# Table of Contents

Our Philosophy .................................................................................................................. 3  
Vision ................................................................................................................................. 3  
Mission .............................................................................................................................. 3  
Values ................................................................................................................................. 3  

Contact Information ......................................................................................................... 3  
Email .................................................................................................................................. 3  
Web ................................................................................................................................... 3  
Twitter ............................................................................................................................... 3  
Flickr .................................................................................................................................. 3  
Facebook ........................................................................................................................... 3  
Slideshare ......................................................................................................................... 3  

Our People .......................................................................................................................... 4  
Board of Directors ........................................................................................................... 4  
Executive Officers ........................................................................................................... 4  
Committee Executive Officers ......................................................................................... 4  
Project Teams ................................................................................................................... 7  

Message from the Board of Directors ............................................................................. 8  
Message from the Co-Executive Director ....................................................................... 10  

LWB Service Learning Afield ........................................................................................... 12  
LWB in Guatemala .......................................................................................................... 12  
LWB in Ghana .................................................................................................................. 18  

LWB Events at Home ....................................................................................................... 20  
Ontario Library Association (Toronto) ........................................................................... 20  
Canadian Library Association (Halifax) ......................................................................... 20  
Special Library Association Conference (Philadelphia) .................................................. 21  
CLA-CASLIS Government Section Presentation (Ottawa) ............................................. 21  

LWB in Media .................................................................................................................... 22  
In Publication .................................................................................................................... 22  
In Presentation .................................................................................................................. 22  
In Press ............................................................................................................................... 23  

Student Committees ....................................................................................................... 24  
Dalhousie University ....................................................................................................... 24  
McGill University ............................................................................................................ 25  
University of British Columbia ....................................................................................... 26  
University of Ottawa ...................................................................................................... 26  
University of Western Ontario ......................................................................................... 26  
University of Toronto .................................................................................................... 28  

Membership ....................................................................................................................... 29  
Overview .......................................................................................................................... 29  
Worldwide Distribution ................................................................................................... 29  

Financial Report 2010-11 ................................................................................................ 30  
LWB International Summary ........................................................................................... 30  
LWB International Breakdown ....................................................................................... 30  
Organization-Wide Summary .......................................................................................... 30  

Special Recognition ......................................................................................................... 31  
University Partners ........................................................................................................ 31  
Project and Event Partners ............................................................................................. 31  
Organizational Donors ..................................................................................................... 32
Our Philosophy

Vision
Librarians Without Borders (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:

• Libraries 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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'LWB_Online' (twitter.com/LWB_Online)

Facebook
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Slideshare
'LibrariansWithoutBorders' (www.slideshare.net/LibrariansWithoutBorders)
Our People

Board of Directors
Catherine Johnson
Robert Kalnins
Nasser Saleh
Cabot Yu

Executive Officers

Co-Executive Directors
Melanie Sellar
Loren Zawodny  (Outgoing)

Acting Membership Director
Erika Heesen
Mark Gelsomino  (Outgoing)

Secretary
Ayo Onatola

Treasurer
Peter Duerr

Committee Liaisons
Carolyn Doi  (McGill University)
Leanna Jantzi  (University of British Columbia)
Mark Gelsomino  (University of Ottawa, University of Toronto)
Amy Paterson  (Dalhousie University)
Erin Walker  (University of Western Ontario)

Committee Executive Officers

Dalhousie University
Heather Buchanan  (Co-Chair 2nd year)
Jane Willwerth  (Co-Chair 1st year)
Amy Paterson  (Past Co-Chair)

Jeanna Greene
Whitney Spencer
Kevin Hartford
Amanda Bulman
Ariel Kleber
Naomi Balla-Boudreau
University of Toronto

Melissa Bell  (Co-Chair 2\textsuperscript{nd} year)
Melody Tacit  (Co-Chair 1\textsuperscript{st} year)
Angie McHodgkins  (Past Co-Chair)

Alyssa Beaudoin
Brittany Medeiros
Brooke Gardhouse
Carmen Ho
Catherine Falls
Emma Porta
Katie Cuyler
Kim Parry
Laura Chadwick
Laura Sorba
Maggie Reid
Meagan Gilpin
Nora Mulvaney
Pam Murray
Samhita Gupta
Sarah Anne DeGroot
Tracy Munusami
Nalini Battu
Carla Wintersgill
Katie Needs
Karen Pollock
Nina Pena

University of British Columbia

Alex Garnett  (Co-Chair)
Myron Groover  (Co-Chair)

Heidi Schiller
Justin Unrau
Chantelle McGee
Will Engle
Amy Ashmore
Jessie London
Megan Harris
Nicholle Plante
Jessica Starr
Tosha Tsang
Lindsay Wilson
**McGill University**

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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Emily McHugh</td>
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<td>Rebecca Burbank</td>
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<td>Katherine van der Linden</td>
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**University of Western Ontario**

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<td>Nicole Gibson</td>
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<td>Jessica Moodie</td>
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# Project Teams

## Guatemala Asturias Program Team

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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Carolyn Doi</td>
<td>(Program Manager)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rebecca Burbank</td>
<td>(Program Assistant Co-ordinator)</td>
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<td>Carmen Ho</td>
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<td>Robyn Maler</td>
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<td>Jennifer Ford</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mark Gelsomino</td>
<td>(LWB Executive)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Melanie Sellar</td>
<td>(LWB Executive)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Robert Kalnins</td>
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Message from the Board of Directors

Dear Members and Friends of Librarians Without Borders,

This past year for Librarians Without Borders has been one of renewed purpose. At our Annual General Meeting last December, we reported on the results of an organization-wide strategic re-evaluation and re-focusing effort, and the preliminary steps taken in enacting this new vision. It is a good time to recap these decisions, the strategic objectives that emerged, and the tactical efforts undertaken to achieve them this past year.

First, however, we would like to recognize the impressive fieldwork accomplished by our Student Committees. Their hard work and enthusiasm carried them through recent initiatives in several countries, far and near, in Guatemala, Nicaragua, Nigeria and Kettle Point, Ontario. These and other projects are described in more detail in the coming sections of this Annual Report. The Board of Directors would like to express that we were again inspired by their accomplishments.

To this issue of renewed purpose, we began with the question: how do we ensure that LWB continues to achieve this degree of positive impact -- or an even greater one -- year after year? These challenges of long term sustainability and scalability were the primary concerns taken up by the LWB Board and Executive in the early part of 2010, and this has continued through 2011.

Reflecting upon the successes of our student members, it quickly became clear that the answer to this question was already before us. Comprising LWB’s ‘boots on the ground’, our Student Committees have proven to be a renewable source of dedicated volunteers that are as capable as they are motivated. Indeed, we believed the best way to sustain and also grow the capacity of LWB to fulfill its mission, was through the empowerment and cultivation of our existing Committees, as well as the fostering of new Student Committees. Recognizing that this student-based service learning model would also uniquely distinguish LWB from like-minded organizations, the proposal was unanimously endorsed by the Board.

To realize this vision of a supported and empowered network of Student Committees engaged through service learning, we worked with the Executive Team to develop a set of key strategic objectives: fostering community, enabling collaboration, integrating with curriculum, and raising capital.

The goal of community is core amongst these objectives. Being a geographically dispersed organization of local Student Committees and a far flung Executive, it is important to LWB to provide venues where all members can meet together, explore ideas, share in successes, plan and organize, all while growing a base of institutional memory. The online LWB Community, launched this year, has begun to provide this persistent community to sustain the efforts of LWB as the membership of the Committees turn over from year-to-year, and as the organization as a whole scales through the addition of new Committees.

We also recognized that collaboration in organization-wide projects could be a vehicle to scale the impact of the work of our Committees. Such projects can, by their nature, enable students to undertake initiatives that might be too large large in scope to accomplish by any single Committee. And, by leveraging the institutional memory of the community and executive, can open the door to projects that are too long in time scale to be accomplished in a single academic year, or even the tenure of any one LIS student cohort. This year saw the introduction of the first such project, in the form of the Asturias service learning trip to Guatemala, which brought together 27 members from amongst four of the Student Committees, the Executive Team and Board. This project continues into 2012, and is joined by a new long-term project in Ghana in partnership with Libraries Across Africa (LAA).
The objective of curriculum integration is one that evolved this year as a natural consequence of our renewed service learning focus. Under pressure from governmental and industrial sources to encourage experiential learning amongst academic institutions, service learning has emerged as a significant component of their mission. It is a form of experiential education in which students engage in activities that address community needs together with structured opportunities intentionally designed to promote student learning and development. By aligning our mission in this way, we open the opportunity to merge the work of students in our Committees with their LIS curriculum. The students thereby gain additional benefit from their participation with LWB, and the organization gains access to a new realm of granting opportunities. We are now working with students and their schools to integrate their efforts on the LWB-wide Guatemala and Ghana projects into their LIS programs.

The raising of capital is a perennial challenge for any philanthropic organization. And, while the Student Committees have been quite successful in this area locally, the LWB Executive and Board are now well poised to pursue this in a significant organization-wide fashion. Starting in 2011, we began exploring avenues with corporate sponsors to raise funds to fuel collaborative projects, amplify student efforts via fund-matching, and eventually offer scholarships. The first experiment with corporate sponsorship during the Asturias project was quite successful, and is the first step along this important path.

Going forward, we anticipate continued efforts to build community and collaborative opportunities, while pivoting to a greater focus on curriculum integration and capital needs. The latter will be supported via more outward directed efforts: evangelizing our accomplishments in the media and building on our messaging capacity to attract new partners and donors. The ultimate goal being the ability to solicit significant sponsorship at the organization-wide level through Executive fundraising efforts, and distributing the proceeds amongst the Committees to multiply their potency. We also anticipate levering our unique service learning model to pursue granting opportunities amongst academic and governmental sources.

Finally, we would like to thank Board Members Nasser Saleh and Robert Kalnins who have just completed their first terms. Their voices were a valuable asset during a critical period in the organization. The remaining Board Members, Cabot Yu and Catherine Johnson, will be entering the second half of their first terms, while we look forward to welcoming two new Board members from amongst the candidates on this year’s ballot. We expect to appoint at least one additional member later in the first quarter.

Thank you to all for your excellent work in 2011. It's been a phenomenal year!

Sincerely Yours,

Catherine Johnson
Robert Kalnins
Nasser Saleh
Cabot Yu
Message from the Co-Executive Director

Dear Members and Friends of Librarians Without Borders,

The writing of the Annual Report serves as a structured opportunity for reflection. It allows us to take stock of what we have done, discuss our progress against our goals, and to share and celebrate with our membership. There are also unstructured moments where reflection may find us. On the first night in Guatemala, as I looked around at the faces of 26 other LWB members -- who journeyed from all points in Canada and the United States -- I was deeply moved by them all and profoundly struck by their belief in our mission. This year’s annual report will of course elaborate on notable accomplishments, but I hope it also evokes a similar feeling of excitement in shared purpose for all of our members.

This past year was a busy one. The Executive Team continued our work in support of the strategic directives outlined in the Board of Director’s message: fostering community, enabling collaboration, integrating with curriculum, and raising capital. These efforts yielded significant accomplishments for LWB.

Bridging the geographic distance among our Student Committees, Executive, and Board was a priority this year, particularly as we continue to welcome additional committees -- our newest being the University of Ottawa - and as we launch and manage organization-wide projects. We clearly need places to come together, to build relationships, and to share in our common purpose.

We began by establishing online opportunities for community building. Foremost was the launch of the LWB Community: a secure site that profiles our volunteers, enables discussions through forums, and supports information sharing through such tools as blogs and an organizational wiki. Throughout the year we also held web conferences for the Asturias project and for orienting new student officers. Externally, we improved discoverability of our social media sites by linking them prominently on our website and then added a Facebook page to our social media offerings. Later on in 2011 we revived the LWB newsletter as a means of communicating news of activities with the wider membership.

In addition to these online mechanisms for community building we created opportunities for face-to-face networking. At the Canadian Library Association (CLA) Annual Conference in Halifax we hosted a retreat where LWB supporters gathered to enjoy conversation with like-minded people and to learn about LWB work. It is our intention to continue this new tradition at the next CLA conference in 2012. This past summer LWB members in Canada’s National Capital Region also met up for an evening of socializing. Finally, the Executive has made it a priority to find greater face time with our student committees -- by attending their events and by speaking at their schools, for example -- which is not an easy feat given the spread of our Executive and Student Committees across North America, but nevertheless an important one.

Channeling our energies into collaborative projects was another strategic directive in which the Executive placed significant effort. As members know, this past year the Miguel Angel Asturias Academy in Guatemala, an initiative incubated by the McGill Committee in 2010, was launched as our first organization-wide LWB initiative. You can read in detail about this project further on in the Annual Report. Our service trip to Guatemala was an intense experience that delivered tangible benefits to the Asturias Library and provided opportunities for 24 students from four committees to apply their LIS expertise to real world needs. In 2011-12 our partnership with Asturias continues to evolve and grow.
We are also happy to announce the addition of a new pilot initiative: Libraries Across Africa (LAA). Since May we have been working with LAA to provide this opportunity for our student members. We will help LAA shape their library model, its pilot implementation in Ghana, and its future implementation in other African communities. Our work will be both conceptual and practical. We will use our expertise to evaluate aspects of their proposed library model and then to potentially augment their proposal for how these libraries might work. We will also provide recommendations for their pilot library in Accra, Ghana, which is expected to be operational by the end of 2012. Student members will have the opportunity to choose one or more aspects of their model to focus on individually or in groups starting the Winter 2012 semester. You can read more about LWB-Ghana further on in the report.

Curriculum integration has been a new focus of our work this year as we endeavour to structure LWB projects in a true service learning framework. To date, students’ LWB activities have existed co-curricularly within their LIS programs, but our goal is to provide opportunities for their work to be embedded and supported within the LIS curriculum itself. Our students are engaging in significant work, and so more dedicated time and space for this work would enable them to engage more deeply with the issues and needs of our partner communities, who in turn will benefit from these intensified efforts.

To forward the goal of curriculum integration, we began raising awareness of our service-learning model, and showcasing its benefits to student education. This took the form of conference sessions with the Canadian Library Association, presentations and webinars with our students, and one-on-one discussions with faculty and directors of LIS programs. Encouraged by the enthusiasm we found amongst the LIS program faculty, we are now assisting our students to exercise curricular mechanisms for LWB work. Specifically, we are recruiting students for the both the LWB-Guatemala and LWB-Ghana Project Teams who will use independent studies, reading courses, or projects within relevant existing courses as a means to participate.

The final strategic need, that of raising capital, was initiated this year in the form of our first corporate sponsorship and the establishment of an online mechanism to capture individual donations through our website. The funds raised through these channels allowed us to match student fundraising efforts on the Asturias project and to meet other project needs. Our corporate sponsor, a children’s ebook publisher, has pledged to support us again in this coming year, and we will be looking to forge more partnerships like this. It is our intent to also leverage the resources of the existing Board and any incoming Board members in order to secure further grants for our work.

A special thanks must be given to our LWB Student Leaders, Executive Officers, and Board Members for their tireless work this past year. To those who are moving on - Peter Duerr (Treasurer), Ayo Onatola (Secretary), and Loren Zawodny (Co-Executive Director) - you served LWB well during a transformative period. To those joining us in new roles, we welcome you warmly to our team and to the year ahead.

Very truly yours,

Melanie Sellar
LWB Service Learning Afield

LWB in Guatemala

Summary

The Miguel Angel Asturias Academy is a non-profit school located in Quetzaltenango (aka Xela), Guatemala, which provides empowering educational opportunities for students from primarily indigenous, poor, and working class families. Librarians Without Borders believes in and has been supporting this mission of Asturias by helping them to achieve their dream of launching a library – which will first serve the school, and soon the wider community.

In 2009-10 when the McGill Committee incubated the project, the Asturias Library was in the early stages of construction and the students did not yet have a center dedicated to promoting literacy and reading. Our efforts that year were focused upon space design, selection and implementation of a collection management tool, development of a cataloging system, and acquisition of books in high-need subject areas and age groups. In an effort to familiarize themselves with the future library users, the LWB service group of 11 students also spent time getting to know the students and staff at the school as well as learning more about the cultural environment in Xela.

Asturias completed construction of the Library and opened it officially to students and staff this past January 2011. Their volunteer librarian reported to LWB that they faithfully followed and implemented LWB’s recommendations from 2009-10, which were formally articulated in a handbook for the school to consult. A comparison of the space design sketches with the actual Library does indeed reflect our suggestions – including the story-time area which is now a popular spot for young readers to gather.
As the Asturias community was getting to know their new library, we continued to offer support to them from Canada and through another service trip in April/May 2011. This past year we scaled our efforts to include student committees from four partner schools: McGill University, University of Toronto, Dalhousie University, and the University of Western Ontario. In total 24 library and information science (LIS) students and 3 Executive/Board members participated on the trip, while 35+ students, the Program Manager, and the LWB Executive Team supported the work remotely over two academic semesters.

This past year we focused our collective efforts on the areas described below. Much of the work was initiated from Canada and continued on to our time on the ground. All four Student Committees also participated in collection development, each taking responsibility for a different priority area identified by Asturias. In total, we increased their collection size by 350 items or 17.5%.

Library Organization

Since opening its doors, the Library has become, to quote Asturias Director Jorge Chojolán, the “heart” of the school. It is good news that the space is well used, but as a result it was in need of additional organizing systems. The Library Organization team took responsibility for cataloging not only all of the new books supplied by LWB but began work on the backlog of others’ donations, and simultaneously developed systems in the library for making it easier to organize the collection which in turn would aid users’ discovery of the collection. The team cataloged nearly 500 books and developed a user-friendly colour coding system that has enabled the librarian, the staff, and, importantly, the students to quickly shelve and find books.

Information Literacy

As every librarian knows, information literacy bridges a library and its users. For a community to take full advantage of the reading and educational opportunities offered by a library, intentional programs must be designed to help users’ develop comfort with the resources, services, and space. Given that Asturias Library had only just opened its doors months before, both Asturias staff and LWB identified it as a priority to begin inculcating these skills in its community. Our information literacy team developed guides for teachers on how to use the library, resource lists for each of the school’s monthly curricular themes (such as gender, human rights, and health), and games and activities (like scavenger hunts and book talks) for students.
**K’iche’ Audio Books**

An indigenous language of the Mayan people, K’iche’ is spoken predominantly throughout Xela. Historically K’iche’ has not been represented in the Guatemalan educational system, but it has been a priority of Asturias for the past 16 years to ensure that it is visible and celebrated within their school. From Canada, LWB-McGill initiated a project to create audio books in K’iche’. While at Asturias, we then worked with the librarian and K’iche’ language teacher to seed this program: sample audio recordings were provided, recommendations for best practices in recording were documented, sample titles were pulled from the collection for translation, and a methodology for creating the books – innovatively using the school’s emerging readers as the narrators – was agreed upon.

**Knowledge Management**

Asturias relies on many volunteers to keep its operations running. While teachers are salaried, the librarian and development staff are not. Hearing that Asturias was expecting some significant turnover in its volunteer staff this year, LWB formed a knowledge management team to ensure that its institutional memory was captured in order to enable a smooth transition for new volunteers. The team interviewed staff members to codify their knowledge, documented best practices and policies, and then gathered and organized all of this information in a secure wiki that they architected and built. This resource will be an important tool for the new volunteers, including a Librarian, that are expected in 2012 and beyond.

Our service trip to Xela in 2011 was an intense experience that delivered tangible benefits to the Asturias Library and provided opportunities for students to apply their LIS expertise to real world needs. In 2011-12 our partnership with Asturias continues to evolve and grow. This year we are committed to working with them on supporting a trained Librarian (who in turn will train local Guatemalans to run and lead the library), on opening the collection to circulation (a step on their roadmap of evolving from a school to community library), and on developing programs to deepen the integration of the library into the school curriculum. A third service trip to Guatemala is being planned for Spring 2012.

Importantly, this year we are also encouraging our students to pursue this work through their own LIS curriculum, as course projects or as independent studies, for example. We would like them to have the dedicated time and space to do this important work for Asturias, and for them to have the time and space to deepen their own professional knowledge and engagement with the issues. In 2012 we will continue our conversations with university partners about how to further embed our work into LIS curriculum.
Asturias Service Trip 2011 in Numbers

- 24 LIS graduate students
- 4 Canadian universities
- 3 Executive/Board Officers from 2 countries
- 1 Program manager
- 10 days in Guatemala
- 350 new books for the collection
- 17.5% increase in size of collection
- 4 project teams
- 8 months of preparation
- 130 individual hours of in-Library work

Asturias–LWB Partnership in Numbers

- 3 year partnership (2009 – present)
- 300 low-income indigenous Asturias students impacted yearly
- 1 Librarian Stipend being supported
- 1 native Guatemalan to be helped in training
- 38 LWB volunteers involved in service trips
- 75+ LWB volunteers involved in remote planning & support
- 2 service trips completed
- 1 service trip in planning
- 3465 visitors reading our blog posts

Guatemala Service Trip Photostream

http://www.flickr.com/photos/61954590@N02/sets/72157626599665982/

Guatemala Project Blog

http://lwb-online.org/?cat=27
Testimonials

“To ignite the love of reading, learning and knowledge in young minds was a goal that inspired each one of us sitting there on the library carpet listening to Jorge, and that bound us as a team. And the acute importance of this goal—particularly in the political and social context of Guatemala—was reiterated in our hearts on our first day at the school when, over the sounds of children at recess, Jorge talked to us about education in Guatemala and the school’s mission and philosophy.”

Samhita Gupta
University of Toronto MIS Student

“The relationship we have with Librarians Without Borders has been of enormous value for our school. Most groups come down once, and while they have a great time, the relationship pretty much ends there. LWB is different. Our relationship is a partnership... they’re committed to actually helping our school, not just visiting. Without their help and support, our library wouldn’t be where it is... they helped us at every stage of development. From helping plan the layout of the physical space, to strategically growing our collection, LWB has been vital to our school- the library and the students.

Even more importantly, the work LWB has done gives our students a space to read. They can come to the library, and see the books, touch the books, pick them up, open them, and read them. Nowhere else in their lives do they have this kind of access to books. Without the help of LWB, we wouldn’t be at this point with our library, and with our students.

Thanks, LWB, for partnering with us to bring a library to our school and books to our students! This wouldn’t have been possible without your help.”

Malea Hetrick
(Former) Director of Development
Miguel Angel Asturias Academy

“On a personal level, being at Asturias has allowed me to critically reflect on my own reality. It made me think about the things that I have taken for granted in my own life. For many of us in North America we feel that we are entitled to education and childhood and this is because these things are supported by our culture. Part of this project, as I see it, is a desire for education and childhood to become rights for Guatemalan youth. If the government will not support these ideals, then perhaps other schools like Asturias can do so. This process cannot happen overnight. It may take a very long time. This is why I feel it is so important to continue this project and create awareness and support for Asturias back home.”

Maggie Reid
University of Toronto MIS Student

“We can never repay you, but know that you are cultivating a love of reading in Guatemalan students. We hope you take with you in your hearts a sense that you have done something good, not only for our students, but for the whole of Guatemala, you have made a difference.”

Jorge Chojolán,
Founder and Director
Miguel Angel Asturias Academy

“It’s incredible how 27 members of LWB with such diverse backgrounds from 4 different schools and from 2 different countries can come together and work on 1 project. It truly shows the solidarity of this team and the organization. As Asturias library continues to grow and gradually transition into a community library, I am humbled to have taken part in improving the access to information resources, and promoting learning and literacy for the students of Asturias Academy and the wider community.”

Carmen Ho
University of Toronto MIS Student
LWB in Ghana

Summary

Like LWB, the mission of Libraries Across Africa (LAA) is to empower individuals through access to information. Founded by a team of architects, computer engineers and anthropologists at Rice University (Texas), they seek to achieve this mission by building and deploying a network of physical libraries with significant digital components across Africa.

Since May 2011, LWB has been cultivating a partnership with LAA and we are excited to offer an opportunity for our student members to participate in this collaborative effort beginning in the Winter 2012 semester.

We are lending our LIS expertise to assist in shaping the nature of the library and defining the role of the librarian(s) for LAA’s pilot facility in Ghana, which will also serve as a model for subsequent libraries across the continent. Our work will be both conceptual and practical. We will use our expertise to evaluate aspects of their proposed library model and then to potentially augment their proposal for how these libraries might work. We will also provide recommendations for their pilot library in Accra, Ghana, which is expected to be operational by the end of 2012.

Students will have the opportunity to investigate a range of topics relating to the LAA library model. This initial work will take the form of research by looking at reports, case studies, in-kind operations, best practices, etc., and by interviewing and liaising with community members. LWB is right now establishing a project advisory committee comprised of Ghanaian librarians to serve as community consultants for this work.

There is a wide range of potential areas of investigation that student members could choose to undertake. What follows is a short list, with ideas
fleshed out in greater detail in the LWB-Ghana Project Opportunity document (published in the LWB Community and available upon email request):

- Cultivating a reading culture in regions with low-emergent literacy
- Literacy in mother-tongue languages and its place in the library
- Use of ICTs to promote and facilitate reading skills in the developing world
- Printing-on-demand: opportunities and challenges
- E-readers as technology leapfrogging: can it work?
- Representing indigenous/traditional knowledge in libraries
- Community generated collections through e-channels

At the end of 1-2 semesters, we will give LAA our initial recommendations stemming from various areas of investigations. The recommendations could take the form of white papers, reports, theses, training materials, seminars, presentations -- whatever is appropriate for the specific areas of study that our students undertake.
LWB Events at Home

Ontario Library Association (Toronto)

Courtney Lundrigan and Jessica Luet, from the LWB-UWO Committee, presented their poster “From the Ground Up: A Collaborative Library Experience in Costa Rica” at the Ontario Library Association SuperConference (the largest annual gathering of librarians in Canada) in February 2011.

*Poster Abstract:* In September 2009, Librarians Without Borders (LWB) at the University of Western Ontario (UWO) undertook a project to build an elementary school library in the village of El Humo, Costa Rica. After nine months of fundraising and collection development, a team of ten volunteers went to physically build and set up the library. Participants experienced cultural life and gave the village its first library. Learn how we supported information literacy and community development while celebrating international, school, and children’s librarianship.

Canadian Library Association (Halifax)

Carolyn Doi (LWB McGill Committee Liaison and Guatemala Program Manager), Melanie Sellar (LWB Co-Executive Director), and Erin Walker (LWB University of Western Ontario Committee Liaison) presented “Service Learning: Bringing the World into LIS Education” at the 2011 CLA Conference in May, where they introduced service learning and its benefits to LIS students, then framed recent projects led by Librarians Without Borders’ students in Costa Rica and Guatemala within a service learning context.

Librarians Without Borders also hosted its inaugural CLA satellite social at Halifax’s famous Lower Deck restaurant on May 26 during the conference. LWB supporters gathered after the CLA annual general meeting to enjoy conversations with like-minded people and to hear more about LWB work in Guatemala. Special thanks to the LWB-Dalhousie committee for their hospitality and for organizing the event.
Special Library Association Conference (Philadelphia)

In 2007 we spoke at the Special Libraries Association (SLA) Conference in Denver on the Global Librarianship panel. The session, described as “Hear first-hand how colleagues aid libraries and librarians in developing countries”, was extremely popular with nearly 100 enthusiastic listeners in the audience. We were happy to be back at this year’s SLA Conference in Philadelphia to provide a state-of-the art four years later. Sylvia Piggott, former LWB Board Member and SLA President, spoke to an audience of 40 at the International Caucus Breakfast Meeting on June 15th to share stories about recent initiatives we have undertaken and information about exciting future directions. The audience was enthusiastic about LWB’s re-focusing on service learning with LIS students as a means to enact our mission.

CLA–CASLIS Government Section Presentation (Ottawa)

Carolyn Doi, Asturias Program Manager, and Robyn Maler, Asturias Project Lead, presented “International Service Learning in Guatemala” at the Ottawa Public Library, Rideau Branch in March 2011. The event was hosted by the Canadian Library Associations’ CASLIS Government section. Carolyn and Robyn spoke about the student-led collaboration between LWB and the Asturias Academy, including the project goals for the service trip in 2011.
LWB in Media

In Publication


In Presentation


McGill Committee Presentation, L’Association des Bibliothécaires du Québec - Quebec Library Association, School of Information Studies, McGill University, September 2011. Presented by Rebecca Burbank, Emily McHugh, and Amanda Oliver.


In Press


Buy an App to Help Bring Books to Kids in Guatemala, eBook Newsletter, April 2011.


Student Committees

Dalhousie University

This past academic year was Dalhousie’s first as an official LWB committee. They had a busy start-up semester in Winter 2012 supporting the Asturias Library Project. Dalhousie students led collection development in English and Spanish Young Adult fiction for Asturias. They raised money to purchase titles through a variety of local fundraisers, including a used book sale in partnership with Dalhousie’s Canadian Library Association Student Chapter. Three LWB-Dalhousie students delivered the books to Asturias during the service trip to Guatemala, and wrote about their experience upon return to Canada: http://sim.management.dal.ca/Files/Inform/Inform_-_January_to_June_2014_(vol_40.1).pdf

Dalhousie also initiated their inaugural Speaker Series program, in keeping with the tradition of consciousness-raising that student committees are encouraged to do by LWB. To start, Melanie Sellar and Carolyn Doi presented an introduction to LWB and the Guatemala project via webinar to enthusiastic Dalhousie students. Another LWB volunteer was invited to speak about the Books Beyond Bars program. Finally a Guatemalan was invited to speak about the cultural and political situation in Guatemala, in order to help the committee better understand the context in which LWB is working.

The Dalhousie Committee also served as the local organizer for the Librarians Without Borders’ Retreat at the Canadian Library Association Conference in Halifax. Through their efforts LWB hosted nearly 30 people at an evening event where socializing, networking, and story-telling about Guatemala prevailed. We all experienced the warmth and hospitality for which East Coast Canadians are known!
McGill University

During the 2010-11 academic year, the McGill Committee continued to play a significant leadership role in the Asturias Project – in the planning stages, the execution, and the field work in Guatemala. Seven LWB-McGill students ultimately traveled to Guatemala on the official service trip to deliver the materials to and develop program ideas for Asturias.

Leading up to the service trip, the Project Lead and McGill Committee Chair, Robyn Maler, worked with the LWB Executive Program Manager to develop the service trip itinerary and facilitate related logistics. The Committee also took weekly Spanish lessons, generously provided by Maria Savova of McGill University Library, in order to bridge the language gap with the community while in Guatemala.

During the Winter 2011 semester, McGill was in intense project execution mode. To support their collection development goals, fundraisers were undertaken to provide the Asturias Library with non-fiction materials with a specific emphasis on young adults and adults with literacy challenges. Their fundraisers were conducted often in partnership with other student organizations, such as the Special Libraries Association McGill Student Chapter.

Rebecca Burbank led a project to create audio books in K’iche’, the indigenous language spoken widely in Quetzaltenango. While at Asturias, Rebecca worked with the librarian and K’iche’ language teacher to set up this program: sample audio recordings were provided, recommendations for best practices in audio recording were documented, and a methodology for creating the books – innovatively using the school’s emerging readers as the narrators – was agreed upon. In coming years, LWB hopes to continue to support them in their goal of building these kinds of local collections.

In September 2011, the ABQLA College and Research Libraries Section collaborated with LWB-McGill to host an evening event at McGill’s School of Information Studies on their Guatemala service trip experience. Rebecca Burbank, Emily McHugh, and Amanda Oliver discussed the service-learning trip, focusing in particular on both the ongoing efforts to support the library collection and the on-site work that LWB did developing library programming and information literacy activities.
University of British Columbia

LWB at the University of British Columbia (UBC) has an ongoing, fruitful partnership with Take a Stand for Kids (TASK). TASK is a small non-profit organization that supports community-driven literacy and education initiatives in Santa Rosa del Peñón, Nicaragua.

Founder Carroll Airey welcomes the ongoing monetary donations raised by LWB-UBC and keeps the committee updated about how their donations are put to use in improving lives. The centre that Carroll started in rural Nicaragua includes a library with many books funded by LWB-UBC campaigns, in particular their ever-popular “Bring Your Own Mug” (BYOM) events. At these events, LWB-UBC sells fairly traded Café Etico coffee – a product sourced according to the strictest ethical standards.

They were also happy to continue their successful annual book drive in support of Vancouver Public Library’s Carnegie branch to deliver books from the UBC community to residents of the Downtown Eastside. Last Fall 2010, a group of ten students delivered the books to the Library and helped give away books to community patrons.

LWB-UBC is continuing their work with the Carnegie Library, Café Etico, and TASK in the 2011-12 academic year. In fact, you can support their Carnegie book donation drive right now – simply drop off materials at bins around the School of Library, Archival, and Information Studies.

University of Ottawa

Librarians Without Borders is happy to welcome the University of Ottawa’s School of Information Studies into our organization as of September 2011. The Committee recently elected in their first Officers and held their first event: an evening of documentary film to raise awareness of innovative library book delivery systems around the world. LWB continues to work with Mariane Léonard and Isabelle Camiré, the start-up leaders, to launch the committee and to orient them to the work of LWB. Welcome Canada’s National Capital Region to LWB!

University of Western Ontario

The LWB Committee at the University of Western Ontario (UWO) had a busy academic year supporting a number of local and international initiatives in Nigeria, Ontario, Guatemala, and Rwanda.

FCT School for the Blind, Nigeria: UWO shipped approximately $1000 worth of braille materials to the school as the first step in their partnership. They raised funds beginning in the summer of 2010, and began to ship materials in the fall of 2010. By August 2011, the majority of the braille materials were successfully delivered to the School.
**Kettle Point Public Library, Ontario:** In the summer of 2010, UWO donated a sign for the outside of this First Nations public library. Based on that experience, UWO made a further commitment to develop three programs for the library, and to continue to donate books and other materials as needed. Beverly Brisette, the community contact, helped to outline what the library needed and how LWB-UWO could help. Three students, Graeme Peters, Megan Copp, and Jessica Veldman developed three programs (Book to Film for Teens, Games Night for Teens, and Facebook for Seniors) for the library. They also donated books and purchased a digital encyclopedia from World Book thanks to a generous donation by an LWB member. Kettle Point remains UWO’s destination for appropriate donated materials.

**Miguel Angel Asturias Academy, Guatemala:** LWB-UWO joined forces with other LWB Student Committees on the Asturias project. They created a collection plan to develop a history section at the Asturias library, focusing specifically on Guatemalan and World History books in both English and Spanish languages. In total LWB-UWO donated nearly $700 in books to the library. Three LWB-UWO students delivered the books to Asturias on the LWB service trip to Guatemala.

**Kigali Institute of Education, Rwanda:** LWB was approached by University of Western Ontario Professor Amanda Grzyb to help develop a Gender Studies collection for the Kigali Institute of Education in Rwanda. LWB-UWO initiated a collection development plan for the library, including sifting through existing materials and making material recommendations. They led a book donation drive on campus in May, which netted approximately 100 books. In the summer months LWB-UWO sorted through these books to determine which ones to send to Kigali and which ones to attempt to sell in order to raise fund to purchase other titles for their collection.
The LWB-University of Toronto (U of T) Committee threw itself fully into supporting the Asturias Library Project in a leadership role.

Over the course of eight months they worked towards acquiring materials for Asturias’ collection in the subject areas of teaching and Guatemalan folklore, folk tales, and mythology. Their fundraising committee – which included Carla Wintersgill, Katie Needs, Katie Cuyler, and Maggie Reid – executed successful events throughout the year, including their popular holiday “Ugly Sweater Dance Party”. A Collection Development Sub-Committee was formed to find and purchase books for Asturias Academy. Nina Pena, Nalini Battu, Carmen Ho, and Ahlya Fountain worked rigorously to identify good materials for inclusion. Ten LWB-U of T students delivered the materials to Asturias on the service trip to Guatemala.

In March 2011, LWB U of T also hosted a Library Activism Panel Discussion. Panel guests included LWB-UWO Liaison / LWB-Costa Rica Team Member Erin Walker and U of T student / former World Literacy Canada intern, Tessa Fleming.
Membership

Overview

The membership of Librarians Without Borders has continued to grow, as individuals join in our goal to address information resource inequality across the globe. We are continuing to increase our membership at a rapid rate, with 173 new members joining us in 2011. Our membership now stands at 1107 members.

While the majority of our new members come to us via the internet, many have also joined us due to the efforts of our Student Committees at LIS schools across Canada. Our visibility on Twitter @LWB_Online has almost doubled in the past year, from some 450 to 800 followers. We have also continued to engage with our members through the re-establishment of the LWB Newsletter, and envision a more connected and involved membership as we move forward as an organization.

Our membership is truly international, representing 70 different countries including Angola, Colombia, Iran, and Zimbabwe. As well, many members are actively involved in their community, volunteering their time with public libraries, the Red Cross, and other non-governmental organizations.

Worldwide Distribution

Our members are spread across many different countries:

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<th>Country</th>
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<td>Denmark</td>
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LWB International Summary

The total revenues in FY2011 were $1,822.68; total outlays were $2622.68. As planned, we increased our fundraising efforts and in FY2011 our revenues covered 70% of expenses, up from 12% in FY2010. Raising capital will be a significant focus for LWB International in FY2012, with a goal to achieve and exceed budget neutrality.

LWB International Breakdown

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<th>Interest</th>
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<td>400.00</td>
<td>948.00</td>
<td>0.59</td>
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<td>(262.39)</td>
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| NET                | (476.41) |

Organization–Wide Summary

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Special Recognition

University Partners

Dalhousie University - School of Information Management
McGill University - School of Information Studies
University of British Columbia - School of Library, Archival & Information Studies
University of Ottawa – School of Information Studies
University of Toronto - Faculty of Information
University of Western Ontario - Faculty of Information and Media Studies

Project and Event Partners

ABQLA College and Research Libraries Section
Canadian Library Assoc’ Government, Library, & Information Management Professionals Network
Carroll Airey, Founder and Director, Take A Stand For Kids
Dr. Louise Spiteri, School of Information Management, Dalhousie University
FCT School for Blind Children, Nigeria
Hopeful Sign Online Magazine
Josh Zyss, Pre-Med Student at the University of Western Ontario
Kettle and Stony Point First Nations Public Library, Ontario
Kigali Institute of Education, Rwanda
Kirsten Daub and Lesbia Morales Sican, Café Etico
Maria Savova, McGill University Library
Marymount College Business Incubator Club
Miguel Angel Asturias Academy, Guatemala
Ottawa Public Library, Rideau Branch
Tessa Fleming, University of Toronto MIS Student
Vancouver Public Library, Carnegie Branch
Organizational Donors

Auryn Inc.

Canadian Library Association (Judy Green)

Canadian Library Association Student Chapter, Dalhousie University

Canadian Manda Group (Liza Hageraats)

Centaur Theatre, Montreal

David’s Tea, Montreal

Joy Bennett

Las Americas Bookstore, Montreal

Lindsey Sikora

Library and Information Studies Student Association, McGill University

Master of Information Student Council (MISC), University of Toronto

Ottawa Public Library, Centennial Branch Teen Advisory Group (led by Andrea Gowing)

Penguin Group (Wendy Bush-Lister)

PM Press (Ramsey Kanaan)

Post-Graduate Students’ Society, McGill University, Montreal

Random House (Lynne Reeder)

Scholastic Books Canada (Janet Murie)

School of Information Studies, McGill University

Special Library Association Student Chapter, McGill University

The Montreal Museum of Fine Arts

The Word Bookstore, Montreal

Thomas Allen & Sons (Tim Smith)

Thompson House (Bliss Ward)

Toronto Public Library, Brookbanks Branch

Victoria van der Linden

Woozles Children’s Bookstore, Halifax, Nova Scotia