



ANNUAL REPORT 2008 – 2009

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OUR PHILOSOPHY

Vision

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

Mission

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

Values

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

- ❖ 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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OUR PEOPLE

Board of Directors

Director	Marsha Iverson	board@lwb-online.org
Director	Gina LaForce	board@lwb-online.org
Director	Sylvia Piggott	board@lwb-online.org
Director	Ajit Pyati	board@lwb-online.org
Director	Melanie Sellar	board@lwb-online.org

Executive Officers

Co-Executive Director	Nasser Saleh	nasser@lwb-online.org
Co-Executive Director	<i>currently unfilled</i>	
Membership Director	Erin Fields	membership@lwb-online.org
Secretary	Loretta Melhado	secretary@lwb-online.org
Treasurer	Peter Duerr	treasurer@lwb-online.org

Coordinators

Webmaster	Loren Zawodny	webmaster@lwb-online.org
Student Committee Liaison	Sara Janes	liaison@lwb-online.org
Publications Coordinator	Irene Tencinger	communications@lwb-online.org
Resource Centre Coordinator	<i>currently unfilled</i>	

Student Committees

McGill University

General Inquiries:
lwb.mcgill@gmail.com

University of Toronto

Co-Chair – **Jessica Rovito**:
jessica.rovito@gmail.com

University of British Columbia

General Inquiries:
lwb.ubc@gmail.com

University of Western Ontario

General Inquiries:
lwbatuwo@gmail.com



MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Dear Friends of Librarians Without Borders,

2009 has been another challenging year. Four members of the original board returned and one new board member, Ajit Pyati, was added to our complement.

In 2009, the long awaited Co-Existence Agreement was at long last finalized. No one could have anticipated how long it would take the Board to resolve the legal challenge received from Doctors Without Borders in early 2007! The Board spent much of its time working with LWB's legal counsel to reach an agreement that provides us with the right to use our name with the most flexibility going forward and the fewest restrictions. This will allow LWB to capitalize on its strong "brand recognition" established at the founding of this organization. While a signed co-existence agreement is a significant achievement, it has not come without cost. That cost has been the ability to deliver on our mission.

Under the leadership of Melanie Sellar, and in conjunction with the Executive, the Board identified a strategic planning process to reaffirm not only our vision and sense of purpose but also the necessary activities and processes that must be put in place to take us into 2011 and beyond.

A number of Board members will be ending their terms at the 2009 AGM. On behalf of those who will be leaving, we wish LWB a bright future.

Very truly yours,

*Marsha Iverson
Gina LaForce
Sylvia Piggott
Ajit Pyati
Melanie Sellar*

MESSAGE FROM THE CO-EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear friends and members of LWB,


The end of another year in the life of our growing organization is almost here and it is the time to brief you about what we have achieved during the year and how we succeeded to do a lot of progress towards the organization mission and objectives irrespective of the challenges we face regarding the limited resources we have.

The organization has continued to work hard despite the circumstances of the past years. The Executive started 2009 with some challenges to recruit members especially after the resignation of Sandra Hodgson from her position as a co-executive director in January 2009. We succeeded to have all the positions filled by March 2009 and we were fortunate to have a group of professional dedicated people to LWB.

The major milestone in 2009 was that the co-existence agreement with Doctors Without Borders/ Médecins Sans Frontières was finalized in September 2009. That is a big relief for our organization to overcome such a legal barrier; we would like to thank who have worked hard to make this happen including last year's executive and boards of directors.

We started strategic planning for the organization to find answers to our major questions, including what makes LWB different from other organizations and how to build a sustainable organization. LWB worked with a consultant who has experience in strategic planning for not-for-profit organizations and a questionnaire was sent to members of the Executive and Board of Directors. The results of the questionnaire were sent back to us with an analysis of LWB strengths and opportunities and also what were considered to be some of our weaknesses and threats. The discussion between the Executive and the Board of Directors about the findings will continue in 2010.

We reviewed the planned original goal of supplying a nursing library in Huambo, Angola. We tried to find alternative solutions and contacts to make this project happen; unfortunately we were not successful in identifying a library that could receive the donated books. We decided to



find alternative organizations that we can partner with to pursue this project and/or other projects in the future.

As you can read from the annual report, we have an increased number of members and the new website has been an added value for both internal and external communications. The number of outreach activities is increasing and the growth of student committees' activities is noticeable as well. I would like to thank all of colleagues in the Executive who helped to make this happen.

However, there are a number of dedicated volunteers who are saying goodbye at this year's AGM and we would like to sincerely thank them all for their time, effort and dedication. This organization would not exist without their commitment.

Our Membership Director, Erin Fields, and our Secretary, Loretta Melhado, are resigning their positions this year. Also our publication coordinator, Irene Tencinger, cannot continue with us in 2010. They will be missed as they all brought an important new and fresh voice to the Executive over the past year and we wish them all the best in their endeavours.

I would also like to acknowledge the Executive's appreciation to Melanie Sellar who provided a lot of support and guidance during the year and her dedication to the organization is indescribable.

I, Nasser Saleh, have chosen to leave my position and extend my gratitude to all of our Executive and Coordinators who spent countless hours working to move LWB forward through meetings, discussions, researching potential alternatives for Angola project or supporting our student committees, it was a pleasure to work with you all.

Finally, I wish the continuing and incoming executive and coordinators best of luck and successes in the coming year.

Sincerely,

Nasser Saleh

Co-Executive Director

YEAR IN REVIEW

2009 was a remarkable year in the history of our organization; the following are some of our achievements during the year.

Speaking Engagements and Publications

(Prepared by Irene Tencinger, Publications Coordinator)

Erin Fields, our Membership Director, spoke at the March 2009 meeting of the Toronto Chapter of CASLIS. The focus of her talk was to provide an overview about LWB objectives and activities.

Irene Tencinger, our Publications Coordinator, gave a presentation on LWB to the Librarians Association at Wilfred Laurier University.

In April 2009, Nasser Saleh, Co-Executive Director, talked to the participants at a McGill LWB student committee event about the organization, including the struggle for the co-existence agreement and the role of student committees.

Website

(Prepared by Loren Zawodny, LWB Webmaster)

A new website was created in June 2009 based on Wordpress content management software, with unlimited server space through JustHost. The new format gives each of the Librarians Without Borders' Executive members access to be website authors. Visitors to the website experience a combination of static and dynamic content and have the opportunity to comment on articles. In addition to the website, Executive members also have access to a secure file storage area also housed on the LWB server, and the email addresses were migrated to the new server and forward to their personal email addresses. Another new Internet venue for the organization is Twitter. A micro-blogging website, Twitter allows Executive members to share information with Twitter followers. To make "Tweeting" easy, our website management software is configured to post all website updates to Twitter automatically.

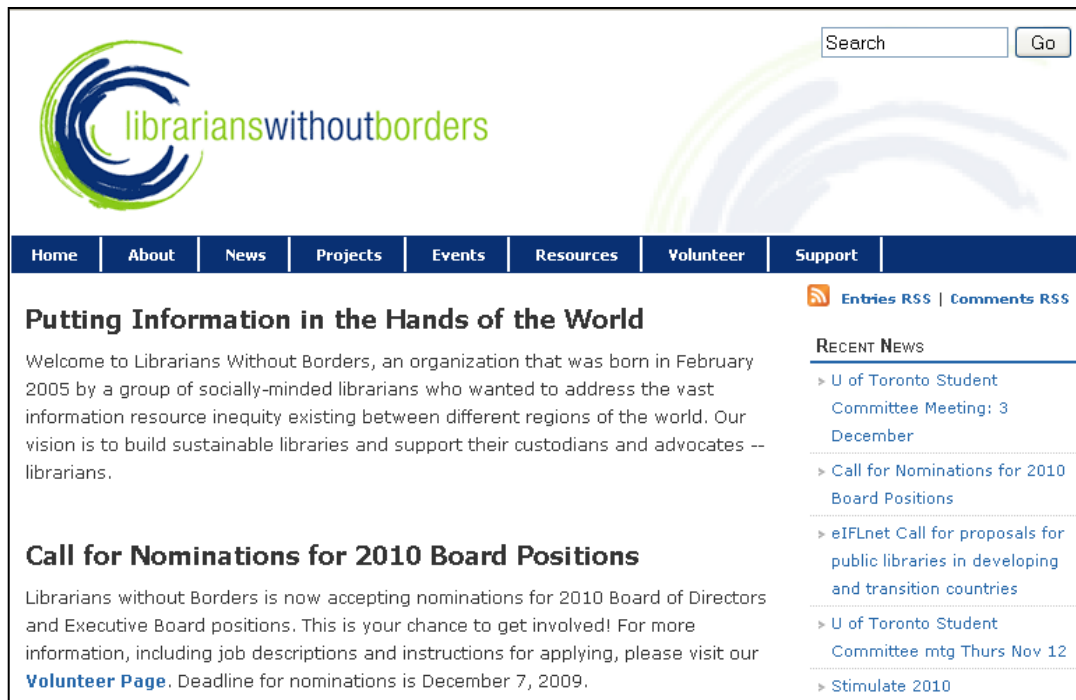


Figure 1: The new design of LWB-Online Website

Usage statistics since June 2009 till December 1, 2009 are:

Total Visits: 27,622
Total Hits: 150014
Average Daily Visits: 180
Average Daily Hits: 977
Twitter Followers: 229

Student Committees

(Prepared by Sara Janes, Student Committee Liaison)

LWB is proud to have four active and enthusiastic student committees operating at library and information science programs at Canadian universities. In addition to our three continuing committees at McGill University, the University of British Columbia, and the University of Western Ontario, we are pleased to welcome our fourth and newest student committee at the University of Toronto.

These student committees have been engaging in a variety of outreach and awareness programs in their own communities, sponsoring an exciting array of guest speakers. They have also actively organized fundraising

events to support Librarians Without Borders and other organizations that share the LWB vision.


McGill University:

In April 2009, the Student Committee of Librarians Without Borders at McGill featured guest speaker Christine Jacobs who spoke about her experiences volunteering in libraries in Ghana. In October, Molly Walsh of CODE Canada spoke about her work and a recent trip to Ethiopia. The McGill Student Committee also held a showing of the documentary Remote Access: Distant Libraries of the World, and held a fundraising raffle.

The McGill Student Committee is in the process of organizing a trip to Asturias Academy in Guatemala, where they plan to help set up a school library while learning more about the challenges of developing literacy and education in that country.

University of British Columbia (UBC):

In 2009, Librarians Without Borders at the University of British Columbia (LWB@UBC) members developed fundraising initiatives for Take a Stand for Kids (TASK), a project founded by UBC alumnus and retired teacher-librarian Carroll Airey that supports health and education initiatives in Nicaragua. Partnering with Cafe Etico, a subsidiary of Co-Development Canada, LWB@UBC launched Coffee for a Cause - a project that raises support and awareness for Carroll's work through the sale of fair-trade coffee. The initiative has been extremely successful and popular among the SLAIS community and continues to grow. In November, LWB@UBC was proud to host a talk by Lesbia Morales Sican of the Campesino Committee of the Highlands in Guatemala. The event was part of an initiative to educate Canadian audiences about how proceeds from fair trade products are spent. In December, LWB@UBC began another fundraising project for TASK, selling locally-created photo cards featuring library images. Lastly, LWB@UBC members offered Carroll some technical and creative support by creating a blog that will be used to communicate the latest information and news about TASK. While in the early stages, LWB@UBC's efforts to support TASK have been successful and positively received. Members are excited about developing a long-term and participatory partnership with Carroll.



As part of its ongoing outreach activities this year, LWB@UBC organized a book-drive for Vancouver's Carnegie Library, which brought in 170 donated books, and held a tour in conjunction. LWB@UBC looks forward to growing its relationship with Carnegie Library and its community.

Lastly, as LWB@UBC grows, its members are look forward to developing relationships with LWB committees across Canada.

University of Western Ontario (UWO):


The Student Committee at the University of Western Ontario has put on a speaker series each semester since Fall 2008. Guests have discussed work in libraries in a variety of countries including North Korea and Tanzania, and issues facing libraries serving diverse and frequently marginalized populations in Canada.

The UWO committee has also organized a number of fundraisers this year, including raffles, coffee sales, and the production and sale of a 2010 calendar entitled "Librarians Letting Loose." Funds are supporting projects at the Kettle and Stony Point Library and a school library in Costa Rica. The UWO Student Committee is also planning a volunteer trip to Costa Rica.

University of Toronto (U of T):

The University of Toronto LWB Student Committee (UTLWBSC) was formed in August 2009, with approximately 30 members. In September, they hosted a screening of the documentary Remote Access: Distant Libraries of the World, with producer Paul Francescutti as a guest speaker. In November, they sponsored a talk with Tanzanian ICT activist and community organizer Mark Farahani. The Student Committee teamed up with the Children and Youth Advocacy Group and the CLA Student Committee to organize a bake sale in support of the Children's Book Bank, a charitable organization that supports literacy by providing free books to children in lower income neighbourhoods.

The University of Toronto Committee is excited to announce that they will be hosting a panel discussion entitled "*Bridging Borders: Librarians as Agents of Social Change*" on January 26, 2010.



These four highly motivated committees were involved in successful fundraising, awareness events and social activities over the previous year. 2009 was a year that saw renewed energy and focuses come to all student committees. As always, we thank them for their continued support and look forward to the many activities that they plan for 2010.

Membership Profile

(Prepared by Erin Fields, Membership Director)

Each year, our membership grows even larger and continues to build a strong community that shares a common goal - striving to improve access to information resources regardless of language, geography, or religion, by forming partnerships with community organizations in developing regions.

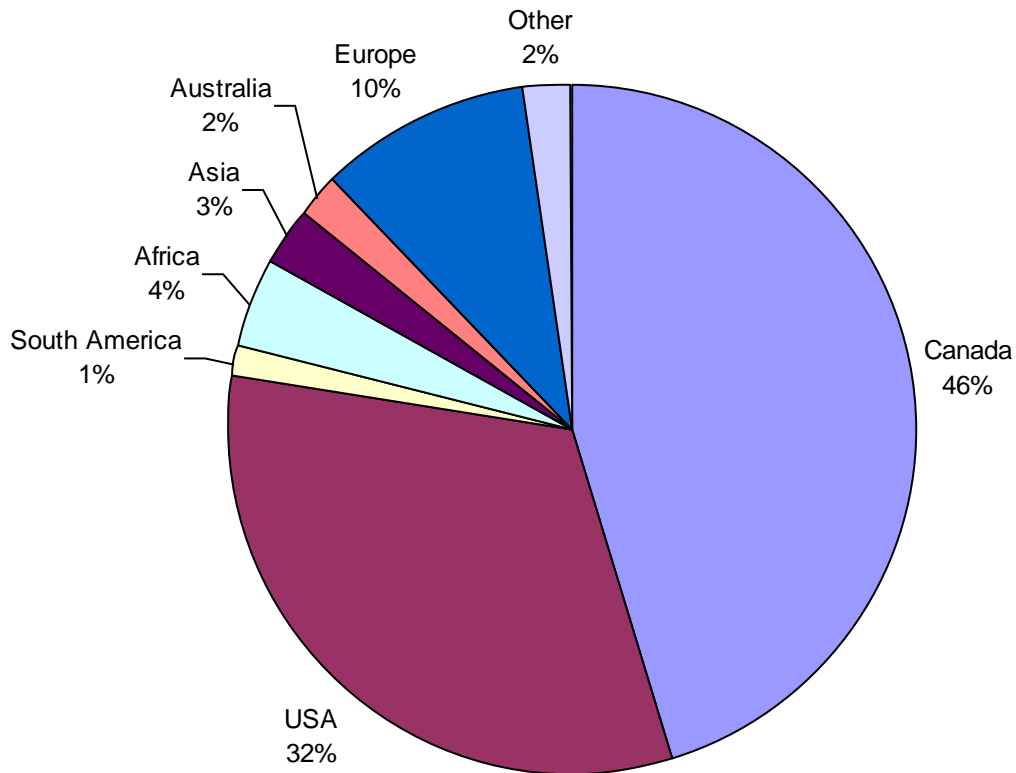
Librarians without Borders membership continued to grow this year. With the introduction of a new website and the Twitter microblogging account, we saw an increase in our membership to 684 members having 76 new members in 2009. We can only foresee a continued interest in our missions and goals in the coming year and we look forward to hearing new ideas.

With the introduction of a Twitter account (http://twitter.com/LWB_Online) this year, we have increased our online visibility and now have 228 followers interested in Librarians without Borders mission and values.

We always welcome stories about our members' successes, and look forward to hearing more from you in the future – suggestions and information about projects that have inspired you are especially appreciated!

Our membership comes from over 54 different countries, including members joining us in 2009 from Canada, the United Kingdom, Greece, Brazil, Iran, Nigeria, and Australia. Of the 684 members, 348 are involved in volunteering with a non-profit organization. Many are volunteering in organizations with similar values to our own and stories of their successes continue to inspire us; the following chart represents the international distribution of LWB members:

International Distribution of Members



LWB is proud to have members from...

Angola	Czech Republic	Malawi	South Korea
Antigua & Barbuda	Denmark	Malaysia	Tanzania
Argentina	Egypt	Mauritius	Thailand
Australia	France	Netherlands	Trinidad
Bangladesh	Germany	New Zealand	Uganda
Barbados	Greece	Nigeria	U.S.A
Botswana	Guatemala	Norway	United Arab Emirates
Brazil	Iceland	Pakistan	United Kingdom
Cameroon	India	Palestine	Vietnam
Canada	Indonesia	Peru	Zimbabwe
Columbia	Iran	Philippines	
Congo	Japan	Poland	

Update on Angola Project

The original project that LWB chose to support upon our incorporation in 2005 was to partner with an Angolan colleague from the University of Western Ontario to build a library for the higher education community in Huambo, Angola. A great deal of study, discussion and preparation was dedicated to setting up the project in the early years of the organization.


As our members know, just as we were about to launch our official fundraising campaign, LWB received a “cease and desist” letter from Doctors Without Borders/Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF). Consequently, we put our fundraising campaign on hold until we were able to work out a resolution that allowed us use of our name without putting LWB in legal jeopardy.

At the same time our Angolan colleague returned to Angola, which presented many communication challenges for us. Without a telephone or Internet access (except through occasional Internet café use), he was unable to keep in regular contact with us. We knew that the local conditions had changed but could not determine if the library was going ahead as planned.

Our long-time members know that the Angola project was the catalyst for forming our organization. Members also know from the 2008 Annual Report that LWB was intent upon disbursing the funds raised towards the project in this fiscal year. Despite significant, protracted efforts to re-connect with our Angolan colleague, we were unsuccessful. We also attempted to find alternate donor sites in Huambo, but were unable to do so.

It would be an irresponsible use of LWB funds to send materials to Angola without knowing if there was a library in place to actually receive them. Instead, we have decided to re-direct the funds to another library development project that embodies some of the same characteristics and that aligns with our values as an organization.

After weighing various options, we decided to adopt an African library through CODE (<http://www.codecan.org/>), an organization that we have long admired. Members may recall that in March 2006 the Executive Director of CODE spoke to our founding students at the University of Western Ontario. She inspired us with stories about their work, discussing



both the challenges and the successes they have faced, and providing advice to our nascent group.

CODE's focus on building sustainable libraries in targeted regions, providing culturally appropriate materials, and publishing locally produced books is one that all librarians cannot help but admire. We look forward to sharing more details with our members about the library we have chosen to support.



FINANCIAL SUMMARY STATEMENT

Revenue declined \$650.61 from 2007-08. Our expenses during this fiscal year rose by \$74.77 over last year, owing to the website and email hosting migration and to the procurement of a consultant for the initiation of the strategic planning process. Otherwise LWB's expenses were modest and directed to basic operational costs.

Balance Jan 2009: \$4715.25

Balance Sept 2009: \$4508.81

Fiscal year ending September 30, 2009

Revenue	\$
Donation	175.56
Donation	150
Interest	1.26
Total Revenue	326.82
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Expenses	\$
Student Committees	50
PO Box	97.34
Consultant	243.28
Web / Email Hosting	113.48
Shipping	29.16
Total Expenses	533.26
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Deficit (revenue over expenses)	-206.44

