

2010-2018

- Opening of New Branch Library buildings: Alexandria, Grange Hill, Brandon Hill, Clark's Town, Monymusk & Frankfield
- Grant funds received from the Jamaica National Building Society Foundation to support the early literacy programme *"We Likkle But We Tallawah: Parents Reading With Babies and Toddlers"*
- JLS received grant funding from CHASE for the development of Infant School Libraries at Cambridge, Alley, May Pen and Brown's Town
- JLS was the first Caribbean beneficiary of grant funds from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation to support the expansion of ICT capacity to impact the areas of digital inclusion and education.
- JLS was the beneficiary of grant funds from the Ministry of Industry, Commerce, Agriculture and Fisheries/Sugar Transformation Unit to support public and school library development in Sugar Dependent Areas
- As at March 2018 public library membership was **444,612**; the print and audiovisual collection totalled **650,803** items; home loans and reference consultations totalled **1,391,697**; ICT usage was over 1.6 million including wireless access; Library patron visits exceeded 2.6 million. Services were offered through 118 fixed library locations and 356 mobile library stops. Services were offered to 899 government school libraries.



Calendar of Events

MONTH	DATE	EVENT
JULY		National Reading Competition 30th Anniversary <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parish Finals & Prize-giving Ceremonies • Local Promotion & Celebration of Parish Champions
JULY - AUGUST		Annual Summer Programme
JULY - SEPTEMBER		<i>"Staff Conversations"</i>
AUGUST	22	National Reading Competition 30 th Anniversary Awards Ceremony
AUGUST	23	National Reading Competition 30 th Anniversary National Quiz Finals
AUGUST	25	Staff Fun Day
SEPTEMBER	21	Launch of Photography Competition <i>#Jamaicareadsinpictures</i>
SEPTEMBER	26	Public Dialogue: <i>Strengthening the JLS to Support Select SDGs</i> Launch of 70 th Anniversary Exhibition
OCTOBER	24	Symposium: <i>Heritage of Caribbean Children's and Young Adult Literature</i>
OCTOBER	31	Publication of 70 th Anniversary Commemorative Magazine
OCTOBER	31	<i>"Coffee and Conversations" (Open House)</i>
NOVEMBER	20	Staging of Children's Fine Amnesty and Membership Renewal (National Storytelling Day and Universal Children's Day)
NOVEMBER	24	National Reading Fair and Reading Flash Mob
DECEMBER	13	Long Service Awards (10 – 19 years)
MARCH	TBC	Long Service Awards (20 years and over) & Fundraiser Dinner

Vision

Our vision is to be a well resourced organization responsive to the needs of communities, enriching lives and contributing to national development.

Mission

The Jamaica Library Service exists to enable national development through the creation and support of a knowledge-based society of culturally aware lifelong learners by providing universal access to information. This will be achieved by being customer-focused and technology-enhanced; in an aesthetically pleasing environment; and by a well-trained, competent, motivated and empowered team

JAMAICA LIBRARY SERVICE

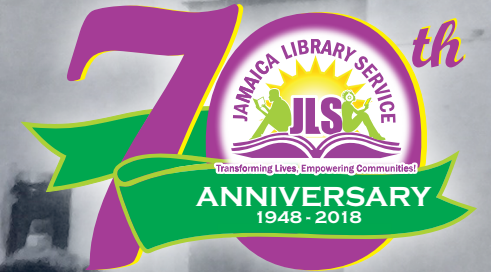
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SEVEN DECADES OF SERVICE 1948-2018

Historical Overview

The Jamaica Library Service (JLS), established in 1948, is an agency of the Ministry of Education, Youth and Information providing information, educational and recreational and digital programmes and services through a network of 118 fixed public library locations, 356 mobile library stops and 899 government school libraries.

The establishment of the JLS evolved from a partnership between the Government of Jamaica, the Institute of Jamaica and the British Council, acting on behalf of the Government of the United Kingdom. The framework for the establishment of this new system was A Library Plan for Jamaica prepared in 1945 by Miss Nora Bateson M.A., Director of Libraries in Nova Scotia, Canada. Small community libraries in Manchester (1938), St. Elizabeth (1944), St. James (1944), Westmoreland (1946) and St. Ann (1947) became the nucleus of the new institution. Mr. A.S.A Bryant (U.K.) became the first director (1948 – 1952).

The organizational framework and policy mandates were codified by the passing of the Jamaica Library Service Act in November 1949 with major amendments in 1961. The organization was established as a Statutory Body and managed at two levels through the Jamaica Library Board and Parish Library Committees. In 1952, the Jamaica Library Board was given the responsibility of administering a library service to schools on behalf of the then, Education Department, now Ministry of Education, Youth and Information. In 1989 The Ministry assumed full responsibility for the organization.

1940's

- Jamaica Library Service (JLS) began operations.
- Jamaica Library Service Law passed

1950's

- School Library Service established
- Parish Library Buildings constructed in St. James, St. Elizabeth, Westmoreland, Clarendon, St. Thomas, Portland, Kingston & St. Andrew, St. Ann to attain island coverage with the provision of a parish library in 13 parishes
- First Jamaican Director appointed – Mrs. Joyce Robinson
- Bookmobile service inaugurated in Kingston & St. Andrew



1960's

- The first Teacher/Librarians' Seminar was sponsored by the School Library Service in collaboration with the Ministry of Education. The School Library Service was also extended to include 19 Junior Secondary Schools
- As at March 1969 public library membership was **296,485**; the print collection totaled **581,406** items; home loans and reference consultations totaled **1,704,136**. Services were offered through **198** fixed library locations and **64** book mobile stops. Services were offered to **813** government school libraries.

1970's

- JLS was awarded the **National Press Award** for outstanding service to Jamaica
- St. Catherine Parish Library Building opened
- The book *Jamaica Library Service, 21 Years of Progress in Pictures: 1948-1969* was published
- The Manchester Parish Library Cultural Centre, Cecil Charlton Hall was officially opened
- Launch of the Association of Librarians in the Jamaica Library Service

1980's

- National Reading Competition inaugurated for children ages 6 -9
- Press Association of Jamaica presented the **National Press Award** to the Jamaica Library Service for its outstanding contribution to national life
- Inauguration of Service to the Visually Impaired at the Manchester Parish Library

1990's

- National Reading Competition added a new age group, 9 - 11
- Western Union, a subsidiary of Grace Kennedy and Company Ltd. donated ten computers to ten parish libraries and ten branch libraries
- The Jamaica Library Service received the Gleaner Honour Award (1998) for fifty years of unswerving service to the people of Jamaica
- The Government of Japan donated 8 bookmobiles to the JLS

2000-2009

- The JLS restructured and a Strategic Development Plan launched
- St. Thomas Parish Library Network initiated computer training to senior citizens
- Free computer and Internet Access introduced at all Public Libraries in Jamaica on May 1, 2008
- Internet enabled Mobile Library Service and wireless internet access launched in parish libraries
- National Reading Competition Adult age group introduced and National Reading Fair launched
- Official opening of the Millicent Claire Reading Room, Hanover
- The dedication and naming of the Joyce Robinson Hall, Kingston & St. Andrew
- Renovated Negril Branch Library opened
- Westmoreland, St. James Parish Library buildings expanded
- Carlong Publishers donated 701 children's books to mark 60th Anniversary
- Rotary Race to Literacy - Book Drive donated 240,151 volumes to the JLS in 2009
- Funds received from the Ministry of Education to renovate and remodel six (6) infant school libraries

