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Redaksionele beleid

Die **Kaapse Bibliotekaris** is die huisblad van die Wes-Kaapse Provinsiale Biblioteekdiens en verskyn twee-maandeliks. Dit bevat artikels oor biblioteek- en inligtingwese, nuusberigte, resensies, aanwinstlyste asook praktiese artikels. Die redaksie behou hom die reg voor om, indien nodig, bydraes te redigeer, te verkort of te herskryf. Die publikasie van artikels wat nie in opdrag geskryf is nie, kan egter nie gewaarborg word nie. Die menings van medewerkers is nie noodwendig dié van die Biblioteekdiens nie. Alle kopie vir 'n bepaalde uitgawe moet die redaksie twee maande vooruit bereik. Artikels, briewe en nuusberigte kan direk aan die redakteur gestuur word.



REDAKSIONEEL EDITORIAL

South Africa has certainly come a long way - from a time in our country's history where people didn't hesitate to burn books that were deemed undesirable - both from a moral and a political perspective - to today where that approach is simply unthinkable! On page 10 Archie Dick takes us on a historical journey highlighting the burning of books era that plagued this country from approximately 1955 to 1971 - a period that he succinctly sums up as follows: 'In the end book burning was about power - the abuse of it by

agents of censorship and the reluctance to confront power by those who aided and abetted censorship.'

When one reads Ingrid Thomson's report (page 38) on the South African Library Leadership Programme held in the United States of America, it becomes clear that libraries - institutions that should be at the forefront of development - are actually continually 'under siege' - here as well as elsewhere in the world - in the form of book burning (remember the most recent **Harry Potter** burnings?), budget cuts, the threat of technology (e-books) and many more obstacles. It takes many many dedicated people to keep libraries afloat - a fact that is more often than not underappreciated by most!

On the positive side it is encouraging to read about the activities presented by libraries in the South. Don't miss our monthly *Outreach* column for ideas on reaching out to your local community. On this topic, Bellville Library's Library tree is an excellent example of providing valuable information, not only in respect of one's own library's activities but also that of the council and other service departments. On page 42 we provide readers with a detailed description of their Library tree - an idea that is certainly worth imitating.

Enjoy this month's winter fare and remember, this is your last chance to send us photographs of this year's Library Week activities before we go to print.

Suid-Afrika kom beslis 'n ver pad - van 'n tydperk in ons land se geskiedenis toe mense nie gehuiwer het om boeke met 'n ongewenste inhoud - beide polities en moreel - te verbrand nie, tot waar sulke optrede vandag feitlik ondenkbaar is. Op bladsy 10 gee Archie Dick 'n indringende ontleding van die era waarin boeke vernietig is, wat hoofsaaklik van 1955 tot 1971 geduur het - 'n periode wat hy as volg opsom: 'Die verbranding van boeke het op die ou einde oor mag gegaan - die misbruik daarvan deur agente van sensuur en die huiwering van diegene wat sensuur moes toepas om daardie mag te konfronteer.'

By die lees van die verslag geskryf deur Ingrid Thomson oor die Suid-Afrikaanse Biblioteekleierskapprogram wat in die Verenigde State van Amerika aangebied is, (bladsy 38), is dit duidelik dat biblioteke - instansies wat 'n kardinale rol in terme van ontwikkeling behoort te speel - permanent in "n staat van beleg" is - hier in ons land sowel as in die res van die wêreld - in die vorm van boeke wat verbrand word (onthou die onlangse **Harry Potter** verbrandings?), begrotings wat gedurig gesny word, tegnologiese bedreiging (e-boeke) en talle ander struikelblokke. Dit verg oneindige moed en die toegewydheid van talle mense om die biblioteekbootjie te laat aanhou dobber - 'n taak wat deur talle onderskat word.

Op 'n meer positiewe noot is dit bemoedigend om te lees van die uitreikaktiwiteite van biblioteke in die Suid. Moenie ons maandelikse *Uitreik* rubriek misloop vir wenke om na die gemeenskap uit te reik nie. Steeds by hierdie onderwerp, bestudeer gerus Bellville Biblioteek se Biblioteekboom, 'n puik voorbeeld van die beskikbaarstelling van waardevolle inligting ten opsigte van aktiwiteite en dienste van jou biblioteek, die stadsraad, asook ander diensdepartemente aan die breër publiek. Op bladsy 42 bied ons lesers 'n gedetailleerde beskrywing van hul Biblioteekboom - 'n idee wat werklik die moeite werd is om na te boots.

Geniet hierdie maand se winter spyskaart en onthou, dis die laaste geleentheid om terugvoering oor Biblioteekweekaktiwiteite deur te stuur voordat ons pers toe gaan.

Grizéll Azar-Luxton