaited before a decision could be taken on whether tape recordings as well as disc recordings would be stocked.

1959: Staff increased to 9. The library paid homage to Louis Braille by contributing to a fund to maintain his home at Couvray, France, as a permanent memorial.

1960: The Closed cassette talking book playback Machine (produced by RNIB) was demonstrated and it was envisaged that £116 per reader would have to be budgeted for to provide each reader with the new player and four cassettes,



if the new system were to be implemented.

1961: It was emphasised at the AGM that the library would have to introduce books on tape in future and that Braille books in "Bantu" languages would have to be provided. The 100th Afrikaans Braille book was received.

1962: Talking books on cassette produced by Clarke & Smith replaced the old hard disc system on the MK1 player.

1963: The van Schalkwyk Wing was added, named after Dr L van Schalkwyk, Chairman of the S A National Council for the Blind from 1952 - 1961.

1964: The Talking Book Copying Machine which had been purchased at the cost of £6 000 was improved with the substitution of a new motor and production was speeded up as more Master tapes became available.

1965: Miss Josie Wood, founder and Honorary Secretary, died and Miss E.M. Spurling was appointed as Librarian and Secretary.

1966: The Josie Wood Wing was completed to house the Braille Collection.



1967: The number of readers served had by now grown to 750.

1968: On 1 March the Library was declared a Cultural Institution and National Library for the Blind. One month later a Library Council was appointed by the Minister of National Education. The first compact Clarke & Smith cassettes were circulated by the Library [MK IV]

1969: Mr D.E. Schauder was appointed Director. On 16 July the Library had its Golden Jubilee general meeting at which Mr William Rowland was the guest speaker. A National Seminar on the Library needs and study problems of Visually Handicapped students was held at Rhodes University from 16 - 18 July.

1973: Mr D E Schauder resigned.

1974: Mr P J A de Villiers was appointed as Director. Mr de Villiers was known to have taken an active part in International relations. Together with David Shumacher, Mr de Villiers produced an International publication on cataloguing rules for material for the Blind.

1976: The MK1 players were finally phased out. Bibliographic service to readers improved with the production of an annotated English Braille Catalogue, an annotated list of MKIV cassette books in English and an annotated list of Braille periodicals. The Inter-Library Loans Service for Tertiary students was greatly expanded.

1977: The supply of MKIV cassette players was at last sufficient to supply the needs of all audio book readers.

1978: In twelve years the Library's bookstock, staff and readership more than doubled and active steps were taken to purchase a suitable property for much needed expansion. The guest speaker was Miss Hazel Smith, a member of Council who spoke on her visits to Canada and the United States.

1979: The Library celebrated its Diamond Jubilee with Minister P Koomhof as guest speaker.

1980: Miss Spurling retired. Mr de Villiers died in October.

1981: Mr N.J. Snyman was appointed as Director.

1982: The Mary Spurling Cassette Library opened in August in the newly renovated building next door. This was also the year of the first exchange of SALB produced Braille books with the Royal National Institute for the Blind.

1983: Bannerman House was renovated and re planned to accommodate the Braille Library, Braille Production, Bibliographic Information Services, Student Services and Management Services.

1984: The National Union Catalogue for the Blind and Print Handicapped had expanded to such an extent that it was

decided to computerize and it was subsequently linked up with the National Library Network SABINET.

1985: In June the new Audio book 4 Track cassette system came into operation. The Library decided to convert its own 2/4 Track Audio Cassette Players. The Audio Book catalogue was computerized. A Braille Transcribers Conference was held in July with two workshops for Audio Production and Bibliographic Information running concurrently.

1986: Braille readers exceeded 1000. The revised edition of the Braille Transcribers Manual was completed. Staff increased to 40 permanent and 72 volunteers. The Library's first home recording on 4 Track was completed. A record number of 9 transcribers passed the transcribers' examination.

1988: A new financial dispensation called Framework Autonomy was announced by the Department of National Education and implemented at the Library. The number of mini audio libraries in public libraries increased to 27. The Audio Library membership exceeded 1200 with circulation figures reaching 6000 audio books per month. The computerization of the Braille catalogue was completed.

1989: To print-handicapped readers, the main event on the international scene was the integration of library services for print-handicapped readers with the regular library service. The Library now holds a collection of some 15000 titles and during the year 110 000 books and magazines were circulated to 3500 readers.

1991: The most important item on the agenda for 1991 was the restructuring and extending of the SALB building complex. The project commenced during November of 1991 and was completed by mid 1993.

1992: During 1992 two production units one for Audio book narration and one for Braille book transcription were phased in, where prior to 1992 they never were an integral part of the service. This step opened the road to book production for the Library for in the past the SALB had always been dependant on outside units for almost 70% of the required stock.

1993: In May the Library moved into the new Blindlib complex. The service continued to grow in both Audiolib and Braillelib, and Computerising the circulation became a reality. The production of Xhosa books took off, with 44 being produced and more to come. A great demand for books for blind black children in schools, in rural areas, was identified and collections of audio and Braille books were introduced to these institutions.

1994: Stylis, the new Integrated Library system and barcoded stock resulted in the circulation soaring with 205811 books going out from both libraries. BONA, the popular magazine for black readers was produced on audio cassette and enthusiastically received.

1995: In a changing South Africa the purely Recreational function was expanded to an Educational function. Emphasis was placed on literature reflecting the culture, history and politics of South Africa. The number of books circulated increased by 45000 titles, the biggest increase in the 77 years that the library has been in existence. The libraries had a combined collection of ± 19 300 book titles and 83 magazines. CD-ROM's were introduced allowing Infolib to introduce a Ready-Reference service with output in both Braille and audio.

1996: Less titles were being bought from overseas production units as the Library concentrated on literature, writers and languages of Africa. To increase Audio production, a decision was taken to remunerate narrators.



1997: Daisy, the library's new digital audio book research project, which would allow blind reader's random access to their books, was launched.

1998: The S.A. Library for the Blind has finally been separated as a National Library Service with its own act. no 91 of 1998. The Blindlib book collection one of the best in the world and the biggest in Africa stood at 22114 titles. Membership continued to grow and counted just over 7000 with 98 mini audio libraries in public libraries. The African Seminar on Library Services for the Blind was held in Grahamstown and hosted by the library in collaboration with IFLA, International Federation for library Associations: Section libraries for the Blind.

2004: The Library started with the production of Digital Audio books in the Daisy format. This started the process of

producing audio titles directly in digital format and to convert the analog tape collection of more than 12,000 titles into digital.

2005: Braille SA adopted the Uniform English Braille Code in line with many other English speaking countries. The SALB also adopted the code which is unique as the decision has resulted in having to adapt the codes of the ten other South African language to this standard as well.



2006: Advocate Johan Roos resigns as Director of the Library due to family reasons and Mr. Francois Hendrikz is appointed as the new Director.

2006: General renovations to the building to the value of R1.3 million started.

2007: The library embarked on a re-alignment process to establish a sound organisational, post-grading and remuneration structure and to establish itself as an employer offering competitive remuneration packages and career development to staff.

2007: The library hosted a satellite conference on behalf of the Libraries for the Blind Section in Grahamstown. This was part of the annual International Federation of Library Association conference hosted by South Africa for the first time. The Satellite Conference was attended by more than 100 delegates from 35 local and international organizations.

2007: The Library launched its first digital MiniLib at Mdantsane, Buffalo City, East London. Funding for the project was provided by the Raith Foundation. This facility enables blind and visually impaired people to access a computer with reading material on it as well as borrow Daisy reading devices and books

2007: The Library acquired the property in 1 Hemming Street for future accommodation needs. Funding for the acquisition was made available from the Department of Arts & Culture.

2008: A new library board is inaugurated by the Minister of Arts & Culture, Dr. Pallo Jordan. The Chairman of the Board is Judge Zak Yacoob.



2008: The library produces its first tactile books for preschool children. This initiative was done as a skills development and job opportunity project in collaboration with GADRA. Unemployed women from disadvantaged background were trained in the production techniques and produced 2 titles and 20 copies each.

2008: The Library successfully negotiated a Copyright License Agreement with the Publishers Association of South Africa. The SALB will sign this License Agreement with individual publishers in South Africa. This allows the library to reproduce audio and Braille material without any of the normal administrative requirements involved when obtaining copyright clearance. This is a major step forward in reproducing reading material in a shorter space of time.

2008: The Director visited the National Library Services for the Blind and Physically Handicapped (NLS) in Washington, Canadian National Institute for the Blind in Toronto and the annual IFLA conference in Quebec, Canada. The SALB is also a member of a Steering Committee tasked to draft a proposal for the establishment of the Global Library for the Blind.

2008: The Library signed a contract with Media24 to access their server to download the Huisgenoot magazine. A pilot compilation product was distributed to a sample group of users to get their opinions for improvement before introducing it to the rest of the library's members.

2009: The Library celebrated its 90th anniversary during 2009. As part of the celebrations the name of the Library building was changed to the Josie Wood building. The name was unveiled during a small ceremony together with the unveiling of the signage with the name of the Library in



isiXhosa as well as the Braille version of the name.

2009: The Library new logo was launched during 2009 depicting 5 elements, i.e. our focus on the people we serve, the material we produce, the importance of Braille and accessibility, our outreach efforts as well as what we receive from various organisations and lastly that we are a growing and developing organisation.

2009: The Library launches a digital mini-library project in partnership with the Provincial Government of the Eastern Cape. Staff of 7 public libraries received training, equipment and material.

2009: The Library launched its first Braille Newspaper project in collaboration with Grocotts' Mail.

2009: The Library assisted the Malwai College of Distance Education to set a Daisy Production unit. The Library also became part of an International Committee to develop a project proposal for the Global Accessible Library for the Blind.

2010: The Library launched a new and more accessible website (www.salb.org.za) and library members can for the first time access the Library's catalogue on their own and to download books from an supplier in the U.S.A.) The Library also became one the first South African Libraries with its own Facebook Page.

2010: The Library served 3,655 registered members.

2010: The Library produced training material for its Direct Braillists; Proofreaders; Copy Typist and Narrators to standardise training.

2010: The Library became a Steering Committee member of the Trusted Intermediary Global Accessible Resource (TIGAR) project under the auspices of the World Intellectual Property Organisation.

2011: The Library exhibited its products and services during a Namibian Education Consultative Conference in Namibia.

2011: The Library funded the participation of schools groups during the annual South African Book Week in Johannesburg which included, story telling and reading activities.

2011: The Director participated in a committee that was tasked to develop a Constitution for the establishment of the South African Braille Authority.

2011: The Director was elected Secretary and Treasurer of the Section Libraries Serving People with Print Disabilities which is part of the International Federation of Library Associations.

2012: The Library signed a Service Level Agreement for the third year with the Province of the Eastern Cape to make service points accessible for blind people in public Libraries. A similar Agreement was concluded with the Provinces of Mpumalanga and Kwa-Zulu Natal.

2012: The Library obtained funding to assist libraries at 21 schools for the blind across South Africa to provide them with basic library equipment and furniture.

2012: The Library exhibited at the Cape Town Book Fair.

2012: The Director visited the National Library of Namibia as part of an International Capacity Development Task Team to assist Namibia in setting up library services for blind people.





Seasons Greetings

Director's Christmas message

As we approach this Christmas season, with all the joy, excitement and merriment that is part of the tradition, it is my pleasure to extend Season's Greetings to all of the board members, stakeholders, friends, associates and partners of South African Library for the Blind.

Your support during 2014 has helped us on the journey to fulfil our Mission in bringing reading materials to the blind across South Africa and beyond.

We thank you for your support and endorsement of our efforts and together we look forward to making an even greater difference in many more lives in the new year.

We wish you a very happy holiday season and may your new year be filled with much joy, peace, prosperity and productivity!



*Joy
Peace
Prosperity*

blind people  **reading**

