



Philipsburg Jubilee Library

2016 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 2016

During 2016 there was a very unfortunate loss within the library. Sadly, former commissioner of the Board Mrs. Schaminee-Ringeling has passed away in 2016. She will be remembered by the library, Board and patrons as a dedicated and integral part of our organization and she will be greatly missed by all.

Board Members as of December 2016

President (ad interim)	Mr. C. Holiday
Treasurer	Mr. S. Khatnani
Secretary	Mrs. M. Hofman
Vice-Secretary / Vice-Treasurer	Mr. U. Aron
Commissioner	Ms. V. Brazier
Commissioner	Ms. L. Tuitt

STAFF

Staff Developments

In the year under review the composition of staff members remained unchanged.

Staff Members as of December 31, 2016

Mrs. Monique Alberts	(Director)
Mrs. Irmin Hughes	(Manager Information services)
Mrs. Lucille Kolf	(Librarian)
Ms. Joy Lambert	(Librarian/ Financial Assistant)
Ms. Maryland Powell	(Assistant Children's Librarian/ PR Officer)
Ms. Shirley Richardson	(Secretary/ Selection and Acquisition Coordinator/ Circulation Head)
Ms. Francia Housen	(Interim Systems Administrator)
Ms. Melackia Spencer	(Circulation Clerk)
Mr. Daniel Helligar	(Circulation Clerk/ Technical Assistant)

Library Activities 2016

USM Puppet Show

The Philipsburg Jubilee Library (PJL), in collaboration with the University of St. Martin (USM) hosted their annual puppet show for children ages 4 to 10 year old at the library on Tuesday 15th of March 2016, from 5.30pm to 6.30pm.

The puppet show was an assignment from the USM's Children's Literature Class.

The students have not only learned how to prepare and execute puppet shows but also how to perform in front of a live audience.

Findings have suggested that puppet shows may be an effective means of reinforcing existing knowledge and communicating new information.

The aspiring student teachers performed a total of 4 shows:



Figure 1 USM students performing a puppet show

“From Bully to Friendly”: performed by Sharina Kalmera- Bryson,

Esther Louis-Jean, Tashana Samuels, Victoria Nelson, Audra Hyman.

, “Bring back my Booker” performed by: Oneida Arrindell, Vania Maynard, Miranda Richardson, Ahlina Gario.

, “Little Red Riding Hood”: Lucinda Gumbs, Chelsea Richardson, Sandrine Labardy, Reshma Khudan

“Why frogs have no tails”: Lerissa Rey, Shevonne Richardson, Dionela Casperson, Kiran Manglani.

Children on St. Maarten are not usually exposed much to puppet shows and literacy on all levels is the library's core component. It is with this in mind that the interactive performance took place on Tuesday March 15th. All children were encouraged to come out and enjoy this wonderful and educational event.

Mary Romney's Book collection

Since 2014, Mary Romney has kept to her word and donated every year subsequently to the "Alice & Lionel Romney Memorial African Diaspora Collection". In 2014 the brand new collection of over 500 books and DVDs was gratefully welcomed and added to the already existing library's collection. In January 2016, just in time for Black History Month, the Philipsburg Jubilee Library has received an additional 59 books and DVDs to be added to the collection.

We highlight Mrs. Mary Romney, daughter of the late Alice and Lionel Romney and local St. Maarteners, for Black History Month 2016. She is currently an assistant professor in the International Teacher Assistants Program (ITAP) at the University of Connecticut and has been working in the education field for over 25 years. Mrs. Romney has taught EFL in Spanish for eleven years and ESL in New York and in Connecticut.

She has an M. Ed. In Instructional Technology, Media, and an M.A. in the Teaching of English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL). Co -Author of a 3-volume ESOL integrated- skills textbook, and Pearls of wisdom.

In April 2010 Mrs. Mary Romney had been awarded with the James Alatis Award for teachers of English to speakers of other languages.

Easter egg hunt

The annual Easter egg hunt was hosted for children ages 5 – 10 years old at a cost of \$5. The event took place at the Vineyard Estate next to the Vineyard building in Philipsburg on Saturday, March 26th, from 10 am to 12.30 pm.

Children attending this event were engaged in fun activities, such as: face painting, 2 Puppet shows, various games and a grand Easter egg hunt, where hundreds of eggs were hidden on the Vineyard Estate grounds. There was also a golden egg for the parents to hunt. Yes, parents were also involved in this year's hunt.



Figure 2 Children at the Easter egg hunt taking part in games



Figure 3 Children at the Easter egg hunt taking part in games

An interactive puppet show was also held by the returning group of students from the University of St. Maarten.

Children taking part in this event were provided with refreshments and a special “goody” bag, along with all the Easter eggs they have collected. Parents happily brought their children to this fun-filled family event and participated alongside them.

This event was sponsored by Winter Garden, the Dedicated Brothers and Carolyn Buncamper, the owner of the Vineyard Estate.

Book Sales

There were two spectacular book sales in the library in 2016. The first was held on March 5th and the second on September 3rd in the main hall. These were grand sales with all the book lovers of St. Maarten in mind. Hundreds of books for all ages were selected with a special selection of romance books, children's books, educational, cook books, and more.

Buyers did not need to walk with their own bags, the library offered for the first 10 persons who purchased books a free environmentally friendly book bag with the slogans "I love books" or "Get your green on at your library"; all other bags were for a small price of NAF 1.80 or \$1.00.



Figure 4 Visitors browsing through the books on offer at one of the library's book sales

Book prices were as follows:

15 books for NAF 9.00 or \$ 5.00;

1 Paperback for NAF 1.00 or \$ 0.90

1 Hardcover for NAF 1.80 or \$ 1.00

Magazines for NAF 0.50 or \$ 0.30

The book sales were truly community events. All of the money raised was to be used to fund library programs. Many came out to support their library by purchasing books from their favorite author or topic.

Documentary Film Screenings

A Kippah in the Caribbean

On Wednesday, April 6th the educational film: A Kippah in the Caribbean was screened at the library. Hans Ziekenoppasser, expert on Dutch Caribbean Jewish history gave an introduction to the film and answered questions from the audience. Entry to the event was completely free of charge.

A Kippah in the Caribbean is a documentary about Jewish-Caribbean identity produced by Tanja Fraaij and Mike Ho Sam Sooi. The documentary searches for answers to the following questions: What is it like to be Jewish when you have Caribbean roots? What traces of Jewish identity can still be found in Antillean and Surinamese customs, language, and cooking? How does the future look for the Jewish community in Curacao, Aruba, and Suriname?

The film includes the voices of about twenty Caribbean Jews. One of them is the 17-year-old Surinamese Jew Achira Beck, a student at the Maimonides Jewish school, who keeps the day of rest, Shabbat, every Saturday. No eating, no playing football in the street, no telephone calls until the sun goes down. A difficult challenge, according to another Jewish teenager, Yermo Abrahams: 'It seems as if it would be like taking away my freedom.' Tamara, Ilena, and Elizabeth Winkel, three sisters in Curacao, had a Jewish upbringing rooted in family ties and traditions. There's a special sense of belonging when they visit Curacao's synagogue, the Snoa, with other Jewish families on Yom Kippur. 'A warm, homey feeling.'

The film follows in the footsteps of the Jews who were driven out of Portugal and Spain, first to Amsterdam and Brazil, and finally to Curacao and Suriname. There they established a successful economy based on plantations and trading. Trade also flourished on the island of Sint Eustatius, thanks to the Jewish influence. What remains of these communities, which at their height had thousands of members? Many people are concerned about what the future may bring. 'Curacao's beautiful Snoa will become a museum and no longer function as an active community,' says Paulette Smit of Curacao. Bob Pinedo, whose family left for Curacao exactly 300 years ago, agrees that it will be 'very difficult' for the Jewish community to endure. 'I hope it will'.

The documentary was made in connection with the exhibition *Jews in the Caribbean*, which has been on show in Amsterdam's Jewish Historical Museum for the past few months.

Documentary film Poetry is an Island by Derek Walcott

The feature film “Poetry is an Island” about the life and work of the Nobel Laureate poet Derek Walcott, produced and directed by Surinamese Independent Documentary film maker and producer Ida Does, was well-received on Monday, May 30th 2016.



Figure 5 Documentary filmmaker Ida Does (at left) poses before a Derek Walcott display

Ida Does documented an honest portrayal of Derek Walcott's life. The film “Poetry is an Island, Derek Walcott”, captured an intimate portrait of his hometown and beloved island of St. Lucia. It was a celebration of his work, his life, of his country's people, closest friends, as a playwright, visual artist and artist of the written and spoken word.

Poetry is an island, Derek Walcott, by Ida Does received four awards for

Best Feature Documentary at the Honolulu Film Award, Best Documentary at the Piton Film Festival 2014, Saint Lucia; the Golden Award for Best Editing at the Documentary & Short International and Movie Award Festival in Jakarta Indonesia, and the Jury Award for Best Documentary at the Caribbean Tales International Film Festival 2014 in Toronto. It was well-received by persons who could relate to the similarities between St. Lucia and our island of St. Maarten.

Ida Does presented a copy of the award-winning documentary for the archive of the representatives of the Philipsburg Jubilee Library: Monique Alberts and her staff; President of the University of St. Maarten: Dr. Francio Guadeloupe; Secretary of St. Maarten National Commission for UNESCO: Marcellia Henry; and the House of Nehesi Publishers & Conscious Lyrics Foundation Book Fair Committee: Shujah Reiph.

The film was also shown to St. Maarten Academy Academic section Literature students in order to discuss her work, share her experience with producing a documentary film and initiate an interactive session in creative thinking.

The screening of this documentary was made possible through funding by the Prince Bernhard Cultural Fund.

Mother's Day Market



Figure 6 During the Mother's Day Market there was storytelling for children

The library hosted its first Pre- Mother's Day Market on Saturday May 7th, 2016 from 10 am to 1pm.

Persons displayed or sold arts and crafts, baskets, liqueurs, and cakes.

There was a good turnout for this Mother's Day Market with a maximum of 15 tables. There was also storytelling during the Mother's Day market by former Education Minister Patricia Lourens Philips and poetry and song provided by Julie Alcin, poet Sjorensly Valies and journalist Alita Singh.

Grace periods

The library gave back to her faithful patrons in the summer and Christmas seasons 2016, by offering approximately two weeks of returning one's long overdue books free of charge. This grace period gift commenced as of Tuesday, June 28th until Saturday, July 9th, 2016 and also took place during the Christmas season from December 13th to Friday December 23rd. All overdue books could be returned, no questions asked.

Kid's Summer Camp

This year the annual Summer Program for children ages 7-12 years old took place again. It was something sensational to do last summer for a great number of children.



Figure 7 The children of the children's summer camp after enjoying a meal together

The activities that the children were taking part in included hiking, computer class, creation of clay animations, arts and crafts, a number of excursions, such as sailing on a glass bottom boat, visiting the fire station and much more.

The program took place from the 5th of July to the 22nd of July. The price for the entire program was 50 dollars for the three weeks.

Teen Summer Camp

The library hosted a vigorous and entertaining summer program for teens ages 14 to 20 from the 11th to 29th of July, 2016. For those parents of teenaged children who wished for them to be active over the summer, or for those teens that are bursting with energy and are willing to take on an adventurous summer program, this teen's library program was available. The cost per person was only ANG 100.00.

The summer program had activities such as poetry: spoken and the written word; a game night where all



Figure 8 A camp participant taking part in activities



Figure 9 Teens at the summer camp enjoying activities together

were welcome to participate and bring their own games for an amicable tournament; computer classes: the making of Clay Animation & Animoto; The reading of one book and the book discussion over the entire summer vacation; movies at Caribbean Cinemas; Kayaking; exploring the fauna and flora of the Simpson Bay Lagoon; having an EPIC talk, walk and picnic to Back Bay; and last but not least a boat ride and swimming with the fish at Tiki Tiki Hut Divi Little Bay.

The teen summer program was a great opportunity to broaden one's horizons, make new friends and share a wonderful experience with other teens.

The Power of Knowledge Information Sessions

Labor Law

The Labour Department returned to the library in 2016 to provide an information session about labour law, as a part of the Power of Knowledge series. This was an informative and in-depth lecture and interactive discussion on Sint Maarten labor law by Nikima Groeneveldt-Hickinson, Policy Advisor at the Department of Labor and supporting staff of the labour department. This session took place on Thursday the 26th of May, at 6:30 pm.

This lecture was there for those who would like to know more about what the labor laws are and how they apply to them in their situation. Under the slogan “Know your rights”, the Labour Department of the Government of Sint Maarten provided an interactive lecture and discussion about this topic. The Power of knowledge session started off with an introduction by Labour Department policy advisor Mrs. Nikima Groeneveldt-Hickinson, which informed about all aspects of labour law. Following was an interactive question and answer session in which the audience took part. Some of the topics that were discussed during this Power of Knowledge session were workers’ rights and responsibilities, the types of work contracts, dismissal, overtime and holiday compensations, and much more.



Figure 10 Policy advisor at the Labor Department Nikima Groeneveldt and former Labor Department worker Raphael Boasman providing one of the Power of Knowledge sessions

Natural hair and beauty

The Power of Knowledge series continued on Thursday, July 7th at 6:30 pm at the Philipsburg Jubilee Library with an informative and interactive discussion on natural hair texture by Rochelle Ward who is the Managing Director of “Don’t Break the comb”.

The lecture consisted of an explanation about different hair types and structures; how one can take care of their hair and use basic hair care products; apply natural hair styles to their natural hair, as well as hair challenges like hair loss and the natural products that can maintain the natural beauty of your hair.

Rochelle Ward has organized a number of events including Partners in Crime: Going natural and staying natural, Hard hair: St. Martin Women & the Culture of Natural Hair and hosted the I am beautiful Caribbean natural hair & skin workshop tour. Ward has been natural for most of her life, she has had her fair share of breaking a number of combs and is still determined to bask in the celebration of Natural Beauty.

The “One Kingdom One Love” documentary

The final item of the year for the Power of Knowledge series consisted of the screening of the documentary ‘One Kingdom, One Love’ (OKOL) for teens and young adults on Thursday, October 13th, 2016 at 6:30pm.

The screening, held in collaboration with St. Maarten/St. Martin Alliance For Equality (SAFE), sought to raise awareness amongst the abovementioned cohorts concerning Lesbian, Gay, Bi-sexual, and Transgender (LGBT) realities. ‘One Kingdom, One Love’ is a documentary which

follows the Kingdom Boat that sailed in the Amsterdam Pride Canal Parade in 2015. This boat, which held representatives from the entire kingdom, ultimately won top honors for its theme and execution. The documentary was directed by Sebastiaan Kes and produced by Academy Pictures. OKOL, which has English subtitles, explores the concept of equal rights for all in the Kingdom of the Netherlands by telling the stories of lesbian, gay, bi-sexual and transgender persons from Curacao, Aruba, Bonaire, Saba and St. Maarten. Finally, it delves into the fight for equal treatment in the Dutch Caribbean.

“As a library we are committed to the issues of tolerance and non-discrimination. We are a library for all citizens of St. Maarten, which includes members of the LGBT community. We know that some persons in our community have strong opinions about LGBT issues and we respect these opinions, however having a strong opinion should not lead to discrimination and intolerance. We noticed that particularly among teenagers there is a lack of understanding about LGBT issues and high school students who have a different sexual orientation often have to cope with name calling and sometimes even bullying. We think the screening the documentary ‘One Kingdom, One Love’ for an audience of young people can contribute to more understanding and tolerance for members of the LGBT community, which ultimately will help to make St. Maarten a more inclusive society,” library Director Monique Alberts said.

After the screening there was a question and answer segment with a panel including members of the SAFE Youth Committee.

“As a committee of SAFE dealing directly with LGBT youth, we think that it is important that their voices and their perspectives also be heard. That is why we were pleased when we heard that the library was interested in hosting this event. ‘One Kingdom, One Love’ creates an opening for dialogue. We know that LGBT youth face tremendous pressures from their peers and we want them to know that we stand with them against the bullying and terror they encounter. They should know that there is a network of support out here for them and that it does get better as they grow up,” Morenika Charles-Arrindell, Youth Committee representative said.

Prior to the screening, SAFE turned over several LGBT books, fiction and non-fiction, to the library for its catalogue.

“We are extremely happy that the library decided to screen this movie, providing young people with an opportunity to discuss a matter very relevant to our society. The donation of the books to the library is a show of appreciation for its contribution to fostering dialogue within the St. Maarten/St. Martin community. We hope the books are used as resources for growth by LGBT youth, adults, allies and those needing more information about what it really means to be LGBT,” SAFE President, Lysanne Charles-Arrindell, said.

Christmas Market

The library hosted its annual Christmas Market on Thursday, December 22nd, from 10 am to 8pm throughout the library.

The Library's annual Christmas Market presented crafters from all over St. Maarten displaying their arts and creativity. Shoppers could get one-of-a-kind gifts, and decorations, find new products and old favorites that can be shared as gifts.



Figure 11 A Christmas Market vendor poses in front of her table display at the Christmas Market



Figure 12 A scene from the library's Christmas Market

Individual decorated stands offered handcrafted goods and beautiful intricate Christmas Jewelry.

This year, as previous years was a community event, offering a Christmas ambience as the familiar aroma of Christmas baking permeated throughout the library.

Read to Me: Baby and Toddler Campaign

The library has been providing the Read to Me activities since 2010 to motivate parents and caregivers to read to their baby or toddler as often as possible and to visit the library and register as a library member.



Figure 13 Participating babies and toddlers and their parents at one of the Baby and Toddler events

Throughout the year, as part of the Read to Me: Baby and Toddler activities there was storytelling and fun and games for babies and their caregivers.

During Rhyme Time on Wednesday mornings, babies and their parents, or caregivers, sang along to many of the classic nursery rhymes. Every second Thursday of each month there was Story Time, where babies could listen to age-appropriate learning

concepts through storytelling, while cultivating an enthusiasm for books and reading.

On Tuesday March 2nd, 2016, Philipsburg Jubilee Library and Zahira Marmar, as part of the library's "Read to me" campaign, organized an educational, exciting interactive Rhyme Time Workshop.

In March there was an Easter Special for the Baby and Toddler group where participating children could take part in a small-scale Easter egg hunt. In December there was also a Christmas celebration for the babies and toddlers who have been attending all year with special gifts being handed out to the little ones.



Figure 14 A volunteer providing one of the weekly Rhyme Time sessions

Readers are Leaders

Readers are leaders is a reading program organized and supported by the Philipsburg Jubilee Library and the Rotary Club of St. Martin Sunrise. The goal is to promote literacy, specifically among high school students, and encourage readers to express their thoughts, feelings and ideas through writing.

Club members are challenged to read at least two books per month and submit reports pertaining to what they have read. Prizes are awarded to the students who read and submit the most book reports and have earned the most points.

Opening ceremony



Figure 15 A youngster performing at a fun-packed Readers are Leaders event

The Readers are Leaders club hosted their 7th annual reading competition opening ceremony for the 2016 – 2017 term on Wednesday 21st, September 2016, from 5.30 pm to 7.30pm at the Philipsburg Jubilee Library.

The organizers' goal is to stimulate reading by teenagers and to show that reading is fun in a competitive way.

All high school students; Sundial, Milton Peters College: TKL, PKL, HAVO, VWO, St. Maarten Academy: Academic, and PSVE, Vocational, MAC Comprehensive College and Charlotte Brooks Academy could participate in the campaign to win.

Participants had to choose their books from the Teenage and Adult section of the library, or books from their school library and it had to be a minimum of seven books. From fun fiction of their own choice to non-fiction of leading persons of St. Maarten, the Caribbean and the world. Added to the recommended reading booklist was the Alice and Lionel Romney Memorial African Diaspora collection.

Members of the club could win prizes, such as USB sticks, laptops, and tablets. The organizers encouraged our youth to read; because the readers of today are the leaders of tomorrow. This was a year of reading fun and competitiveness.

Black History Month

The Readers are Leaders club hosted its 6th annual Black History Month celebration under the theme: "Embrace Your Race".

This event took place on Thursday, February 25th, from 5pm to 7.30pm. Various high school and university students have come together to showcase our African Ancestry and Heritage in song, poetry, fashion and dance. The fashion show exhibited costumes from the cultural parade

from St. Maarten's day 2016 and African wear from the Africa Caribbean Heritage Alliance Foundation.

Sint Maarten's Day

"The Readers are Leaders" platform presented a cultural evening to have a Pre-St. Maarten's Day celebration, under the theme "This is My Island under the Sun" in song, poetry and dance in the foyer of the Philipsburg Jubilee Library, Thursday, November 10, 2016 at 5pm.

There were special appearances by Story Teller Papa Umpo and Miss Teen Diandra Marlin. There was a cultural wear modeling show and the chance to win prizes courtesy of Chippie and Telcell in the "Do you know your island?" trivia. Admission and drinks were free and food was on sale. The Readers are Leaders board had been working hard to make this event a successful evening.



Figure 16 Lectures, poetry and song were all part of the Readers are Leaders events

Media Lab

The Media Lab is a room in the library where young and old can harness their IT skills. It has been established in the library in 2014. The Medialab is an initiative by Foundation Kultuurkameleon and is part of the larger Digikidz project of the Foresee Foundation. Digikidz was also made possible through funding from the Windsong Foundation and the Kultura fund.

Senior classes

Back by popular demand, the Philipsburg Jubilee Library resumed senior internet classes as of February 2016. The senior classes were held in the library's Media Lab every Friday morning and afternoon, from February 5th, 2016 to June 24th, 2016, time: 9 am to 12.00 pm and 2 pm to 5pm. After a summer break the senior internet classes at the Philipsburg Jubilee Library

recommenced in September 2nd, 2016. The classes again took place every Friday morning and afternoon, starting September 2nd, 2016 to December 16th, 2016, time: 9 am to 12.00 pm and 2 pm to 5pm.

The library has provided Senior Internet Classes since 2015 to many seniors, providing access to computer technologies that enrich their lives and enable them to share their skills.

The Senior Internet course consists of a beginner's introduction to computers, use of e-mails, Animoto, Facebook, and Skyping with your fellow senior mates, family and friends at large. Advanced courses of the abovementioned classes were being offered to those who have participated during the previous year.

The Media Lab was open for those 50 and over who are looking for some help to learn new computer skills or enhance existing computer skills.

Excel classes

The Philipsburg Jubilee Library provided a three month course in Microsoft Excel for beginners every Tuesday and Wednesday, from February 2016 to May 2016 and again from September 2016 to November 2016. The course took place in the Media Lab and was provided from 6pm to 8pm. Instructor Kenneth Peters provided the course. The fee for this course was \$ 5 for each session.

Microsoft Excel is a standard spreadsheet application for both the business world and personal use; this Microsoft Excel course aids in innovative solutions to personal budgeting at home or in business. Participants learn how to calculate with and use functions, create powerful analysis, and understand how an analysis flow or tree can be designed, translating business-requirements into data-driven solutions and making better use of data in excel sheets or other file formats.

School classes



Figure 17 A library staff member providing computer classes to schoolchildren

The Foresee foundation re-launched Digiworkz on Friday April 22nd, 2016, at the Philipsburg Jubilee library in the Media Lab. Digiworkz is a branch of the foresee foundation that aims to make learning fun for children by introducing them to technology at an early age. This is done by creating an environment that challenges young minds to become creative and innovative while learning more about math, science and engineering so they will be ready to function in the world of the 21 century.

Digiworkz in collaboration with the library has been active with workshops, summer camps and activities engaging the students to stimulate them to be more interested in the education material by making it hands on, inspirational and motivational. Throughout the year the workshops for schoolclasses took place with lessons in programming, clay animation, internet safety, and more.

There was also a Digiworkz summer camp entitled “The sky is the beginning”. The camp was held at the library for the week of July 25 to the 30th where the students learned how to code video games, and create self-drawing robots that draw pictures every time the robots move. Then the students assembled and programmed Arduinos which are mini computers that complete a task. The first task was to have lights that blink in a timed sequence. The students then reassembled and reprogrammed the Arduinos that tested the bodies by lighting three colored lights from blue to yellow to red. After that the arduinos were reassembled and reprogrammed to play a song at timed intervals.

The students created a stop motion animation film using clay, toy cars and other props. The animation film highlighted the issue of road safety, and why it is important for drivers not to be distracted by phone calls and Youtube videos. All of the students were involved with the production of the animation from start to finish, which includes the storyboard, the special effects, creating of the props and the narration. The students learned that animation is a time consuming process that requires all of their undivided attention for it to be a good production.



Figure 18 Schoolchildren learning and enjoying their time spent in the Media Lab

On the last day of the summer camp Digiworkz held an open house for the parents and guardians to see and interact with the projects that were created. The students explained how each of the projects were built and how they work.

Another project that was done by Digiworkz is the interactive show and tell at the annual C-tech conference for teachers from the region that gives them innovative and creative ways to teach to their students.

Literacy Program “SXM Reads”

Low literacy is a considerable social problem in our society. In 2016 our library continued the program aimed at creating awareness and finding support for persons with low literacy skills. Together with the COME Centre, UNESCO and the Rotary Sunrise club, our library created the SXM READS platform in 2015. The department of Social Services and Section Labor Market (SOD/SLM) supported SXM READS as well.

The literacy program 2016 was financed by the SMDF, the Representation of the Netherlands in Sint Maarten, the Windward Islands bank, Seven Seas Water Company, Telem and the Be The Change Foundation.

The three pillars of the ongoing literacy program were family reading nights, an adult literacy course and a literacy helpdesk.

Literacy helpdesk

On Thursday, January 28th, a brand-new helpdesk was opened at the library. This new literacy helpdesk was for persons who need assistance with literacy and language problems. The helpdesk, which is situated in the hall of the library, was aimed at helping persons who need assistance in matters such as filling out forms, understanding complex documents and other language problems. The helpdesk also gives out community information, such as how to reach health care and social workers, government services, and other social organizations and support groups.



Figure 19 At the Literacy Helpdesk workers were on hand to answer questions from the general public

By setting up the helpdesk, the “SXM Reads” initiative hoped to be of support for their target group and alleviate the problems that are caused by their lack of reading and writing skills.

Literacy screening



Figure 20 Participants and volunteers at the literacy screening

The SXM Reads campaign brought to the general public a literacy screening program to read and provide an opportunity to test one's reading skills. This took place from 11 am to 1pm at the library on Saturday June 11th.

The Literacy screening was done online and lasted 12 minutes. Within this short time participants were able to prove their reading efficiency. The results were given to participants privately and there were tutors who assisted them regardless

of their results. From students, editors and secretaries to store clerks, all were welcome to take part in this exercise. The purpose of this exercise was to have the general public be aware that reading and understanding what you have read is essential.

Family Reading Night

Throughout the year there were nice and cozy family reading nights planned at the library where parents were welcome to attend with their children. Family reading is a fun way to promote literacy. SXM Reads recognizes this and encourages reading as well as family participation. Investing in reading and making good reading choices while bonding with persons who understand the need to read is important. The family reading nights took place every month at the library from Thursday, March 17th.

Family reading night is a fun way to promote literacy and lifelong learning while supporting each other. Reading together creates a positive learning environment and helps children develop language skills, reading comprehension and a love for books that can last a lifetime.

During family reading nights books were read by members of the SXM Reads committee Patti Maier and Merlese Lake. Parents and children are read to, and then broken up into their own personal family groups and read to yet again and the book that was read to them the family could take home to add to their home library collection.

Family reading nights help families learn what a wonderful resource the library is to their families. Children, as well as their parents, invested in reading and making good reading choices while bonding with SXM READ's tutors, family, friends and the librarians.

Story Time

Every Saturday the library hosts Story Time reading sessions for children. In 2016 the library also transformed the regular reading hour into a story time in Dutch. On Saturdays from 11 am to 12 pm, as of the 5th of March 2016, the library's Story time has been done in Dutch and the name of the program is Dutch is Fun.



Figure 21 Each week young library goers look forward to the Story Time/ Dutch is Fun activity

Dutch is fun is a Story time program that is full of stories, songs, and games in the Dutch language. The Story Time is aimed at young children aged 6 to 11. The object of Dutch is Fun Story time is to show how much fun one can have while reading and listening to Dutch stories in an interactive manner while at the same time learning to be fluent in the language.

Reading in any language is very important in the development of every child; thus the library regularly encourages parents to come out with their children and prove their active

participation in the development of their children, and encourage not only reading, but also future usage of their library.

Staff Training 2016

Cheryl Peltier Davis' Digital Training Workshop

In 2016 digital library expert Cheryl Ann Peltier-Davis was on hand to provide a workshop on digital library services. Cheryl Ann Peltier Davis is a Digital Initiatives, Cataloguing and Metadata Services Librarian at the Alma Jordan Library at the University of the West Indies of St. Augustine in Trinidad and Tobago.

Cheryl Ann Peltier-Davis is also the author of two volumes of the Cybrarian's Web, which a resource on how to use web tools that can innovate and improve libraries.

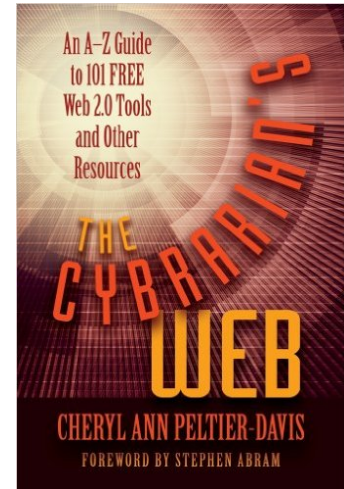


Figure 22 The cover page of the Cybrarian's web, written by Cheryl Ann Peltier-Davis

Library Facility Improvements

Charging stations

In 2016 Telem donated a charging station to the library to be used by visiting patrons. Telem had previously placed charging stations in different locations on the island and the library is the latest to receive such a station. Many people make use regularly of this charging station and the library is very grateful for this donation.

Helpdesk

In the year under review a helpdesk centre was installed within the scope of the SXM Reads Literacy project. The literacy helpdesk was custom built by an expert carpenter and comes equipped with stands in which informative brochures are displayed.

Media Lab upgrade

The Media Lab has been upgraded with a full set of new quality tables and extra chairs which were needed in order to meet the demand of patrons and visitors of events, visiting schoolclasses and senior Media Lab-goers. The tables can be folded away for easy storage in case more room is required. The facility improvements in the Media Lab were made possible through funding from the Foresee Foundation.

Conference Room

The Conference Room of the library is not only the center of congregation for library staff and Board members. The Conference Room also doubles as a meeting point for different organizations who can rent the room throughout the year. In 2016 the Conference Room has been outfitted with modern blinds across its outside-facing wall, which is entirely made out of glass. Conference room users are now offered more privacy in a more up-to-date looking conference room facility.

International and local contacts

Consultancy services to the Libraries of Saba and St Eustatius

In 2016, the Philipsburg Jubilee Library continued its consultancy services to the Queen Wilhelmina Library on Saba and the Gertrude Johnson Library on St Eustatius. The librarians in the BES islands have been assisted by librarians of the Philipsburg Jubilee Library in getting their catalog fully automated. The three libraries are also connected to a shared database for the cataloguing of all of the books in the libraries and easy automatic retrieval by patrons.

Acuril Conference

In 2016, the library's Director attended the Acuril conference in Haiti that took place from 5-9 June. The theme of this year's conference was "Leadership: a bridge between tradition and innovation in libraries, archives and museums of the Caribbean". There were presentations, meetings, workshops, exhibitions and vibrant interactions between library workers around the Caribbean and special guests. Leadership trends in the field were highlighted throughout the conference and those present were encouraged to share knowledge of their experiences and best practices in their respective archive, library or museum.

American Library Association (ALA) Midwinter Meeting

In January of 2016, Director Monique Alberts participated in the Midwinter Meeting of the American Library Association (ALA). The ALA is the largest and oldest library association in the world and it provides outreach, library standards, education and information to many libraries throughout the United States and other countries.

Literature Festival University of the Virgin Islands

The library's Director attended the Virgin Islands literature festival and Bookfair at the University of the Virgin Islands (UVI) in St Croix. The topic of this year was "Journeys and pathways". Attendance at the Literature Festival was made possible by funding by the Prince Bernhard Cultural Fund.

Operational Results 2015-2016

Table 1. Library Membership

Library membership	2015	2016
Adults	1646	1839
Teenagers	2111	2049
Children	5469	5736
Staff, Non residents	28	28
Grand Total	9,254	9,652

Table 2. Library Visitors

Library visitors	2015	2016
	43,296	45,938

**Table 3.
Circulation**

Number of checkouts in library building	2015	2016
Adults' books	5981	5739
E-books	178	424
Children's books, DVD's, Magazines	38507	32735
Grand Total	44,666	38,898

Table 4. Collection

Items	No of Items added in 2015	Collection totals 2015	No of Items added in 2016	Collection totals 2016
Books Adult section	929	31,487	665	29,480
Books Youth section	663	29,259	543	22,512
DVD's	63	1634	22	1405
Grand total	1,655	62,380	1,230	53,397

Table 5. Circulation Bookmobile

Number of Bookmobile check-outs / Bookboxes	2015	2016
	22,500	6655

Table 6. Information requests and Library visits by school classes

	2015	2016
Information requests	1147	1176
Library visits (not of school classes)	43296	42938

Total of discarded books	1237	8983
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Table 7. Websites		
Number of Hits on Library Website	12443	14433
Total of likes on Library Facebook		4129
Total of likes on Baby and Toddler Facebook		164
Total of Follower on Twitter		64