

City of Cape Town

LIBRARY SERVICES

a new face

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After 10 years and numerous amalgamations, the City of Cape Town Library and Information Services has a new management team. Since March 2005, with the appointment of the library manager until the appointment of the six district managers and three specialists (Collection Development, Marketing and Research and Information Systems) in September 2005, the team is taking shape and is getting down to creating one unified service for the City.

Meet the team...

Ninnie Steyn

Having known from an early age what she would like to be someday, Ninnie enrolled for the B Bibl course at the University of Stellenbosch. This was followed by her B Bibl Hons and by the end of her fifth year of study, she was ready to start working and commenced duties as the chief librarian of the Swellendam Public Library on 1 December 1989. Seeking greater challenges she then accepted the post of deputy chief librarian at Milnerton Public Library, which consisted of a main library and two branch libraries, in 1991. When the chief librarian retired she was appointed as chief librarian of the Milnerton Library Service. In 1997 she became manager of Library Services in the Blaauwberg Municipality.

During her last working years, however, having had to grapple with an increasingly complex working environment and the feeling that she often was looking for options and answers to deal with the particular challenges facing us that were not always readily forthcoming, she enrolled in the MBA programme at the University of Stellenbosch Business School on a part-time basis. Three of the most trying, challenging and rewarding years followed, both in terms of professional and personal development and she eventually obtained her MBA degree in April 2005. 'This experience, coupled with my other professional qualifications and work experience will, I am convinced, stand me in good stead leading a large and diverse team of staff in my capacity as Manager: Library and Information Services, City of Cape Town' (which she was appointed to in March 2005). 'I consider it a privilege indeed to be part of the team responsible for the creation of one unified library and information service for the City of Cape Town.'

District managers

Carmen Holtzman

Carmen started her working career doing marketing, sales and training on various library software packages after completing her B Bibl Hons. In 1998 she was appointed Administrator: Technical and Support Services in the Blaauwberg Administration after working in various libraries as a library assistant and librarian. During the past three years she has also been the

coordinator for SmartCape, the Libraries and Social Development web site as well as the Technical Task Team in the Cape Town Unicity. In September 2005, Carmen was appointed as district manager (District 1).

Cheryl Heymann

Born and bred in Cape Town, Cheryl attended the University of Cape Town where she received a post-graduate Higher Diploma in Education and a Higher Diploma in Librarianship. Her first job was as a teacher-librarian at Milnerton High School but librarianship had greater appeal and in 1980 she joined the then Cape Town City Libraries as a librarian. For the next 25 years she continued to work in libraries, progressing to chief librarian. As chief librarian of technical services she was responsible for computerising Cape Town City Libraries in the early 1990s. In addition she supervised eighteen libraries as well as having line authority over all the Head Office functions such as the purchase of all library materials. She was appointed as district manager (District 2) in November 2005 and is looking forward to providing an excellent service to the community.

Dorothy Bothman

Dorothy's career in libraries stretches over more than three decades, and in her words, she is 'proud to have been and still to be part of one of the most ancient, challenging, stimulating, and, to my mind, one of the noblest professions in the world'.

After obtaining a Diploma in Library and Information Services at the University of the Western Cape, her working career started as a very junior library assistant at the then Hewat Teachers' Training College. After this she was transferred as library assistant to the then Coloured Affairs Department's Reference Library in Roeland Street. Thereafter she was employed as a full-fledged library assistant at Cape Town City Libraries for the next five years. After working for two years at various libraries where staff was most needed, she was promoted to the position of librarian-in-charge and managed a number of libraries, when and where operationally required.

After tying the marital knot and an absence of a few months, her career quietly continued in a number of municipal public libraries affiliated to Provincial Library Service, viz. Ravensmead, Bellville South and Belhar Library. During this time she resumed part-time studies and obtained the B Bibl degree at the University of the Western Cape. With the amalgamation of previous municipalities she was appointed as one of four area librarians/managers in the newly formed City of Tygerberg. She was appointed as district manager (District 3) in September 2005.

Tholiwe Mahali

Born in Cape Town Tholiwe grew up in Stutterheim in the Eastern Cape. After completing her higher primary teacher's course she taught at a primary school for five years. In 1972 she did a pre-primary school course and ran her own pre-school. It was this interest in young children that led her to the library to obtain books for the children. In 1975 she was employed as a library assistant at Guguletu Library and it was here

that she was appointed as the librarian-in-charge in 1981. In 1993 she started studying towards obtaining her B Bibl degree at the University of the Western Cape which she completed in 1996 and she started studying towards her B Bibl Hons which she obtained in 1997. In 1998 she was appointed as principal librarian of the Guguletu District in City Libraries. In September 2005 she was appointed district manager (District 4).

Thamsanqa Hombana

Thamsanqa started his career at University of the Western Cape in the campus library as a subject librarian. He was appointed as an area manager in the City of Tygerberg in 1998 and is currently employed as a district manager (District 5) in the City of Cape Town as of September 2005. He is currently studying towards obtaining his MBA through Rhodes University and has a keen interest in the wine industry of the Western Cape.

Anna-Marie Stadler

In January 1976, armed with a B Sc degree in Nursing and a post-graduate diploma in Library and Information Services, Anna-Marie started her career at the then Cape Provincial Library Services (CPLS) in the De Aar Region. In January 1980 she was promoted, almost against her will, to the post of senior librarian in the Eastern Cape. After nine years at CPLS she was welcomed with open arms at Somerset West Library in October 1985, where she could experience and live out the joy of books and reading and her role as 'empowerer' of the community. In 1998, with the birth of the Helderberg Municipality, Anna-Marie was appointed as library manager; a post she maintained even as Helderberg became part of the City of Cape Town Unicity in 2000. In 2005, she was appointed as district manager (District 6) and is grateful for the opportunity to be able to carry out that which she had hoped to achieve as manager of Helderberg.

Specialists

Brenda Kyle (Collection Development)

Brenda's first job after graduating from Library School at the University of Natal, Pietermaritzburg in 1976, was with Natal Provincial Library Services which was a travelling library service to approximately 90 service points in the Midlands of Natal. In 1979 she was made regional librarian. From 1981-1983 she went to Johannesburg and worked in the private sector for two years before coming to Cape Town where she then joined City Libraries in 1984. She started at Central Library, then moved to the Requests Section at Head Office and then as an adult book reviewer. In 1985 she was appointed senior librarian in charge of the recently-formed Acquisitions Section and in 1991 appointed as principal librarian. She lists her high points during this time as having access to books, books, books (a lifetime love affair), and a wide and motley range of people in the world of books, all of them interesting and special in some way or another. Another high point in recent years was the hard but rewarding work of acquiring the stock for seven new libraries between 1997 and 2001 as well as four new libraries before that. She was appointed to the post of collection development librarian for the City of Cape Town Library Services in September 2005.

Nazeem Hardy (Marketing and Research)

Not really knowing what he was in for, Nazeem enrolled for the B Bibl degree course at the University of the Western Cape in 1988, and finally left campus after graduating in 2003 with his

B Bibl Hons. His first position, in March 2003, was as library assistant at the then new library in Elsies River, Adriaanse Public Library. A real eye opener but yet a challenging, enriching and fulfilling job, it was a far cry from what he was taught at university. In December 2004, he joined City Libraries as a librarian at the Westridge Library Branch where he was to meet his future wife. In July 2006, he was appointed as senior librarian of the new Valhalla Park Library which later became part of the City of Tygerberg. In January 2001, he joined City Libraries again, this time as principal librarian of the Heideveld District, comprising the District Library and three branches. One of the high points in recent years was representing City Libraries at Provincial Library Services book selection meetings. In September 2005, he was appointed as marketing and research librarian for the City of Cape Town Library Services.

Emma Bezuidenhout (Information Systems)

Emma was born and educated in Port Elizabeth. She graduated in 1996 armed with a B Tech Library and Information Services degree. She started her working career in 1992 at Somerset West Library where she worked for 12 years. In 2004 she moved to Fish Hoek Library as the second-in-charge. In September 2005 she was appointed as the information systems librarian.

Malene van Zyl (Coordinator: Specialised Operations)

Malene grew up in Tulbagh and attended the University of Stellenbosch, after which she joined the Cape Town City Library Service in 1978. After working in a number of branch libraries she moved to the head office in 1986 to investigate and report on the viability of integrating the Mobile, Hospital, Depot and Senior Services into a centralised structure. She was appointed at chief librarian level in 1987, responsible for Technical Services until 1988 and after that, for a number of branch libraries. Over and above general management, she was also responsible for all the personnel functions within the libraries branch of the old Cape Town City Council. She describes herself as an incurable book collector. She is a member of the City Choir of Tygerberg, and loves attending theatre and travelling (especially camping in Namibia). 'To keep fit and sharp I cycle, hike and from time to time, play tennis.' (She definitely has to be the fittest person on the management team.)

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*The new City of Cape Town Library management team:
Standing: Nazeem Hardy, Cheryl Heymann, Carmen Holtzman, Ninnie Steyn, Dorothy Bothman, Malene van Zyl and Thamsanqa Hombana.
Seated: Brenda Kyle, Tholiwe Mahali, Anne-Marie Stadler and Emma Bezuidenhout*