

## **Philipsburg Jubilee Library**

## 2014 Annual Report



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### INTRODUCTION

#### Vision and Mission

The *Vision* of the Philipsburg Jubilee Library is to be the gateway for information in the St. Maarten society and to provide basic conditions for lifelong learning, independent decision-making and cultural development of individuals and social groups in our society.

The following *key missions* are at the core of the service of the Philipsburg Jubilee Library:

- 1. Creating and strengthening reading habits in children from an early age;
- 2. Supporting both individual and self conducted education as well as formal education at all levels;
- 3. Providing opportunities for personal creative development;
- 4. Stimulating the imagination and creativity of children and young people;
- 5. Promoting awareness of cultural heritage, appreciation of the arts, scientific achievements and innovations;
- 6. Providing access to cultural expressions of all performing arts;
- 7. Fostering inter-cultural dialogue and favoring cultural diversity;
- 8. Supporting the oral tradition;
- 9. Ensuring access for citizens to all sorts of community information;
- 10. Providing adequate information services to local enterprises, associations and interest groups;
- 11. Facilitating the development of information and computer literacy skills;
- 12. Supporting and participating in literacy activities and programs for all age groups and initiating such activities, if necessary.

#### **Board members 2014**

The composition of the Board remained unchanged in the year under review.

As in previous years, board meetings were held at set times.

#### Board Members in 2014

President Mrs. Ch. Schaminee

Treasurer Mr. C. Holiday

Secretary Mrs. M. Hofman

Vice-Secretary / Vice-Treasurer Mr. U. Aron

Commissioner Ms. V. Brazier

Commissioner Mr. S. Khatnani

Commissioner Ms. L. Tuitt

### **STAFF**

### **Staff Developments**

In the year under review staff members that left the ranks of the library were Ms. Morenika Charles-Arrindell, Ms. Annelies Starreveld and Ms. Morena Ignacio. These staff members performed outstandingly and their work was invaluable for the many projects and activities within the library.

Young local professionals Ms. Charlene Brison and Ms. Theodosia Hawley joined the staff in 2014 as Circulation Clerks.

#### Staff Members as of December 31, 2014

Mrs. Monique Alberts (Director)

Mrs. Irmin Hughes (Manager Information services/ Management Team Member)

Mrs. Lucille Kolf (Financial Administrator/ Management Team Member)

Ms. Joy Lambert (Librarian/ Activity & Public Relations Assistant)

Ms. Maryland Powell (Assistant Children's Librarian)

Ms. Shirley Richardson (Secretary/ Selection and Acquisition Coordinator)

Ms. Francia Housen (Circulation Head/Interim Systems Administrator)

Ms. Melackia Spencer (Circulation Clerk)

Mr. Daniel Helligar (Circulation Clerk/Technical Assistant)

Mr. Richard Nicolaas (Bookmobile Driver)

Ms. Charlene Brison (Circulation Clerk)

Ms. Theodosia Hawley (Circulation Clerk)

## **Library Activities 2014**

### **Open Day Reception**

The Philipsburg Jubilee Library hosted its Open Day Reception on Friday, January 24<sup>th</sup>, 2014 for invited guests, including the Minister of Education, Patricia Lourens-Philip, the Minister of Health, Cornelius de Weever and the Minister of VROMI, Maurice Lake. The evening started off with a cocktail reception, followed by a presentation by the director of the library, Monique Alberts. In her speech, Ms. Alberts presented the library's goals and activities for 2014 to over thirty current and potential financial partners, funding agencies, service clubs and members of the business community.

These financial groups in the business community and funding agencies are important to the



longevity of our projects. It is with this in mind that this event was organized, to present the library's plans for 2014 to these valued financial supporters, as early possible, in order to garner their financial support.

1. Potential sponsors, dignitaries and board members in attendance at the library's reception

Topics discussed included phase two

of the "Library Goes Green" project, which would allow the library to switch completely to LED Lights and also install inverter air conditioners for the entire building; continuation of the annual "Baby & Toddler Week", a reading workshop for parents and their babies or toddlers; the annual Summer Musical for teenagers; Children's Book Week 2014; the need to finalize the new shelves and furniture project; renovation of the children's corner; new furniture for the Baby & Toddler room; construction of a ramp and a special parking space for senior citizens, and the installation of the Digikidz-medialab.

Invited guests were encouraged to support their library and after the presentation they took a tour of the library's facility, including the Baby & Toddler Room, Youth and Adult Sections.

#### Mary Romney launches library's African Diaspora Collection



2. Mary Romney, Monique Alberts and Minister Patricia Lourens-Phillips officially launching the African Diaspora book collection

On February 27<sup>th</sup>, 2014, Mary Romney delivered a keynote address at the launch of Philipsburg Jubilee Library's "Alice & Lionel Romney Memorial African Diaspora Collection". The main purpose for this event was to officially launch the brand new collection of over 500 African Diaspora books and DVDs, graciously donated by Mary Romney, daughter of the late Alice & Lionel Romney.

The books donated by Mary Romney cover the important milestones in black history, the history of slavery and the lives of important artists, musicians and intellectuals of African descent.

During her presentation, the author and historian, Mary Romney, gave an overview of the collection and discussed the lives of her late, St. Maarten born parents, in whose name the collection was dedicated. Romney, the current assistant professor in the International Teaching Assistants Program (ITAP) at the University of Connecticut, has been working in the education field for over 25 years. Also speaking at this event was the Dean of Academics at the University of St. Martin, Dr. Francio Guadeloupe. He spoke on the topic of: "Black Atlantic History".

#### Library and NDP hold panel discussion on nation building

On March 18<sup>th</sup>, 2014, the Philipsburg Jubilee Library (PJL), in partnership with the National Development Plan (NDP), hosted a panel discussion at the Library. The panel discussion was themed "Building the Nation of St Maarten: The Role of Cultural Heritage Institutions".

The main purpose of this event was to explore ways in which cultural heritage institutions, like the Philipsburg Jubilee Library, can contribute to the Nation building process by learning from the experiences of the National Library of Aruba.



3. Prime Minister Sarah Wescot-Williams providing a speech on the evening of the panel discussion, with panelists Mirto Lacle, Marcellia Henry, Jay Haviser, Okama Ekpe-Brook and Fabian Badejo

The keynote address was delivered by researcher and educator, Drs. Mirto Laclé of Aruba. Panelists for the event included archeologist Dr. Jay Haviser, representing the St. Maarten Archaeological Center (SIMARC); Marcellia Henry, Secretary General of UNESCO St. Maarten; Drs. Okama Ekpe-Brook, NDP representative; and Drs. Monique Alberts, Philipsburg Jubilee Library Director. Moderator for the panelists was author, senior journalist, and

cultural activist, Fabian Badejo.

One of the conclusions of the panel, as expressed by Okama Ekpe-Brook, was that "We want to encourage young people to use the library for research on tangible and intangible cultural heritage, ancestral lineage, monuments, etc. We also want to encourage the love of reading as a way to improve literacy and a knowledge based economy".

### International Literacy Day celebrated with Read-a-thon

The Philipsburg Jubilee Library (PJL), St. Maarten National Commission for UNESCO, Jet Blue, and Students of the University of St. Martin (USM) worked together to put on their first annual "Interactive Read-a-Thon", in celebration of International Literacy Day on Saturday, September 6th, 2014. The International Literacy Day, which is observed annually on September 8th, was announced by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural

Organization (UNESCO) on November 17<sup>th</sup>, 1965. It was first celebrated in 1966. Its aim was to



4. Minister Patricia Lourens-Philips reading for the children at the World Literacy Day event

highlight the importance of literacy to individuals, communities and societies.

The joint effort between UNESCO, USM students, Jet Blue and the Library on International Literacy Day was initiated by Marcellia Henry, Secretary General of UNESCO St. Maarten, Morenika Charles-Arrindell, the library's activity and public relations coordinator, Shellian Ramchandani, supervisor of Jet Blue, Patti Maier, instructor of the EDU 351 course at USM, and Joseanne Peterson, who presently reads to children on Saturdays at the library.

Four students who were enrolled at the Teacher Education Program of the University of St. Maarten (USM) read stories to the attending children. Patti Maier and her students have collaborated on many events with the library, such as the Anansi Storytelling Festival, the Baby & Toddler Programs, and countless other puppet shows and festivals that foster learning through storytelling.

Children who attended the September 6<sup>th</sup> Read-a-Thon heard and participated in fun, exciting and interactive stories as well as arts and crafts activities, which were delivered by the USM students and other invited guests. The main target group for this event were children between the ages of 4-10 years old.

## Library opens Digkidz media lab

In April of 2014 a dream came true. Our library opened a brand new department which was named "the Digikidz MediaLab". The MediaLab makes it possible for all citizens of our island to get acquainted with the newest media technologies.



5. Students of the St. Peters Hillside Christian School attending a Medialab course in April by educator Ilse Godtschalk

MediaLab courses were open to all those were interested in learning how to become more versed in the use of multimedia. During these courses, attending students and other participants learned how they can use the internet, make presentations, create movies, games, flyers, posters and much

more. The MediaLab courses foster creativity and teach IT skills, which are essential in the modern day economy. The MediaLab has been very effective at teaching these skills and it was very much appreciated by the teachers, children and other participants.

The MediaLab courses were coordinated by Foundation Kultuur Cameleon of the Netherlands and were first started in Curaçao. The MediaLab courses were brought to Sint Maarten by Jose Sommers of the Foresee Foundation, who initiated the Digikidz project on various schools throughout the island. The MediaLab also benefitted greatly from generous donations by the Kultura Fund.

During the year 2014, courses on various topics in the use of multimedia technology were provided 5-8 times a week, with a new topic provided each week. During the morning hours, children from the primary schools of Sint Maarten attended the courses. Since April of 2014, the MediaLab has been frequented by 17 schools and 41 school classes. The number of children that have visited was approximately 900.

During the afternoons, MediaLab courses

were offered, which were open to the general public. The public courses were free for students between 9 to 18 years of age and



6. Students of the St. Peters Hillside Christian School attending a Medialab session by educator Ilse Godtschalk

teachers. Persons 18 years and older payed a contribution of \$ 5 at the start of the workshop.

The MediaLab classes started in April, with a course provided by Ilse Godtschalk, called Movietrader, in which children created quizzes out of films. In May, Niels Hoebers provided lessons in the creation of animations. In June, Minne Belger worked with students on the creation of a playground project. Mr. Belger also provided courses on how to make presentations with Prezi presentation software and Animoto.

After a pause during the summer months, the MediaLab courses recommenced on August 17<sup>th</sup> with courses by Peter Kleijn on how to make book trailers, which you can use to make a film to present a book, and news broadcasting workshops, in which children could present stories with their classmates. In the month of September, Marja Hedeman provided courses on the basics of computer programming, an animation workshop and courses on how to create posters with a program called Glogster. These are just some of the educational sessions that were offered in the MediaLab throughout 2014.

#### Easter egg hunt

This year, the library's Easter Egg Hunt for children was organized in cooperation with Rotaract Sunrise. The event took place on April 12<sup>th</sup>.

Children attending this event were engaged in fun activities, such as: face painting, storytelling, and a grand Easter egg hunt, where hundreds of eggs were hidden on the grounds of the library. Children were also awarded special prizes for those who got the most Easter eggs. Face painting was done for participants by the Easter bunnies, who made a special visit to the library.

Children taking part in this event were provided with refreshments and a special "goody" bag, along with all the Easter eggs they have collected.



7. Children at the library, as they are getting ready to hunt for Easter eggs on the library premises

All proceeds for this event were used to fund library activities and Rotaract community outreach projects.

Sponsorship for this event was generously provided by Mark Mingo, Hector Peters, Roger Lawrence, Rotary Club of St. Martin Sunrise, Rotary Club of St. Maarten – Mid Isle, Funtopia, Akeem Adams, and the students of USM.

#### **Bake Sale**

After the success of the grand "Bake Sale" of 2013, the library hosted another grand "Fundraising Bake Sale" on May 3<sup>rd</sup> of 2014. There was a wide variety of cakes and cupcakes to choose from, such as: chocolate cake, German chocolate cake, red velvet cake, marble cake, butter cream cake and chocolate & vanilla cupcakes. By buying a cupcake or a slice of cake from the library, buyers at the Bake Sale supported their library. Every slice counts!

#### **Summer Musical 2014**

The Philipsburg Jubilee Library (PJL) and the National Institute of the Arts (NIA) joined forces to stage their summer musical on July 25<sup>th</sup> and Saturday, July 26<sup>th</sup> at the Philipsburg Cultural



8. The youngsters performing the Anansi and the Great Salt Pond summer musical

Center at 7 pm. The aim of this summer musical was to give St. Maarten's talented youngsters between the ages of nine to seventeen a platform to cultivate, as well as showcase their untapped artistic abilities

in a meaningful way. Co-Directors Clara Reyes and Arlene Halley of the National Institute of the Arts (NIA) collaborated with the library to train and prepare students for the musical.

The production entitled, *Anansi and the Great Salt Pond* was penned by talented, young St. Maartiner, Iris Hakkens and was adapted by NIA Co-Directors, Clara Reyes and Arlene Halley, specifically for this musical. The story teaches youngsters to preserve their cultural heritage and to take care of their environment.

Some 20 children representing various elementary and high schools, ages 9-15 have been engaged in daily, 5 hour, intensive workshops in dance, vocal technique, character development, choreography and musical staging at NIA's dance studio at the John Larmonie Center. NIA instructors, Clifford Henry and Rudolph Davis have been facilitating the dance workshops, while Reyes has provided the direction for the script and workshops in vocal performance and character development.

The *Anansi and the Great Salt Pond* summer musical was made possible through funding from Seven Seas Water, Dutch Representatives, NAGICO Insurances, Orco Bank, Heavenly Water NV, and TLC Trading.

#### **Book Sale**



 $\bf 9.$  Book enthusiasts at the library's annual book sale going through the books on offer

The library's annual book sale of 2014 took place on the morning of Saturday, November 1<sup>st</sup>. The book collection included books of any genre, ranging from cookbooks to gripping novels.

There was a large choice of magazines, fiction books and non-fiction books, in several languages. For the book sale, the library joined forces with the University of St. Maarten (USM) to extend the collection of books, to include textbooks on accounting, hospitality and tourism, reference materials, education and medicine.

People from all walks of life came out to support their local library by dropping in and choosing books from the library's book sale. The book sale helped to generate funds to purchase new books for our library.

### **Baby & Toddler Campaign**

As in previous years, the youngest library users, the babies and pre-schoolers were not forgotten. At the end of August, a "Read to me" bookstart week was organized especially for the little ones and their parents and care givers. The library was very happy with the sponsorship and organizational support for this campaign given by the Guardian group. The official opening ceremony of the four-day Baby & Toddler campaign under the theme "Read Together, Study Together" had a packed schedule of activities, prizes, membership drives and information booths.

"We launched the first campaign in 2010 to motivate parents and caregivers to sign up their child at an early age, as library members and also to read to their baby or toddler as often as possible. Many experts have pointed out how important it is to read to children on a daily basis. Not only is it fun and relaxing to read to your preschooler, it also reinforces the bond between parent and child. It has also been proven that children who are read to, from an early age, have a huge advantage over others when it comes to school results, later in life," stated Library Director, Monique Alberts.



10. Manisha Baharani, providing one of the Wednesday morning sessions for children between the ages of 0 to 4. Rhyme Time is a fun activity where children sing along to popular children's songs

During the opening event, Dexter the Clown payed the library a special visit. Patricia Pantophlet conducted a special "dancing with babies" workshop. Storyteller, Gini van Duivenvoorde read to attending children and parents. Other activities included: a gift basket raffle, face painting, bouncing castle, and information booths with representatives of the Guardian Group and Manrique Capriles and

Sons.

Children zero to four years of age, who became a library member during the campaign, received a special backpack with goodies, containing: information leaflets, puppets, Johnson and Johnson's baby items donated by Manrique Capriles and Sons, reading material, color pencils and a coloring sheet. Parents also received a 25 guilder library membership discount only if they signed up during the campaign week, from August 23<sup>rd</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup>.

The opening event was meant to launch the ongoing "Read to Me" activities that are provided throughout the year. After the event, the Read to Me: Babies and Toddlers program was provided in the library every Wednesday at 10:00 am and every second and third Thursday of the month at 6:00 pm with storytelling and activities.

With the ongoing Read to Me: Babies and Toddlers activities, the Philipsburg Jubilee Library hopes to get children and parents enthusiastic about reading from an early age. Once children are encouraged to read, this makes them more likely to make reading and learning a lifelong habit.

#### Children's Book week 2014

From November 16<sup>th</sup>, the library hosted its annual Children's Book Week. This year's book week was packed with a calendar full of events and festivities, which centered around the theme of folktales and fairytales from around the world.

The Children's Book Week started on Sunday, November 16<sup>th</sup>, with a parade from the library's parking lot to the Philipsburg Community and Cultural Centre on Back Street. This parade was

then succeeded by an opening event in the Cultural Centre. During the parade and opening event, the Generation New Status STM band started the parade with a musical drum performance. This parade ended at the Cultural Centre where there was a grand opening party. At the opening party schoolchildren performed skits and songs, all around the theme of folktales and



11. The parade starting off the Children's Book Week festivities, which ended at the Philipsburg Cultural Centre and was then succeeded by a packed schedule of performances

fairytales. Visitors at the opening were also treated to a repeat performance of the summer musical 'Anansi and the Great Salt Pond'.

Throughout the week there were performances of the 'Donkey Tale'. The wonderful Donkey Tale play by Jackie Bernabela was performed by the Youth Theatre Group of Bonaire. After the successful performance on the island in 2011, this performance was performed again for the Book Week of 2014 for the enjoyment of all children between the ages of 4 and 9.

Other activities provided throughout the Children's Book Week were storytelling sessions of folktales and fairytales, and in the evenings the Movie Nights took place, with a presentation of children's movies.

#### Readers are Leaders activities

Readers are Leaders (RAL) is a book club for teenagers and young adults. The club has its own

board, with representatives from the different high schools. RAL is supported by our library and the Rotary Club of St Maarten Sunrise. The goal of RAL is to promote literacy, specifically among high school students, and to encourage readers to express their thoughts, feelings, and ideas through writing. High school students are challenged to read at least 2 books a month, write poetry and engage in other educational activities. The main activities this year were a cultural evening to celebrate

Black History Month in song, poetry and dance, award ceremonies during which the



Figure 12. The proud winners of the Readers are Leaders contest, flanked by Rotary Club representatives and Philipsburg Jubilee Library staff

best readers received prizes and the re-launch of the RAL program in September.

#### **Story Time**

Each Saturday the library provides children with Story Time sessions. Saturday Story Time coordinator, Joseanne Peterson has been volunteering her time for this throughout the year under review.

On occasion, Story Time also welcomed special guests. Among the VIP's that read stories to the children were ombudsman Mrs. Nilda Lynch-Arduin and Chamber of Commerce Director Mr. Claret Connor. On April 19<sup>th</sup>, storyteller and writer, Don Jones, a visitor to the island, read from his children's books.

Milton Peters College Havo 4 student, Michelle Salomons was a guest reader, for the weekly Story Time for children on September 13<sup>th</sup>.

Salomons said in a press statement, "I volunteered to read because I love a good story time. I believe that storytelling widens children's imagination and also helps with remembering words, learning new words and learning about new topics. I am looking forward to this opportunity, because I love to see the excitement in the children's eyes when they hear a story." Apart from

the Saturday story time hours, there were also two story time afternoons each week throughout the year.

Supporting Story Time were Afoo Supermarket, Manrique Capriles and Office World.

#### Hands on E-book workshop: bring your own device!

On December 4<sup>th</sup>, 2014, the Philipsburg Jubilee Library hosted a successful workshop on how to use e-books. The workshop was provided by the library's former director Mrs. Ans Koolen and IT assistant Francia Housen. The session was well-attended, with approximately 35 participants attending, among which teachers, parents, children and other members of the community.

E-books are traditional books in electronic format which can be read on computers, e-readers and many other devices.

Since the summer of 2013 the

library has launched its ebook



13. Ans Koolen and Francia Housen providing the much-appreciated e-book session to which approximately 35 participants attended

collection and it currently has accumulated over hundreds of e-books for readers of all ages. Library members can get these e-books free of charge via the library's website www.stmaartenlibrary.org.

In accordance with the library's mission to promote media literacy, the workshop's goal was to teach participants how to get the e-books from the library's e-book collection and how to read them on their devices.

The participants of the library's workshop were very enthusiastic about the session. The library will be hosting more e-book workshops throughout 2015.

## Pineapple award and Person of the Year

The Philipsburg Jubilee Library had the honor of being awarded with the "Crystal Pineapple for outstanding educational achievement" for the 2014 Crystal Pineapple Awards of the Sint Maarten Hotel and Tourism Association.

The library is especially happy to state that the Director of the library, Mrs. Monique Alberts had the distinct honor of being awarded the 2014 award for "Person of the Year" by the editorial of the Today Newspaper.

## **Library Tours 2014**

### **Senior Citizens Visit the Library**

On Thursday, August 15<sup>th</sup>, residents of the St. Maarten's Home visited the Philipsburg Jubilee Library. The objective of the visit was to provide seniors with more contact with their community and thereby promoting a better quality of life. Mariane Pantophlet, Activity Coordinator of the White and Yellow Cross, along with her assistant Yoainna de Lain, were instrumental in making the senior citizens visit possible.

During their visit they were given a tour of the entire library by staffers, Morena Ignacio and Melackia Spencer. Seniors were also briefed on the activities being done at the library and given a short introduction on using the library's computers.

For many of the visiting seniors, this was their first trip to the library and they expressed interest in coming again. They specifically expressed a desire to learn more about using multimedia.

#### **School visits**

During the year, children of various schools visited the library for an informative tour on how to use the library facilities. Schools all around the island have collaborated for the realization of these class visits.

Children attending the sessions were briefed in a presentation about, for example, what they can and cannot bring with them to the library; how they can search for books they need for book reports and projects; and how to use the library's OPAC system. At the

end of the visit, the schoolchildren were asked to complete an assignment,



13. Library staffer Shirley Richardson giving a tour of the library

which was meant to help them practice and retain what they have learned.

## **Library Facility Improvements**

#### **Energy Efficiency Projects**

In 2013, the "Library Goes Green" initiative was inaugurated by former Deputy Prime Minister William Marlin, joined by Prime Minister Sarah Wescot-Williams and former Minister of Education, Culture, Youth and Sports, Silveria Jacobs, together with representatives of both GEBE and the Philipsburg Jubilee Library. The energy efficiency project was an important initiative which set out to educate the community on the benefits of energy efficiency.



14. The amount of energy that is produced by the solar panels is deducted from the library's electric bill

In 2013, forty-eight solar panels were installed on the roof of the library as part of the energy efficiency project. These solar panels generated about 2000 kwh of electricity a month and resulted in the library saving about a third on its total energy bill. Unfortunately, in the wake of hurricane Gonzalo, hurricane force winds

destroyed these solar panels. The library hopes to obtain new solar panels in

the near future as it considers this an important project.

The second phase of the energy efficiency campaign was the replacement of all lights in the building by LED lights. Through a generous donation by GEBE, the realization of LED lights for the library was made possible in the summer of 2014. The library also hopes to have inverter air conditioners installed in the library in the near future as part of its energy efficiency efforts.

The amounts the library saved on its energy bill by switching to more environmentally friendly forms of energy were used to improve the services of the library.

## **Launch of the Library Cafe**

In November of 2014, the library opened the "Library Cafe". During opening times, a volunteer sells healthy and delicious drinks and snacks to visitors of the library. Available at the café are granola bars, tea, coffee and juices at low prices. Soon various sandwiches will also be on the menu. The library plans to extend the opening hours of the cafe so that people can visit the cafe during the lunchtime closing hours of the library.



### International and local contacts

#### **USM Library**

Since 2013 our library provides services to the library of the University of St Martin under a Service Level Agreement. This means that staff members of the Philipsburg Jubilee Library provided information services to USM students and faculty at the USM library. The USM students can borrow USM books on USM premises and at the Philipsburg Jubilee Library with the same library card. With the information services provided at the USM, the university strives to enhance the quality of education. In its library, the USM offers students a place to study in between classes, read up on course literature and get access to academic literature online.

Through this SLA, the mutual use of each other's resources and amenities between the USM and Philipsburg Jubilee Library is possible, whereby the economies of scale rises. Hence, USM gets total access to a professional library function, while the Philipsburg Jubilee Library, through its service to USM, is strengthened as an institution as well.

#### Consultancy services to the Libraries of Saba and St Eustatius

Since 2013, our library provides consultancy to the Queen Wilhelmina library on Saba and the Gertrude Johnson Library on St Eustatius. On these two BES islands there are no trained librarians, however the libraries finally received funds to automate their libraries via the Dutch OCW department. Thanks to the assistance of the Philipsburg Jubilee Library staff, the Saba library is now fully automated. St Eustatius library will follow in 2015. Staff members of the two libraries expressed their gratitude for the day to day support and consultancy services provided by the Philipsburg library.

#### **Acuril Conference Bahamas**

Between June 9<sup>th</sup> and June 13<sup>th</sup>, 2014, two staff members participated in the yearly Acuril Conference in the Bahamas. Our library is a long time member of Caribbean library association Acuril.

Library Director, Monique Alberts and Information Service Manager Irmin Hughes provided presentations on the services that the library of Sint Maarten provides, with an emphasis on the special collections and the efforts to preserve the written cultural heritage of the island.

The presention was well received by the delegations of the other Caribbean libraries. The Caribbean colleagues showed a great amount of interest in St. Maarten's cultural history. The Philipsburg Jubilee Library will also be present at the 2015 Acuril conference to be held in Paramaribo, Suriname.



15. Managers of the library, Irmin Hughes and Monique Alberts at the conference

# Operational Results 2013-2014

**Table 1. Library Membership** 

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Library membership	2013	2014
Adults	463	1300
Teenagers	605	2154
Children	4119	7684
Staff, Non residents	25	27
Grand Total	5,212	11,165

**Table 2. Library Visitors** 

Library visitors	2013	2014
	69,049	51.502

**Table 3. Circulation** 

Number of checkouts in library building	2013	2014
Adults' books	24,924	9089
E-books		374
Children's books, DVD's, Magazines	65,298	32278
Grand Total	90,222	41,741

**Table 4. Collection** 

Items	No of Items added in 2013	Collection totals 2013	No of Items added in 2014	Collection totals 2014
Books Adult section	2,502	31,591	1276	26,877
Books Youth section	2,302	25,805	1745	22,222
DVD's	101	1438	239	1559
Grand total	2,603	58,834	3,260	50,658

**Table 5. Circulation Bookmobile** 

	2013	2014
Number of Bookmobile check-outs	21,635	

Table 6. Information requests and Library visits by school classes

	2013	2014
Information requests	2,677	1797
Library visits (not of school classes)	69049	51.502

Number of Hits on Websites 14238

Total of discarded books 8.176

**Table 7. Historical statistics** 

Number of employees	Collection	Number of Members	Number of items checked out
2002	69.485	5.475	121.674
2003	60.710	5.169	114.090
2004	64.085	5.269	117.789
2005	58.273	5.269	118.251
2006	53.834	5.377	118.591
2007	59.348	5.115	114.346
2008	60.861	5.362	116.681
2009	59.925	5.932	111.648
2010	53.188	6.384	98.202
2011	55.376	6.122	102.508
2012	62.868	5.854	126.071
2013	58.834	5.212	90.222
2014	50,658	11,165	41,741