PUTTING INFORMATION IN THE HANDS OF THE WORLD

ANNUAL REPORT
2006-2007

Disclaimer: Librarians Without Borders is not in any way associated with Médecins Sans Frontières / Doctors Without Borders
**OUR PHILOSOPHY**

**Vision**
LWB envisions a global society where all people have equal access to information resources.

**Mission**
Librarians Without Borders (LWB) is a non-profit organization that strives to improve access to information resources regardless of language, geography, or religion, by forming partnerships with community organizations in developing regions.

**Values**
LWB holds a core set of values that form the basis of our existence and steer our activities:

- Librarians have a fundamental role as defenders of intellectual freedom and providers of equal access to information.
- Access to information is vital in supporting learning and literacy, reducing poverty, empowering citizens, and building healthy, strong communities.
- We do not draw cultural or linguistic boundaries—diversity is embraced; we will work with our partners in their own cultural context and in their own languages.
- Our efforts are enhanced by working collaboratively, internally as well as externally with the domestic and international community, to further our mutual goals.

**CONTACT INFORMATION**

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General Email: info@lwb-online.org  
Website: www.lwb-online.org
OUR PEOPLE

Board of Directors
Director          Isola Ajiferuke  board@lwb-online.org
Director          Marsha Iverson  board@lwb-online.org
Director          Gina LaForce  board@lwb-online.org
Director          Sylvia Piggott  board@lwb-online.org
Director          Melanie Sellar  board@lwb-online.org

Executive Officers
Co-Executive Director  Catherine Baird  catherine.baird@lwb-online.org
Co-Executive Director  Rebecca Jansen  rebecca.jansen@lwb-online.org
Membership Director    Daniella Liebregts membership@lwb-online.org
Secretary            Sandra Hodgson  secretary@lwb-online.org
Treasurer            Ariel Lebowitz  treasury@lwb-online.org

Coordinators
Committee Liaison  Meg Kwasnicki  liaison@lwb-online.org
Publications Coordinator  Loretta Melhado  communications@lwb-online.org
Resource Centre Coordinators  Laura Banfield  research@lwb-online.org
Webmaster           Susanna Galbraith  webmaster@lwb-online.org

Committees
UWO Fall 2006 Term
Co-Chairs: Macey Zieroth and Jaclyn McLean
Secretary: Caroline Vandriel and Megan Potts
Treasurer: Neil Fuller and Jessica Olliver

McGill Sept 2006-April 2007
MLIS II Co-Chair: Jennifer Prins,
MLIS I Co-Chair: Nicole Gaston
Information Officer: Elaina lawn
Treasurer: Benjamin Abrahamse

UWO Winter 2007 Term
Co-Chairs: Erin Fields and Megan Potts
Treasurer: Kennis Dick
Secretary: Caroline Vandriel
Fundraising: Sarah Camm

UWO Summer 2007 Term
Chair: Jenny Smith
Treasurer: Kennis Dick
Secretary: Kate Gibbings
Fundraising: Billi Knight:
Information Officer: Nicole Acomb
MESSAGE FROM THE
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Dear Members and Friends,

Thank you for your interest and support for Librarians Without Borders, and for the opportunity to tell you what we have been doing for the first ¾ of our initial year in office. Most of us are new to the process of initiating an international non-governmental organization, and have had a fair amount to learn along the way.

Like you, we are excited about the Angola Project, and eager to launch our fundraising efforts. However, there are some legal requirements to complete before we can begin this vital project. As often is the case, there also is an unanticipated complication that must be resolved before we can complete the legal requirements, so we have been ‘on hold’ since mid-July. Here’s the gist of the situation:

For Librarians without Borders to achieve its mission, the Board must ensure that the organization is on solid footing for the long term. This requires formal letters patent, charitable status, liability insurance, and stringent accounting practices. Each of those requirements depends upon the official name of our organization. Successful fundraising is predicated on donor confidence and consistent branding. And herein lies the unanticipated complication: In July we received a “cease and desist” order from Doctors Without Borders to stop using our chosen name.

As you can appreciate, we did not take the news lightly, and are working with DWB Canada to appeal to Médecins Sans Frontières head office in France to negotiate an agreement to retain the name Librarians Without Borders. They will meet in late November to discuss our request.

At this point, we have two choices: Change our name now to something that is clearly not related to DWB, or wait for resolution of the issue with DWB—which could still result in a required name change. Another issue we may face is deciding how long we can wait for a clear resolution to this matter should negotiations with Médecins Sans Frontières be protracted.

Your Board is doing everything possible to keep operating as Librarians Without Borders, and remains hopeful, but not confident of the outcome. If the November negotia-
tions fail, we would face a long and costly legal struggle, and are likely to lose in the end. In that event, we still must change our name, and you—the members—must approve the new one.

While we wait, we are continuing to plan our fundraising campaign and preparing to meet our legal, insurance and fiscal operating requirements so that we will be ready to move forward as soon we have a final determination on our name. Meanwhile, we welcome your views on the matter, and look forward to launching the Angola Project in earnest.

Very truly yours,

Isola Ajiferuke
Gina LaForce
Marsha Iverson
Sylvia Piggott
Melanie Sellar
MESSAGE FROM THE 
CO-EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS

Dear Friends of Librarians Without Borders,

Throughout the 2006-2007 fiscal year we were proud to watch Librarians Without Borders (LWB), originally a small student initiative, grow into a sustainable professional organization. In this time our volunteers and members have shared many accomplishments as they worked toward a common goal to increase access to information.

For the past twelve months the efforts of the organization were centred around three strategic directions. The goals that were established by the Executive Officers in collaboration with the Board of Directors were: the expansion of the organization; education and outreach; and our inaugural Sponsor-a-Book project.

As the year began, the five Executive Officers focused on expanding the number of volunteers who were directly involved with the administration and operation of LWB. We now have a team of four coordinators who are devoted to the daily operations of the organization. Also, the Executive has come to rely on the expertise of the new Board of Directors in strategic, legal and financial decisions.

LWB continues to view education and outreach as an essential component of our mission. During the first half of this fiscal year time and efforts were dedicated to these activities through LWB participation in various speaking engagements. Our work continued throughout the year as we made improvements to our website, expanded our online resource centre, fostered the student committees, and increased our membership.

With a new infrastructure and solid groundwork, we then turned our attention to preparing for a fall launch of the Sponsor-a-Book project. Though this launch was subsequently delayed, we are optimistic that the legal challenge to our organization’s name will be resolved and the project will launch in the coming year.

We would like to express our sincere thanks to our supporters, volunteers and donors for contributing to such a successful year. Thanks to you the future of LWB remains bright!

Sincerely,

Catherine Baird and Rebecca Jansen

Co-Executive Directors
YEAR IN REVIEW

Expanding LWB

In the 2006-2007 year, LWB continued work to set up the organization for the future. The year was full of firsts for LWB. It was the first fiscal year in which the executive committee was completely comprised of professional, not student, volunteers. It was the first year in which the executive committee could no longer meet face-to-face, but communicated electronically using VOIP (Voice Over Internet Protocol) technology, email and occasionally telephone. It was the first year with a board of directors and the first time that the executive committee and the board of directors worked in tandem to achieve the goals of the organization. Finally, it was the first year in which student committees were no longer working closely with LWB’s executive, but rather, they reported to a Student Committee liaison, a new position created this year.

Many new faces joined LWB in various capacities this year. A board of directors was established, the executive committee expanded, and four new coordinator roles were created.

I. Board of Directors

The Board of Directors is comprised of 5 diverse members from the information science community. This diversity has been of great value in the last year as the organization continues to lay a strong foundation for the future. As LWB grows and encounters complex issues associated with international projects, the experience and expertise of the board becomes invaluable. Together, this group of seasoned professionals bring significant international, communications, organizational, advocacy, and management experience to the organization.
Isola Ajiferuke is an associate professor in the Faculty of Information and Media Studies at The University of Western Ontario located in London, Ontario, Canada. He has assisted in bringing a global perspective to the organization with his teaching experience both at the University of Ibadan in Ibadan, Nigeria and the University of Botswana in Gaborone, Botswana.

Marsha Iverson’s experience in strategic communication and collaborative partnerships has been invaluable to the organization over the last year. She is a strong advocate for public libraries, enthusiastic about new communication technologies and committed to vital community libraries.

Gina La Force has brought her passion for advocacy, social justice and community development to the board. She has more than 20 years experience in public library management and is currently the CEO of Thunder Bay Public Library in Ontario, Canada. Gina brings experience working with both library and non-profit boards to LWB’s board of directors.

Sylvia Piggott’s significant international experience in the information science profession has been a great asset to LWB. Her experience with the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund and the International Federation of Library Associations are welcome additions to the organization. She is currently the Information Officer for the Continuing Professional Development and Workplace Learning Section of IFLA.

As one of the founders of Librarians Without Borders, Melanie Sellar continues to provide exceptional leadership and passion, remaining an irreplaceable leader in the organization. Her personal connection to the organization resonates with LWB’s membership and partners.
II. Executive Committee

The expanded Executive Committee welcomed two new members and the new position of Membership Director for the 2006-2007 year. Experienced Executive members provided context and background for the new board and provided leadership for new executive members.

The role of Membership Director was added to the Executive committee in 2006-2007 and was taken on by Daniella Liebregts. Daniella has been managing LWB’s membership almost since the organization’s inception and the role has grown from processing applications and maintaining a distribution list to managing communication with nearly 500 members worldwide.

Ariel Lebowitz took on the task of organizing LWB’s finances as the 2006-2007 treasurer. In addition to her role as treasurer, Ariel brought renewed energy and a fresh perspective to the Executive Committee as well as her experience working with libraries in India.

Sandra Hodgson joined the LWB Executive team as Secretary for the 2006-2007 fiscal year. As secretary, Sandra managed, and responded to, e-mail information requests and carefully documented and disseminated Executive meeting minutes.

Catherine Baird and Rebecca Jansen assumed positions as Co-Executive Directors. They have been closely involved with Librarians Without Borders since January of 2006. During the past year they have acted as an excellent reference for the newer executive members while continuing to spread the important literacy message of LWB.

IV. Coordinators

The Executive Committee was reinforced through the creation of four new coordinator roles this fiscal year, which were ably filled, by Laura Banfield, Susanna Galbraith, Meg Kwasnicki and Loretta Melhado.
Together, Laura Banfield and Susanna Galbraith took on the roles of Resource Centre Coordinators and were tasked with organizing, managing and expanding a directory of online resources related to library development. Both are graduates of the MLIS program at the University of Western Ontario where they were involved with LWB while still students at library school.

Susanna Galbraith also assumed the position of Webmaster. In this role she continually updated the website and managed the RSS feed to keep our membership up to date.

Early in 2007, Meg Kwasnicki filled the new role of Student Committee Liaison, managing communications and providing guidance for LWB’s two student committees at the University of Western Ontario and McGill University. She has also sustained communication with prospective student committee members at other library schools in Canada.

Loretta Melhado served as Publications Coordinator for this fiscal year, publishing issues of LWB’s newsletter, The Compass, in addition to interim updates via the Compass Connection. These publications, which compliment LWB’s website, serve as primary communication tools for LWB’s large membership.

**Education and Outreach**

In 2007, Librarians Without Borders continued to make education and outreach a priority. Several speaking engagements were pursued, reaching audiences that the organization had never reached previously in Quebec and the United States. Behind the scenes, several updates have been made to the website to increase accessibility and maintain communication with our members. One major initiative to promote education and awareness of literacy issues has been the reorganization and expansion of our Resource Centre. As a result of the education and outreach initiatives our membership has continued to grow.
I. Speaking Engagements and Publications

In April 2007, Co-Executive Director Rebecca Jansen and Treasurer Ariel Lebowitz presented to members of the Ottawa, Ontario, Canada Chapter of the Canadian Association of Special Libraries and Information Services (CASLIS). This was followed by a showing of the film “Remote Access: Distant Libraries of the World” and a short discussion.

Catherine Baird, Co-Executive Director, spoke at the Western New York/Ontario chapter of the Association of College & Research Libraries conference entitled Blur and Blend: Connecting Our Communities. The conference was held in May 2007 in East Aurora, New York and reached a largely American audience. This was the first time that LWB had given a presentation in the United States.

LWB was also invited to give the keynote address at the Quebec Library Association’s annual conference held on May 5th 2007 in Montreal. Rebecca Jansen, Co-Executive Director, combined a presentation with the showing of the film “Remote Access: Distant Libraries of the World.” Once again, this speaking engagement reached a new audience in the province of Quebec. This was an important event for the organization as one of the first LWB student committees is based at McGill University in the province of Quebec.

In June 2007, board member Melanie Sellar participated in the Social Science Division at the Special Libraries Association conference in Denver, Colorado. She was a member of the “Global Librarianship” panel alongside others from the United States Peace Corps and the Lubuto Library Project.

Secretary Sandra Hodgson spoke at the Northeast Regional Law Libraries Meeting held in Toronto, Ontario, in October 2007. The theme of this conference was “Libraries Without Borders.”

In addition to these speaking engagements, LWB has reached out to audiences through the publication of both LWB’s newsletter, The Compass, and The Compass Connection, in addition to an article which appeared in The Journal of Hospital Librarianship (Volume 7, Issue 2). The article written by Daniella Liebregts, Rebecca Jansen and Catherine Baird appeared in the International Libraries column.
II. Website

In an effort to reach a broader audience we are improving the accessibility of our website. Although this work may not be visible, our webmaster has spent a great deal of time and effort behind the scenes to contribute to our goals of education and outreach. In order to reach the broadest possible audience, we are working to have the website load quickly for those without high speed Internet (as is the case in a lot of the developing world) and to make it available to those with disabilities. If a website meets accessibility guidelines, such as valid CSS and valid XML, for example, it will be usable with screen readers which are necessary for the visually impaired to use the Internet. This is just the beginning. Many of the techniques for accessible web design are continually being debated, thus, website accessibility is an ongoing and evolving process.

Currently, the site is all valid CSS, but to improve its accessibility even further, and to make the maintenance of the site easier, the goal is to make it table-free CSS. As part of this process we are developing a plan to create more intuitive categories for our navigation system in order to reduce the overlap of information and increase the ease with which information is found on our site.

One key purpose of the website is to keep our members up-to-date with LWB activities. To this end, we have created an RSS feed to which anyone can subscribe to remain current on LWB news without having to visit the website.

Making the website easy to use and accessible to a broad audience is very important for keeping members informed and for presenting the organization to potential new members.

III. Resource Centre

Over the past year our resource centre has been reorganized. Existing resources were annotated and divided into categories to create a directory of web and electronic documents organized by topic. The Resource Centre is now in the beginning stage of what will become a large annotated directory of library development related websites and
online resources that will serve as an education tool for those interested in library development issues.

We are currently working to create a "Submit-A-Resource" form which will allow members to suggest resources to be added to our Resource Centre. As part of this goal, we are also working on creating guidelines for submission. These guidelines are meant to provide a framework against which to evaluate the inclusion of submitted resources and ensure that such resources adhere to the values of LWB. As the submissions come in, we will add new web resources to expand our annotated directory. The forthcoming submission form and guidelines will enable us to manage the growth of the Resource Centre in such a way that all members of LWB will be able to contribute to its continuing growth, development and relevancy. The Resource Centre has the potential to provide links between those interested in participating in library development projects.

The longer term goals for the Resource Centre are to develop a smaller digital library of LWB related publications, such as The Compass or other articles that refer to LWB. This searchable library will contain subject headings and bibliographic records and will provide an historical record of LWB's continuing growth and development.

IV. Student Committees

The past twelve months have witnessed the establishment of two student committees—one at the University of Western Ontario and one at McGill University. Both have excelled in their fundraising efforts and demonstrated commitment
and enthusiasm in their mission to raise awareness of information literacy issues. Some of the fundraising efforts included raffles, bake sales, merchandise sales and co-sponsored events with other student organizations. Student committees are an important and valued part of our organization. With the assistance of these committees we have developed committee guidelines and other supporting materials so that we can begin to expand the number of LWB committees in the coming fiscal year.

V. Membership Profile

As we continue to share our mission through education and outreach we continue to grow in membership and support. In 2006 we were 311 members strong. Currently, in 2007, we are 500 members strong and aim to continue growing and expanding our membership. New members come from countries such as Albania and Iceland and our support continues to grow in Canada, U.S.A, and many European countries.

LWB members are not just librarians and information professionals. The common thread among our membership is not a career choice but a belief that everyone deserves equal access to information. We have benefited from a diverse membership and have learned a great deal from some members’ experiences in developing regions. We encourage, and are grateful for, comments and suggestions that many members contribute to assist with the development of LWB. As part of our 2006—2007 communication plan to connect our members, LWB has introduced member profiles to The Compass newsletter. This profiling will continue in 2007—2008 in an effort to increase communication between members.

We hope to continue hearing from our members—feedback, suggestions and information about projects that have inspired you are always welcome!
International Distribution of Members

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<th>Percentage</th>
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<tr>
<td>U.S.A</td>
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<tr>
<td>Canada</td>
<td>42%</td>
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<td>Other</td>
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<td>Africa</td>
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<td>Asia</td>
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<td>Australia</td>
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<td>Africa</td>
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<td>Asia</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Europe</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

LWB is proud to have members from:

- Albania
- Angola
- Antigua
- Argentina
- Australia
- Bangladesh
- Barbados
- Botswana
- Brazil
- Cameroon
- Canada
- Columbia
- Congo
- Costa Rica
- Czech Republic
- Denmark
- Egypt
- France
- Germany
- Iceland
- Indonesia
- Ireland
- Japan
- Kenya
- Malawi
- Malaysia
- Mali
- Mauritius
- Netherlands
- New Zealand
- Nigeria
- Norway
- Pakistan
- Peru
- Philippines
- Poland
- Singapore
- South Africa
- Tanzania
- Thailand
- U.S.A
- United Kingdom
- Vietnam
- Zimbabwe
Angola Project

We began this fiscal year in anticipation of launching the Sponsor-a-Book campaign to raise funds for a nursing collection of resources for the community of Huambo, Angola.

In May, 2007 we received legal correspondence from Doctors Without Borders alleging that the use of the name “Librarians Without Borders” is an infringement on the trademark, trade name and domain name rights of their organization. We regret that this issue has postponed the launch of our inaugural campaign and suspended work on our application for charitable status. However, our Board of Directors continues to explore many possibilities to resolve this issue in a fashion that will be beneficial to our organization’s continued success for many years to come. We remain dedicated to this project and optimistic that it will launch as soon as the name challenge has been adequately resolved.

In the meantime, we have continued to prepare for the campaign’s launch. After prioritizing our booklist (using the feedback we received from Huambo in the fall of 2006) we set a fundraising goal of $12,000. This goal will allow us to purchase and ship between 150—200 Portuguese language nursing/medical books and a Blue Trunk from the World Health Organization.

Throughout this process we have remained in contact with our community partner, the Archdiocese of Huambo, through our project liaison, Jorge Chimbinda. We look forward to providing information resources, staff training and advice about securing a renewable energy source and a reliable Internet connection for the Centro Cultural Joao Paulo II.
Financial Summary

Revenues raised were a result of fundraisers held by our student committees, library associations, generous personal and corporate donations, and LWB merchandise sales. Our expenses to date have been modest and have been directed towards furthering our strategic directions, with a particular emphasis on promoting LWB throughout the library science community.

Below is a summary of our revenue sources and our areas of expenditures for our 2006 – 2007 fiscal period:

Revenues: $2674.53
- Donations: 33%
- Fundraising: 49%
- Student Committees Fundraising: 12%
- Merchandise: 6%

Expenditures: $754.31
- Operations - Administration: 35%
- Merchandising: 65%

Our $754.31 in expenditures includes …
- Administration: URL domain renewals, PO Box rental, Corporations Canada fees, shipping
- Merchandise: Purchase book bags for sale to supporters (costs recovered later)