



Volume 54 | Issue 2

Article 8

9-2011

CILA News: Everyone Can Help CILA to Help Libraries in Need!

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Recommended Citation

Bordner, Georgianne (2011) "CILA News: Everyone Can Help CILA to Help Libraries in Need!," *The Christian Librarian*: Vol. 54 : Iss. 2, Article 8.
Available at: <http://digitalcommons.georgefox.edu/tcl/vol54/iss2/8>

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CILA News:

Everyone Can Help CILA to Help Libraries in Need!

Georgianne Bordner
CILA Team Coordinator

ACL members have been busy helping libraries in a variety of ways, and we'd like to take this opportunity to update you on recent CILA activities, recognize some members who have told us about their projects, and give you a preview of an opportunity for everyone to get involved.

At the CILA team's annual meeting, held at Cedarville University during ACL's conference in June 2011, our main focus was on developing new objectives to help us meet our newly revised mission statement and goals:

CILA Mission statement:

The mission of the Commission for International Library Advancement (CILA) is to serve libraries within Christian institutions of higher learning primarily outside North America by providing training and support for specific needs in order for these librarians to advance library service within their communities.

CILA Goals:

- To cultivate strategic partnerships with international organizations and educational institutions for the advancement of librarianship and libraries.
- To encourage, equip and coordinate ACL members for service to other libraries.
- To assist libraries in need as they identify and address challenges.

You may notice that while CILA's primary mission continues to be serving libraries outside North America, we also want to encourage service to other libraries in need, including those in the United States. We have already heard about several members who are planning to help small Bible school libraries without full-time professional librarians, and want to offer our assistance to others of you who might have similar plans.

CILA is also working on a re-organization and restructuring of the team membership, in order to meet our objectives more effectively. For that reason, all current team members have been appointed by the Board for a one-year term, with positions to be re-evaluated by June 2012. We are happy to welcome new member Cheri du Mée, who replaces outgoing member Arlita Harris. Continuing members are Georgi Bordner, Ferne Weimer, Dorothy Bowen, Linda Lambert, and Karen Parsons.

During the poster session at the 2011 ACL conference, we reported on a variety of recent projects carried out by the CILA team as well as individual ACL members. These include Nancy Hesch, who did cataloging from home for seminaries in Mozambique and Haiti and a K-8 MK school in Haiti; Lois Hoyle, who spent three weeks in Hyderabad, India at the Hyderabad Bible College of the International Pentecostal Holiness Church and helped them to computerize their library using ResourceMate; Karen Parsons, who spent a month at Hope Africa University in Burundi, where she taught advanced cataloging to 5 library staff, did successful troubleshooting for automation software problems, and worked on a retrospective conversion project; and Ferne Weimer, who spent 2 weeks in Kenya, attending the CALA (Christian Association of Librarians in Africa) conference and serving as a consultant at 4 libraries (see her report in the previous issue of *The Christian Librarian*). Another member paid the ACL dues for two overseas librarians and helped them to acquire the ACL NetLibrary collection for their libraries, and several members donated books to a visiting seminary librarian from Myanmar who had previously received training through CILA's seminar in Malaysia in 2008.

We are happy to report that *The Librarian's Manual* continues to be used in libraries around the world, with copies recently

being distributed to Zambia, South Africa, Cameroon, Brazil, Guatemala, India, and the Czech Republic. An additional 24 copies were donated by CILA to the Operation Mobilization ship for libraries in West Africa.

CILA knows that many ACL members are encouraged to hear about what is being done to assist libraries in need and want to do something to help, but are not able to travel overseas. One area that many of us have been concerned about is Haiti. Dorothy Bowen's daughter Ruth Hersey, a missionary in Haiti, reports that libraries there are still recovering from the effects of the earthquake, and need both relevant books and people to help put their collections back in order. If you are able to go to Haiti for several weeks to help with projects such as reorganizing a school library or setting up a new automated system, contact Dorothy, and she will give you more information on specific needs. But if you are not able to actually go to Haiti, or are looking for other ways to help, we are excited to tell you about plans for a project that will give everyone a chance to participate! Cheri du Mée, who is working with the 2012 conference team as well as CILA, has provided the following information on the project. Watch for more information as conference time gets closer!

Haiti Project for ACL 2012 Annual Conference

Cheri du Mée

As part of the ACL 2012 Annual Conference at Palm Beach Atlantic University, we would like to design a "Workshop* Haiti Project" with CILA and the ACL membership in an effort to impact one or more Haitian Christian schools and libraries.

Long known as the poorest country in the western hemisphere, Haiti suffered even more devastating loss with the 2010 earthquake and numerous hurricanes. We here at PBA have seen and heard the ramifications, as South Florida is home to the largest Haitian population (248,000) outside of Haiti. Though the needs throughout the country are great, the rebuilding

of its schools and libraries is an important part of healing and hope for the future.

Our goal is to identify a manageable project, gather together key people from PBA, the area, and ACL who are already heavily invested in Haitian ministry, and connect ACL members with the project in some meaningful way.

Thus far, CILA has identified six schools accredited by the Caribbean Evangelical Theological Association and five accredited by the Association of Christian Schools International. We know that many ACL members have been active in Haitian school ministry, and we will be seeking their input and counsel. This project may involve supplying resources and/or training. We hope to partner with existing outreaches to Haiti, such as the Haitian Creole Literacy Project of the Rotary Club, which has developed a 30 volume set of Haitian Creole books for \$200, for donation to Haitian schools. <http://haitiancreoleliteracyproject.com/default.aspx> If such a collection is used, we will want to supplement it with a set of Christian books.

We will be looking for numerous avenues for all ACL members to participate, such as giving counsel, providing used books, selecting and boxing books for shipment, giving a financial donation, compiling a bibliography of Haitian Creole or French resources, traveling to Haiti to review and assist a school or college library, etc.

This project is in the formative stages, so please feel free to send us your ideas. (cheri_dumee@pba.edu) Give us the benefit of your expertise and experience. And plan to join us at ACL 2012 in the Workshop Haiti Project! ☩

* "Workshop" is PBA's Christian service program. Instituted when the school was founded in 1968, PBA students and staff have donated over 2 million hours of service to the community as acts of work and worship to our Lord.