



ASSOCIATION OF SOUTHERN
AFRICAN INDEXERS AND
BIBLIOGRAPHERS ASAIB



n e w s l e t t e r

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1 2004 Annual report

ASSOCIATION OF SOUTHERN AFRICAN INDEXERS AND BIBLIOGRAPHERS

Report 2004 by the Chairperson, Marlene Burger

The year 2004 was a good year for ASAIB. For this, I must thank the members of the Executive Committee for their input, participation and hard work regarding all activities. The highlights of the period were the following:

1 PUBLICATIONS

- 1.1 ASAIB has published two newsletters in electronic format, containing interesting reports, articles and book reviews. They were also published on the ASAIB web site. Hard copies were sent to members without electronic contact details.
- 1.2 The proceedings of our annual conference, *Beyond Book Indexing*, have been compiled and will be published in 2005.
- 1.3 An updated *Directory of Available Indexers* is now available and can be consulted on the ASAIB website. The Directory can be accessed via personal name of indexer, or subject field. Thank you, Madely du Preez for this time-consuming task.
- 1.4 ASAIB has completed the manual, *Indexing for Southern Africa*. Dr Jacqueline Kalley and Elna Schoeman are the editors. The first pre-publication editing has been done.

2 CONFERENCE

- 2.1 The annual conference, entitled *Beyond Book Indexing* was held on 16-17 September 2004 in Johannesburg. This was ASAIB's first international conference and two speakers, one from the UK (Janet McKerron) and one from the USA (Lori Lathrop) presented papers. Part of the programme was electronic indexing demonstrations and a visit to the Brenthurst Library. On the evening of 16 September, the indexing manual was launched at the Johannesburg Country Club. The conference was reasonably well attended and superb papers were presented. Our sincere thanks to everyone who has helped with the conference arrangements, and also to the Electoral Institute of Southern Africa and the American Embassy for providing venues and facilities.

3 TRAINING

- 3.1 The Executive Committee of ASAIB presented a pre-conference workshop on reference techniques and bibliography in Polokwane, as part of the Liasa Annual Conference programme. The workshop was attended by 36 participants.

4 WEB PAGE

- 4.1 The web page can be accessed at www.asaib.org.za For contributions, comments, suggestions, etc, Marlene Burger at burgem@unisa.ac.za can be contacted.

5 MEMBERSHIP

- 5.1 We are still a small professional society, but membership has grown and we now have 142 members. A warm welcome to all new members.

6 OVERSEAS CONTACTS

- 6.1 ASAIB was, as usual, invited to the SI's 2004 conference. Marlene Burger attended the conference on 2-4 April in Chester, UK. She presented a report on ASAIB at the conference, and also had the honour of attending an editorial committee meeting of the periodical, *The Indexer*.
- 6.2 Christie Theron is still responsible for the *Around the World* section in *The Indexer*.

7 ASAIB BRANCHES

- 7.1 The Western Cape Branch, with Mary Lennox as chairperson, plans a book indexing workshop early in 2005. Unfortunately, no report for 2004 was received from this branch.
- 7.2 The KwaZulu-Natal Branch, with Umashanie Reddy as chairperson, plans to organise the 2005 conference in Durban. This branch has regular meetings and publishes a newsletter.

8 ASAIB AWARD

- 8.1 Yvonne Garson received the award for the best index/bibliography published in 2004, and Shelagh Willet of Botswana was the runner-up.

9 PLANNING AHEAD

- 9.1 ASAIB will continue with indexing workshops. We will consider all suggestions regarding training.
- 9.2 We will investigate
 - marketing strategies for ASAIB
 - Web indexing
 - more international participation
- 9.3 The 2005 conference will be in Durban. The KwaZulu-Natal Branch will be the organisers.

We also took leave of one of our founder members, Elna Schoeman. She was a valued member of the Executive Committee and responsible for the publication of the Newsletter and the Conference proceedings. Thank you, Elna, for your loyalty and hard work.

ASAIB is well established in the indexing environment in the Southern African region, and we hope to continue to make a worthwhile contribution.

Please note: The ASAIB List is for use by *all* members of ASAIB. You are welcome to send news, information, communications, etc.

2 Report back on indexing workshop, Cape Town

On 15 and 16 February 2005, a workshop on book indexing was presented in Cape Town to 30 participants. We started off with problems such as the air conditioning not working and the text with group indexing exercises for manual indexing not reaching the Cape Town computer. However, the air conditioning system was fixed before lunchtime and the text for the electronic indexing exercise turned up – the manual indexing exercises are still lost somewhere in cyberspace! We managed to work from the handouts that contained some of the manual indexing exercises, as well as with periodical articles, but circumstances were not ideal. The participants were very supportive and coped with all the technical problems. For this I thank them all. Such a large group from diverse professional backgrounds and various degrees of indexing experience was a real challenge. A very special thanks to Mary Lennox for organising the workshop as well as to Professor Peter Underwood of UCT for providing the venue. Welcome to all the new members in Cape Town, who joined ASAIB after the workshop. [Marlene Burger].

3 Newsflashes

NEWSFLASHNEWSFLASHNEWSFLASHNEWSFLASHNEWSFLASHNEWSFLASH

Hon Treasurer of ASAIB, **Peter Duncan**, was one of the recipients of the *Long Service Award* at a ceremony held in November 2004, in recognition of 25 years of service to the University of the Witwatersrand.

NEWSFLASHNEWSFLASHNEWSFLASHNEWSFLASHNEWSFLASHNEWSFLASH



Australian and New Zealand Society of Indexers

GPO Box 2069, Canberra ACT 2601

email: aussi@aussi.org or president@aussi.org

home page: <http://www.aussi.org>

phone: 0500 525 005

AusSI is now ANZSI

On 17 November 2004, the Australian Society of Indexers (AusSI) adopted a revised constitution that, inter alia, changed the name of the Society to **Australian and New Zealand Society of Indexers (ANZSI)**. This name change reflects our increased

membership from both sides of the Tasman, evident in the recent formation of a New Zealand Branch of the Society. The Society now has formal branches in the ACT Region, New South Wales, New Zealand and Victoria, as well as interest groups or members in all other states of Australia.

From 2005, the *Newsletter of the Australian Society of Indexers* will be renamed *ANZSI Newsletter*. In the short term, the website address will remain at

www.aussi.org

Please note these name changes for your records.

Lynn Farkas
ANZSI President

4 Correspondence

ASAIB member eligibility to join ASI Special Interest Group

Heather Hedden, the coordinator of the America Society of Indexer's Web Indexing Special Interest Group has requested that we bring the following information to the attention of ASAIB members who are interested in joining this Interest Group:

According to the international agreement between the Association of Southern African Indexers and Bibliographers (ASAIB) and the American Society of Indexers (ASI), ASAIB members may join ASI Special Interest Groups.

The Web Indexing Special Interest Group has been reactivated. It has a new website: <http://www.web-indexing.org> , and has a new online discussion group: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/web-indexing/>

ASAIB members are most welcome to visit this site and participate in the discussion group.

For any enquiries you may contact:

Heather Hedden

Coordinator Web-Indexing SIG,ASI

President: Hedder Information Management

98 East Riding Drive

Carlisle MA 01741-1602

USA

Tel: 978-371-0822

heather@hedden.net

<http://www.Hedden-Information.com>

Exchange newsletters from indexing societies

Below are full contact details for Mr Qin Banglian cnindex@fudan.edu.cn , the CSI corresponding member. This is the address to send exchange newsletters to, etc.

The new contact of the CSI is:

China Society of Indexers

Mr.Qin Banglian

Secretariat of the CSI

Fudan University Library

403 Room 220 Handan Road,

Shanghai

200433

PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

tel:86-21-55664454

website: <http://www.cnindex.fudan.edu.cn>

5 Indexing book and commemorative volume

The indexing book manuscript came back from outside evaluators with highly positive comments. The book has been through its first editing and will soon be in the printing process. More details on price and ordering will be available at a later date. Consult the ASAIB web page www.asaib.org.za for this information.

Another book, a commemorative volume including all the ASAIB publications of its first ten years of existence, is also under way. The idea is to launch it at the ASAIB Conference in October 2005.

6 Bibliography and indexing award

Yvonne Garson received the ASAIB Award prize for the best bibliography/index in Southern Africa for 2004. The work is entitled *From myth to reality in the cartography of the Colonial Era: historical maps of Southern Africa and islands off its coast*.

The runner-up was Shelagh Willet for her publication, *The Khoe and San: an annotated bibliography*.

This award is made annually by ASAIB and the **deadline for 2004-2005 bibliographies and indexes is 20 September 2005**. The winner and the runner-up will be announced at the ASAIB Conference in October this year. Entry forms will be available on the ASAIB web page, or can be requested from Marlene Burger, tel 012-4296585, e-mail: burgem@unisa.ac.za

7 Conference alerts

7.1 ASAIB Annual Conference 2005

Due to unforeseen circumstances, the conference will not take place in Durban as initially planned, but at the **Military Museum in Johannesburg**. The main theme is “*Diverse Interests in Indexing*.” The format will be two parallel Round Table discussions and garden sessions. The topics for the two round tables are *Access to information in children’s literature*, and *Metadata & Indexing Digital Resources*. It will take place on **6 October 2005**. During the conference the Award for Best Bibliography/Index will be awarded, and the commemorative volume will be launched. Tea and lunch will be served.

Conference fees: R200-00 pp for ASAIB members; R220 pp for non-members.

Times: 9:00-13:00, followed by lunch.

Programme: The full programme will be available on the ASAIB web site.

Registration form: See the ASAIB web site at a later date.

The conference will also be announced in the ASAIB List and the IGBIS List.

7.2 SI Annual Conference 2005

CONNECTIONS: WORKING IN THE PRESENT – LEARNING FROM THE PAST

Put it in your diary now! 8 to 10 July, Exeter (index below for your convenience):

Devon

cream teas, requirement to eat whilst in

Exeter

Cathedral, very nice place to visit

transport links

air: flights to and from Edinburgh, Glasgow, Belfast, Dublin

rail: Exeter St Davids Station

road: MS located within few miles of university

university

accommodation in students rooms with en-suite showers

buildings, handsome early Victorian to brand new

car parking on campus, availability of

conference facilities, spacious

grounds, lovely and mature

position, north of city centre

venue of SI Conference 2005

AGM Sunday morning

meeting fellow indexers, necessity of

music, Thomas Tallis during reception in chapel

networking, importance of

sessions and workshops

skills updates

speakers, interesting variety of

seafaring

Drake

Raleigh

Trafalgar, 200th Anniversary of Battle of

surfing, availability of good beaches for those so inclined

swimming *see* surfing

For more information: www.indexers.org.uk

7.3 Canadian Indexers Conference 2005

Mark June 8 and 9, 2005, on your calendars and set your sights on Canada's capital, because this year's IASC/SCAD (Indexing and Abstracting Society of Canada) conference is already shaping up to be a winner, with some terrific speakers and really helpful sessions. Topics include: Indexing in a Multicultural Environment, Thesauri and Controlled Vocabularies, and Helping Editors and Authors to Evaluate Indexes.

We've also lined up two great panels on Parliamentary Indexing and Scholarly Indexing and an information session on the SI Course and Accreditation. Speakers include Michèle Hudon, Christine Jacobs, Kate Mertes, Gay Lepkey, Ruth Pincoe, Patricia Buchanan, Noeline Bridge, and Joan McGilvray of McGill-Queen's University Press.

If you want to make a week of it, come for one of the two days of pre-conference software workshops: CINDEXTM - 1-day workshop, June 7; MACREXTM - 2-day workshop, June 6 and 7.

Then head to Toronto for the Editors' Association of Canada conference, June 10-12.

All conference sessions and workshops will be held at the University of Ottawa. This beautiful downtown location is within walking distance of many of Ottawa's finest attractions, including Parliament Hill, the National Gallery of Canada, the ByWard Market, and the Rideau Canal.

For more information, check out the conference URL:
<http://www.indexingsociety.ca/conferences.html>

7.4 2005 Advanced workshop on bibliographic standards: preliminary announcement

The 2005 Workshop will again be hosted by the LIASA National Interest Group for Bibliographic Standards.

Date: 19-22 July 2005

Venue: CSIR International Convention Centre in Pretoria (<http://www.csiricc.co.za>)

Target audience: Experienced descriptive and subject cataloguers

The Workshop will cover 4 days of practical sessions on AACR2, MARC21, DDC, LCSH and Authority control.

Workshop registration fees:

Full workshop fee: R700,00 pp (IGBIS members) and R900,00 pp (non-members)

Daily registration fees: R200,00 pp (IGBIS members) and R300,00 pp (non-members)

Accommodation arrangements:

Contact person - Liza Borstlap: Casa Toscana (<http://www.casatoscana.co.za>)

Tel.: (012) 348-8820 or 082-453-1859

e-mail: liza@casatoscana.co.za

More detailed information to be circulated soon, which will also be available on the IGBIS Web page http://www.liasa.org.za/interest_groups/igbis.php

Any inquiries may be addressed to:

Martha de Waal

IGBIS Communications Officer

Tel: (012) 401-9719

Fax: (012) 325-5984

e-mail: martha.dewaal@nlsa.ac.za

7.5 LIASA pre-conference workshop on indexing basics

This workshop will be presented as a LIASA pre-conference workshop on Monday, 26 September 2005 in Nelspruit. It is organised by IGBIS. The details and bookings are on <http://www.liasa.org.za> ; and details will be posted on ASAIB List.

8 Notes on Jeffrey Klass' "The second hand booktrade and the internet." Impressions of, and notes on, the AGM 2004 talk, by Madely du Preez.

Jeffrey Klass briefly attended to aspects relating to the Internet, raising some points and making some comments. He noted that the 10 years of ASAIB's existence roughly spans the existence of book sites on the Internet. Since then there has been some major advances and ABE made more than 1 million books available in 1997. In June 1998 it had 1200 dealers with more than 2 million books. Today there are 13000 dealers.

User and dealer perceptions of what constitutes a book are now changing. The notion of the traditional bookshop has been eroded. One no longer needs to visit a bookshop or own a book to be a dealer. Amazon, for example, does not own any books, but can supply rare books, available books and second hand books – seldom in the past did new and second hand books meet via the same dealer.

People have lost the smell of the book and the dusty piles that constitute a second hand bookshop. They no longer come into contact with the staff. It seems as if there will be fewer real bookshops in future. This is an economic matter as, due to the Internet, stock no longer needs to be visible, less staff is needed, and rent does not have to be paid. It should also make the product cheaper and more accessible. Printed paper catalogues have now become a rather scarce commodity due to cost implications. Cheaper lists will disappear in future, but the feeling is that status or prestige catalogues will continue.

Criticism is aimed at the levelling of prices and price-cutting. Where the dealer pitches a book is an interesting exercise. The competition has changed. It is no longer the bookshop up the street, but the invisible bookshop somewhere in the global space. The notion is to go for scarcity and rarity – one is more aware about the existence of this notion.

An advantage is that bookshops are now open 24 hours a day and the world has become the market place. Dealers are no longer limited to local markets. The range of material that can be offered has been widened. The dealer is able to offer new stock on a daily basis. His stock

is changing and instant gratification of the client is a possibility, instead of taking 6 weeks. The client can also immediately be informed if a book has been sold out.

Disadvantages:

- Extension of the fact that there is not much personal expertise. Site managers can do the trade great harm.
- Fraud is the biggest problem – credit cards don't always belong to the client placing the order, for example a R42000 book was lost this way.
- Electronic auctions – people list books on the auction that don't belong to them and will then buy it once they get a higher bid than what they have to pay the dealer.
- Too many members of the trade. There is a need to police bookselling.

The Internet has seen quite a boom. It has a language of its own that has to be interpreted and learnt by all. Jeffrey Klass sees a major future in the bookselling trade. The most rare items, though, will continue to be sold on a personal basis.

10 Preface to “the Mazruiana collection revisited.”

THE MAZRUIANA COLLECTION REVISITED. ALI A. MAZRUI DEBATING THE AFRICAN CONDITION. AN ANNOTATED AND SELECT THEMATIC BIBLIOGRAPHY, 1962-2003. Revised and Enlarged Edition. Compiled by Abdul Samed Bemath. Foreword by Chief Emeka Anyaoku with an Introduction by Indiana University based Professors AB and YM Alex-Assensoh. NEW DELHI, INDIA: NEW DAWN PRESS (An imprint of Sterling Publishers, and PRETORIA, SOUTH AFRICA: AFRICA INSTITUTE OF SOUTH AFRICA, 2005. 426p. 650 Entries. ISBN: 1 932705 376 (Hardcover). PRICE: UK £24.99. USA \$39.95.

PREFACE

In this revised and updated edition of my bibliography, The Mazruiana Collection, that covered the period 1962-1997, I am continuing my bibliographical discourse with the works of Professor Ali A Mazrui, updating the collection to 2003 with an additional 136 entries. This comprehensive annotated bibliography of the works of Ali A Mazrui spans four decades and is a contribution to the growing interest shown by social scientists, policy makers, scholars and students in the political thought of one of Africa's most accomplished and prolific writers.

This revised and expanded edition consists of 650 entries: Section I lists 31 books, section II 11 pamphlets, Section III details 386 of his major academic papers, Section IV lists 198 magazine articles and Section V lists 24 video and film recordings. The annotations are detailed, and each section has a keyword index. A separate, detailed authors' and subjects' index is included for easy reference.

I have outlined in the section: Major works on Ali A Mazrui an interest reflected by the written works, electronic and seminar debates, and audio-visual recordings about him and his works. The study is also a biographical sketch of him and I have included several essays written by him and scholars familiar with debates on Mazrui's works.

I have included a Select Thematic Bibliography on major themes of his writings.

The study has a foreword by former Commonwealth Secretary-General Chief Emeka Anyaoku and an introduction by Professors Akwasi and Yvette Assensoh.

In his tribute the House of Lords function (June 2000) in honour of Professor Mazrui and his works Kofi Annan, Secretary-General of the United Nations, had the following to say: "This moment in history is ours. The international community is showing a growing interest in helping Africa realise its potential. At the same time, Africa is growing increasingly aware that the key to many of its problems can be found only among Africans themselves. African scholars like Professor Mazrui are at the vanguard of this renewal. Their work holds the key to what we all want and need: African answers to African problems." *

As Mazrui puts it: "Many people disagree with me. My life is one long debate." May this, The Mazruiana Collection Revisited, contribute to the debate on Mazrui – the man and his works!

*Message read by His Excellency Dr Yakubu Gowon (*Q-News*, London, July 2000).

OBTAINABLE FROM:

USA: Independent Publishers Group. 600 North Pulaski Road, Chicago, IL 60624. Phone: 312-337 0747

Contact person: David Gebhart. David@ipgbook.com

UK: Sterling Distributors. 2 Tintern Close, Slough, Berkshire, SL1-2TB, United Kingdom. Phone: 01753820091. E-mail: sterlingdis@yahoo.co.uk

INDIA: New Dawn Press. A-59 Okhla Industrial Area Phase II, New Delhi.

Phone: +91 11 26386165. E-mail: ghai@nde.vsnl.net.in

South Africa: Africa Institute of South Africa. P.O.Box 630, Pretoria, 0001, South Africa. Phone: (012) 328 6970. E-mail: beth@ai.org.za

12 Book reviews

<p><i>Internet and personal computing fads</i>, by Mary Ann Bell, Mary Ann Berry, and James L van Roekel. Binghamton, NY: Haworth Information Press, 2004. 210 pp. ISBN 0789017717</p>

Internet and personal computing fads is intended for all the people finding themselves totally out of their depth with all the computer jargon and internet buzzwords. It is a perfect introduction to the world of computers and the Internet and offers a well-documented overview of events and developments relating to the explosion of computer technology and the Internet.

It takes an encyclopaedic look at Internet buzzwords and provides a one-stop shopping for the hottest terms, both historical and present-day terms. Terms representing variety fields of interest, including general computer use, business and entertainment are briefly explained. The book offers an interesting retrospective view of the development of computer and Internet use, a description of current fads and trends, and predictions on how the technologies

will develop in the future. The short bibliographies at the end of each entry provide for more complete information, if needed.

Entries are in layman's terms, making the book approachable and useful for the novice computer or Internet user. It could be very useful in all types of libraries, or even for general use by readers wanting to become more familiar with computer terminology. A feature of this work is that there are definitions as well as coping strategies. How to deal with all these culture-benders may be the most outstanding facet of the book.

Some of the terms appearing in *Internet and personal computing fads* include *acceptable use policy, geek speak MP3s, viruses and Y2K*. It even looks at computer Easter eggs – generally harmless messages or software included inside other computer programs. Did you know that Microsoft Excel 97 had a flight simulator game hidden within it? I didn't, until I read the entry on Easter Eggs.

Internet and computing fads is a well-researched and written book. A useful index completes the volume. The index has many *see* and *see also references* to assist readers in finding the correct term or entry when they find themselves caught in a jungle of computer terminology. It is very concise and written in language most appropriate for the layperson, but also more than adequate for use by technology professionals. I find it a great asset to my personal collection on Internet and computer literature.

[Reviewed by Madely du Preez]

Thirty years of electronic records. Edited by Bruce I Ambacher. Lanham, Maryland: Scarecrow Press. 2003. 190p. Paperback, ISBN 0-8108-4769-8.

The contributors in this collection of essays have all been involved in the development of the *U.S. National Archives and Records Administration (NARA)*. It is not only about appraising, accessioning, preserving, describing, and providing access to archival electronic records. It also includes discussions on the application of archival theory and practice, and their evolution. The main focus is on archival electronic records, which makes this collection essential to the current challenges faced by libraries, archives, museums, and similar institutions, regarding the preservation (and related activities) of contemporary and future types of electronic records. Of great value is the inclusion of the history and evolution of the records creation, use, and disposition of electronic records, as well as broader governmental and societal understanding and use of electronic records.

Two sections precede the chapters. The first section 'Chronology' offers a useful chronological record of NARA and of electronic records, as well as organisational names. This is followed by a section entitled 'Recollections' by Fishbein, which provides an account of the convergence of technology that resulted in the need for an effective electronic records program to be developed. A logical progression from this section is Chapter 1 (Brown) on the history of the NARA program. It reflects the development, setbacks, and progress of the NARA program, and it parallels the evolution of archival processing and services for electronic records and of the archival community's efforts to address this new form of records. The electronic records program of NARA has undergone changes in addressing the issues related to the identification, acquisition, preservation, and use of archival electronic records. Brown shows that these changes coincide with major phases in the evolution of the information technology field.

The main functional aspects of appraisal, accessioning, preservation, description and reference as they related to electronic records, are developed further in chapters 2 (Henry), chapter 3 (Ambacher), and chapter 4 (Adams) respectively. Chapter 5 by Thibodeau provides insight into the *Electronic Records Archives Program* (ERA) of the future. Baron in chapter 6 gives a perspective on the impact of litigation on government electronic record keeping. He analyses two case studies to illustrate his perspective. The chapter on 'Views of Managers' (chapter 7) provides insight into the electronic records program of NARA from the standpoint of the officials tasked with managing the program. Chapter 8 is an appropriate conclusion by Conrad. He details the significant contributions of NARA to the development of archival electronic records theory and practice through the National Historical Publications and Records Commission's electronic records research agenda and its grant program. Even though NARA is specifically a U.S. archival electronic records program, it still attends to universal problems regarding such records. It may prove to be an important source for those involved in archival studies. The only pity about this collection is the absence of an index.

[Reviewed by Karin McGuirk; published by Emerald in 2004, *Online Information Review*, 28(6):465-466.]

12 Obituary: Mr JC Theron (1948-2005)

Christie Theron passed away on 2 January 2005. ASAIB received this news with great sadness. He was a member of the Executive Committee for the past four years during which he made various contributions such as presenting papers at some of our conferences, helped organising conferences, and above all, supported the Committee in all its tasks. With his happy smile, he was a friend to all of us.

As a member of the editorial board of *The Indexer*, he was responsible for the section *Around the World*, published in each issue of the periodical. That way he made valuable contact with overseas indexing societies, which was a benefit to ASAIB.

Christie was a Senior Lecturer in the Department of Information Science at Unisa since 1987. He was responsible for teaching undergraduate subjects like Archival Science, Bibliology, Information Science, Library History, and Applied Record Studies. On honours level he taught Philosophy of Information and Record Studies, Readership, Theory of Library Science, and Information Technology. He was also responsible for a number of Masters students. During this time, he published a range of interesting articles. At the time of his death, he was working on a D Litt et Phil thesis entitled, *Separate personal book collections in urban public and university libraries in South Africa*. Christie presented many papers at both national and international conferences.

As a long term member of LIASA, he was committed to its vision and willingly served on the Representative Council as Chairperson of the Research, Education and Training Interest Group (RETIG) for the period 2002-2004.

Christie grew up on a sultana farm in the Upington district and matriculated at the Upington High School. Thereafter he studied at the University of the Orange Free State (BA and the Higher Diploma in Librarianship), the University of Stellenbosch (Hons B Bibl) and the University of South Africa (M Bibl). He was a librarian at the UOFS Library and the UWC Library; a lecturer at the UWC Department of Library Science; then joined Unisa in 1986.

Christie's diverse interests are reflected by the many professional and other societies he joined, such as SHARP, SA Society of Cultural History, SA Museums Association, SA Society of Archivists, SA Online User Group, Society of Bibliophiles (Cape Town), Africana Society (Pretoria), Friend of the National Library of SA (Cape Town), Friends of the War Museum (Bloemfontein). He was also the chairman of the Reading Circle Constantiapark.

His commitment, enthusiasm, sense of humour, and passion for book collecting, information technology and philosophy, will be sorely missed. [Marlene Burger].

-----End-----