

Winner of CILIP'S 2008 Anthony Thompson Award

The winner of this year's Award is Raj Kumar Gandharba, recently promoted as Executive Director of the non-government organisation the Jana Utthan Pratishan (JUP) in Nepal. Raj's work includes management of Community Learning Centres with special importance given to the underprivileged Dalit peoples.

The Award was created by Anthony Thompson, first full-time Secretary General of IFLA (International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions) from 1962 - 1979, when on his death he bequeathed money to bring young librarians to the UK to study library and information work.



Raj [pictured] is the 9th person to receive this Award. His proposal for this Award outlined the need for education of the Dalits in Nepal to help them advance with other sectors of the community.

One of the areas that the ILIG Committee was looking at for this year's Award was rural library and information services. They were impressed by the fact that under Raj's leadership a community learning centre has already been established and the Jana Utthan Communicative Network has been formed to run it.

Raj says 'My work now mainly comprises library related activities including editing the journal Dalit Solidarity. I also support my own Gandharba community and as their Chief Advisor give technical help to the Gandharba Cultural Art Organization. Building on the Anthony Thompson Award visit to the UK, I plan to promote and expand on all rural learning centres in Nepal'.

He will take up his Award in the UK from 7th -29th June 2008. Anyone wishing to communicate with him on his work with the Dalits in Nepal can e-mail:

 raj_gdv@yahoo.co.in

NYR Workshop at CILIP

Diversity Group member Christie Ikeogu attended the NYR workshop facilitated by CILIP advisor Michele Jones.

The purpose of the workshop was:

- To find out how reading can be embedded into corporate agendas across all library sectors
- How reading can be used as an advocacy tool within an organization

Michele explained to the forum, made up of individuals representing different interest groups, the Government's NYR agenda:

- To establish reading as a key cultural activity for all rather than only a few
- To get society to realize that everything in life starts with reading
- That it is never too early or too late to start reading
- For libraries to drive the message of the importance of reading to the communities they serve

Key opportunities for libraries were outlined:

- enhancing political profile for libraries; partnership framework leading and contributing to a cross-authority steering groups
- increased marketing of libraries locally and internationally
- increased recognition of libraries and reading in Local Area Agreements

Some of the topics covered were:

- Prisons, schools and businesses
- Parents
- Removing barriers to use/joining
- Promote reading groups
- **Not just fiction!**
- **Digital reading**
- **Promotions**
- Workforce development
- Volunteering
- Placement of publicity leaflets
- Measuring success

For more information about NYR, or to get Christie's full notes from the day, email:

 cikeogu@yahoo.com

Message from the Chair Future Programme of the Diversity Group

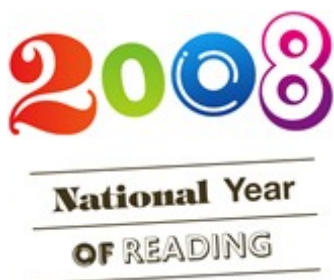
We would like to ask you as members what you would like the group to deliver in the next three years. There will be a chance to contribute to the 2008-2011 Action Plan at the AGM which this year will be held after the Conference on Monday 9th June at 4.30pm in the lecture theatre at the Victoria & Albert Museum.

We are asking Group members what they want because we want to reflect your views and because of financial constraints due to reduced capitation from CILIP from last year. Currently the group's expenditure on the newsletter and committee meetings is twice our income. In the past we have made a small profit from both our conferences and by taking part in Umbrella.

We would like to ask if you still want to receive a hard copy newsletter or if you would like to just receive an email. To find out what you want there is a short questionnaire enclosed in the newsletter, which you can either post back to me at 40 Stanway Road, Coventry CV5 6PJ or download an electronic copy from the group website www.cilip.org.uk/dg

If you are unable to attend the AGM and you would like a copy of the Annual Report & Accounts, please email me and I will send one to you.

 karen.berry@coventry.gov.uk



 www.yearofreading.org.uk

CILIP COUNCIL GIVES GO-AHEAD FOR POSITIVE ACTION TRAINEE SCHEME

CILIP Council have approved adoption of a Positive Action Trainee Scheme - part of CILIP's Encompass programme - for people from black and minority ethnic communities wishing to join the library and information profession. It will be run in partnership with PATH National Ltd, a skills development agency focusing on career development opportunities for black and minority ethnic groups, and piloted in London during 2008/09 before being rolled out across the UK.

"It is very exciting", commented Ayub Khan, a CILIP Trustee and Chair of its Equal Opportunities & Diversity Panel. "We need to be an inclusive profession and broadly reflect the diversity of the UK population. This will enable us to tap into the talent that exists in minority ethnic communities for the benefit of all our users."

Mary McDowall, Organisational Development Manager with Path National Ltd, agreed, adding "I am very pleased to be working with CILIP on this scheme. It builds on similar work that we have done with other professional groups such as planners".

CILIP will now establish a project steering group, chaired by Ayub Khan, to take the project forward. Later in the year discussions will be opened with employers in London to establish the 20 trainee places planned for the London pilot. Trainees will be appointed in 2009, start a part-time postgraduate course in library and information studies in September of that year, and work towards gaining CILIP's main professional award – MCLIP (Chartered Member of CILIP).

"Over a five year period," Ayub noted, "we hope to support 120 trainees working in a wide variety of library and information organisations across the UK"

 Ayub.Khan@cilip.org.uk

Quick Questions...

Ruth Murphy

Web Editor



Q. What's your library history?

In 2002 I moved to Glasgow to do an MSc in Information and Library Studies at the University of Strathclyde and also started working in the university library at the same time. I then joined the Library Service of North Glasgow NHS to set up and manage a staff literacies project in five hospitals as part of its life long learning agenda. I moved jobs to become the Information Officer in the Scottish Consortium for Learning Disability in 2004 where I was responsible for managing the library, co-ordinating a library partnership of different disability organisations, producing accessible publications for people with learning disabilities and editing an accessible website.

I've recently moved back to Ireland and I've been juggling some contract work and working as a Plain English editor while successfully completing my Chartership application.

Q What's your involvement with the Group?

I've been the web editor for the Diversity Group webpages on the CILIP website since 2005. The post has allowed me to contribute to the group as I wasn't able to attend committee meetings, something even more difficult to do as I'm now in Ireland! Since I've started I've transferred all of the content to the new webpages and we've been developing it over time. We've had some really positive feedback on the pages and try to keep it up to date. The group is very active and it's a really good place to find out more about the group's activities and events like our Conference in June.

Q. Where do you see things going?

It's great to see that libraries are doing a lot more to meet the needs of people with different disabilities and look beyond ramps! The Diversity Group is providing an affordable conference so people can hear about how other libraries and museums are doing this. In my last post I was responsible for developing an accessible website that people with learning disabilities could use and it raised a lot of issues for me around technology. While librarians need to embrace new technologies and applications to reach out to different

audiences, we need to make sure that other people aren't left behind.

Q. What about your wider involvement with equality issues and the library profession?

For most of my career so far I've been working with accessible information and literacies. If people can't read the information that they need, then they could be excluded as they don't get vital information about their health, income etc. I see Plain English as the minimum to make sure that people understand the information that is there to help them! I try to keep the Diversity Group webpages in Plain English, but it should include everything we do like the signs in libraries, information leaflets and explaining things to people.

Diversity Group Committee

If you have any items that you'd like considered for forthcoming newsletters, please contact us:

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