

10 Harvmy Road

Nindgur a

4'

CT 0th95 k 7?

:34 January 1990 / Unhvemfdty (U) NEHHZERH

Dem I" Mr R191. 1 ly ,. Education Project Unit

King George V Avenue Durban 40m Soulh Africa

RE : UN ADDRESS Telephone (Ml) K162607 Fax (OCH) 8162214

TcIcgrams University Tclcx GZIZJISA

I have just received a copy of ymur addregg t0 the Unitwd Natiwns regarding thm memberhhip Of SAILIS mt IFLA. I wa\$ moat heartened t0 re'd thm taut Of your interventimn at the UN a5 Such action is long wvwrdue. Grampihnw Df prmgrmagivm lihwariahw in South Africa have been attempting to mrqaniwm an alternative to SAIL S ta addregs the ?g in acceaa tn librarima and reaource centrea tuuma Quch a\$ gkillg, resources, actual library he addreaged in some kind of concreta and incredible diwurmt

acroww Smuth Africa.

buildings etc. HEHU

cmmmunity baaed way.

we are Etil in the proc955 wf building an organisation which will address thege problema. The procews i5 still fraught with problmmg a5 mrgani#ltiun building 1% always a lengthy procegs. The Durban Regourca Centre Farum will be discusaing your contribution at some point.

I am currently warking for the Education Prmjectm Unit in Durban which 1% a community basmd remearch prmjwt linked to the NEED (Natimnal Education Coordinating Committem)u I have been given the task of conducting regearch into the condition QT libraries in Natal, at schools and other regource c9ntrm5 which may be available. There are actually very fwv resuurcm centre% or librar19\$ which havw bean egtablighmd in Durban. Mumt libraries ara situated near the white r 'idehtiml arrlg a3 a result at the poliaima of apartheid ahd the Grmup nrwag act. I am hmpihq tm murvey & number of progreaaive librariea/reaource CQHtFQB to mbtain a "model" at progrwhaive and cmmmunity hawed librarieg. I mhall have to 100k ta other centreg such as Jahanheaburg and 03pm Town fmr theae cage studies. After thig initial EUFVQY wmrkmhpg will be held with community groups to look at way% in which new cwntrrea can hm w\$tablighd gpeclfically in the Durban area. I am hoping that the prmject will eventually lead to the eatablishment of a new reamurcw Chntrm catering for the informatimn hmwdw mf thwse whm have hwnn for 3d t0 live in SA'Q townships. Natal haw thm addmd dimengion Of heinu fraught by pulitical cnnflict and viulwhcw with the pr swhe mf lnkatha in the rwgiun. I am hoping that problem will be fmund.

armative wayg of dealing with thin

T/u' Uniw'm'ily uf Nulul nfim'n' rI/mrlln'id.

II ix an m/Iml up/mrlunilim.

(IHirmu/iw' m'linn Uniwnilr.

_____J

I am currently applying for funding to attend the IFLA conference in August 1990. I think that the time 100k particularly interesting and certainly should prove useful for my research. Very little research of a progressive nature is in progress in South Africa. Librarians tend to become fairly technical in their approach to library science as a recent conference here illustrated. The emphasis was on the technology of libraries (mainly private corporation libraries) and nothing was said about libraries such as the workers' Library nor SDAFUCU. In fact I would be surprised if any of the SAILIS members were aware of these libraries.

The Durham resource forum is also trying to put together a newsletter which will deal with current issues affecting resource centres and progressive librarians. We hope to have this available in the near future and will send you a copy once it is available.

A skills training project has been operating for the past year. It has been coordinated and initiated by the Durban and Pietermaritzburg Resource Forums and is currently undergoing evaluation. I have enclosed a copy of the training project information pamphlet. Jenny waen is the coordinator (at the University of Natal, Pietermaritzburg).

Apart from the research project which I have sketched out above I am also involved in the establishment of a resource centre on education for the researchers in the EPU. I have collected together a wide selection of resources on education and have tried to concentrate on People's Education materials.

I hope that you will continue to show support for progressive librarians and resource centres in South Africa. If you have any other documentation on the question of libraries in South Africa please forward a copy to me.

I look forward to hearing from you and hope perhaps to meet you at the IFLA conference in August.

Yours sincerely

Cathy Stadler

Resources Coordinator