



THE JOHANNESBURG CITY LIBRARY 2012

*A commemorative publication on the occasion of the
re-opening of the Johannesburg City Library on
14 February 2012*

LIBRI THESAURUS ANIMI
“Books are the treasure house of the mind”



**THE DOORS OF LEARNING AND
OF CULTURE SHALL BE OPENED!**

“All the cultural treasures of mankind shall be open to all, by free exchange of books, ideas and contact with other lands”

(African National Congress – Freedom Charter)



The Johannesburg Public Library opened it's doors to all races in 1974

Public Library to City Library



a world class African city



Carnegie
CORPORATION
OF NEW YORK

The Early Days

The story of Johannesburg's Public Library is, as with many things in the City of Gold, inextricably linked to the pioneer spirit of the people. Unpredictably, the gold-rush town was literally steeped in "culture" by the time it was only three years old. There was a theatre, schools, sport clubs and even a debating society to boast of – and yet, for the young man dreaming of greater things and wishing to broaden his knowledge, books were hard to come by.

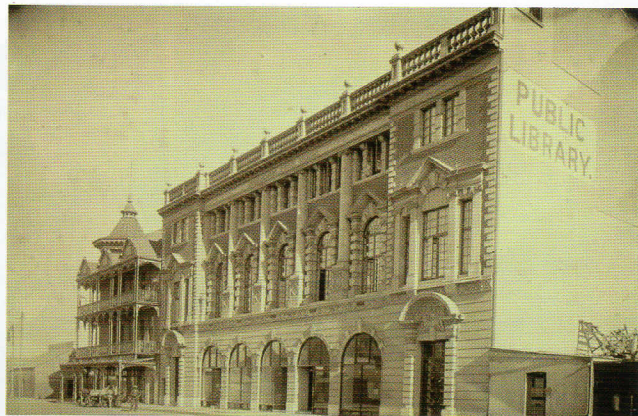
The public houses which proliferated in the mining town were probably more alluring to the average speculator than a public library. Still, there were many exceptions and those exceptional young men were the ones who built Johannesburg into the great city it is today. Thankfully, there were community leaders who realized this, and they set about campaigning for a library, raising funds and finding premises. They had realised what the town needed:

"First and foremost, a good public library and reading rooms where the countless young fellows in the town could while away a pleasant hour. The only places open to them now are the 'bars' and billiard saloons"
(Rev J T Darragh, Rector of St Mary's, Johannesburg).

Among those who guided the library through its formative years were many distinguished men of letters, some of whom had served on Library Committees in different parts of the Cape of Good Hope. It was therefore not surprising that the Johannesburg Library adopted the Cape mould, starting out as a subscription library. The main difference was that it received no grant from the government or the local authority and was entirely dependant on subscriptions and donations until 1894 when a small grant-in-aid of 250 pounds was received from the government until the outbreak of the Anglo-Boer War.



The old Kerk Street Public Library, 1893



The 2nd Kerk Street Public Library, 1898



The Central Library and gardens, old Market Square, 1935



Books are carried into the new library building, 1935

Special Features of the Building

As you walk around and through the building note the following features as quoted from writings by the National Monuments Council (NMC) and R.F Kennedy (Chief Librarian; 1936 – 1960):

“The architectural style is Italian, with slight modern tendencies in detail”. The eight large figures on the exterior of the building symbolize history, medicine, philosophy, architecture, sculpture, painting, music and literature. The roundels facing Market and Presidents Streets portray eminent men in literature, art and science (men such as Goethe, Dante, and Shakespeare). The stained-glass window in the foyer came from the first Corporation Building which housed the Johannesburg Municipality and The Standard and Diggers News. The carved South African animal heads on the keystones, carved teak fanlights over the entrance to the Lending and Reference sections, cast bronze main entrance doors, decorative drums above the main doors and the façade with the carved words Libri Thesaurus Animi (Books are the treasure house of the mind) contribute to a well proportioned and dignified building “and the works of art are unobtrusive, blending to make a satisfactory whole”.

It is also necessary to note the rich materials – the ceilings of moulded coffered plaster, marble columns and floors and decorative woodcarvings in the high vaults of the interior. The abstract treatment of the carved arches over three storeys above the entrances can be traced back to public library in Boston, which also boasts the general block-form of the Johannesburg building.

One of the half-forgotten elements of the design was a small theatre which became one of the city's foremost venues. Originally intended for more literary purposes - as a lecture theatre - it soon developed into an active playhouse where some of the city's best talents were nurtured and to which audiences were happy to flock.

Through the years the building did undergo changes. Under the watchful eyes of the National Monuments Council none of the changes were of a permanent structural nature but were rather functional changes.

According to R.F. Kennedy the changes were made in order to find more space for books and to accommodate moving books around – it was an annual occurrence – and to find more seating accommodation for the public, especially in the reference area. He also pleaded for a long-term plan for the Africana Museum to move out and for the Theatre to be changed into an area for book stacks. In 1952 the Council confirmed the need to reserve a site for the Africana Museum but refused to consider the proposal of changing the purpose of the Theatre until such time that funds were available for the erection of a small theatre to replace the Library Theatre. The best interim solution was therefore to find alternative accommodation for the overflow of book stock off the library premises. A few venues were rented or acquired by the city to manage the problem. The library in the meantime







also made use of dry walling/partitioning to move or create offices and store areas.

In 1945 the first centralized Acquisitions and Catalogue Office (Technical Services) was established in the library. At the time when catalogues consisted of drawers full of typed classification cards, it was a matter of finding procedures to streamline processes and to avoid unnecessary duplication. As the book stock and branches increased, the operational requirements of the Technical Services increased and space at the library became increasingly inadequate. Only in 1967 was alternative accommodation found and the section moved to a rented venue in the Lewis and Marks Building opposite the library.

The Theatre became the home of the Technical Services in 1984/85. The Council was at pains to preserve as much as possible when alterations were made to the Theatre. Only the raking floor and stage were removed. The National Monuments Council approved this only "because the original could always be re-instated".

The problem of insufficient space for the book stock was solved in the mid-seventies when the 1947 plan of constructing an underground book stack was completed. In 1963 the sub-committee of traffic improvements recommended that a parking area of three storeys deep should be built

under the library gardens. The City Librarian pointed out to the Arts and Culture Committee that this land was held in trust for the library, but that no objections should be raised to the proposed garage providing it was built in such a way that it could in future be converted into a book stack. It was therefore resolved that the stacks be incorporated into the scheme for a garage. Excavations commenced in 1965 and the eventual outcome was the construction of a double level parking garage and book stack under the Library Gardens stretching from under Simmonds and Cenotaph Streets up to Harrison Street. The stacks occupy an area of 3840 m² that houses \pm 40 Kilometres of shelves and approximately 500,000 octavo (normal size books) volumes, 100,000 quarto sized books and 13, 577 bound volumes of newspapers.

In 1994 the National Monuments Council refused the planned closing up of the geology room (opening between the Geology Room and the Upper Gallery). "The loss of the double volume and this historic amenity would be a tragedy"

In 1995 the Africana and Geological Museums were relocated from the library and the third floor became available for the Art Collection and the Performing Arts Collection that were housed in Elizabeth House for all the years.





Rhodes Park, 1947



Orlando East, 1950 - upgraded in 2000



Davidsonville



Emndeni



Ennerdale Extension



Hillbrow



Bosmont



Lenasia

Branch Libraries

In 1936 the City Librarian, Reginald Kennedy toured Europe and the United States to study further, more practical methods of making access to the library easier for all the citizens of the city. On his return he recommended to the Council that two suburban branch libraries in rented premises be established. After some mild political bickering as to the location of the first two branch libraries, Rosetenville and Yeoville were chosen as the "guinea-pig" suburbs. Outbreak of the Second World War halted progress, but after the war, decentralization was resumed and in its post-war plan the city favoured branch libraries built for the purpose and owned by the Council. By 1992 a grand total of 36 branches had been established.

The establishment of the following three branch libraries deserves special mention:

Winifred Holtby Memorial Library (now the Westbury Library which was upgraded and extended in 2002/3). Not only was it the first public library branch to be established in its own specially constructed building in 1940, but it was also the first municipal library for black readers in South Africa. In 1962 the township was transformed into a township for coloured people and the Winifred Holtby Memorial Library was re-established in Moroka (Soweto) in an altered building. This library was



very popular and better used than the original library. On the other hand the “new” Westbury Library became a busier library than the Winifred Holby Library had been in the same building.

Rhodes Park Public Library (upgraded and extended in 2005). In November 1945 the City Librarian reported that, because of the City Engineer’s preoccupation with housing, no progress had been made with the plans for the building of branch libraries. Work started on the Rhodes Park Library building only in February 1947 and it was opened to the public on 27 October 1947 – the first branch library building in a so-called white area.

Orlando East Public Library (upgraded and extended in 1999/2000) was the first purpose built public library in Soweto. It was built by black trainees from the Vocational Centre and was much bigger than any of the existing public library branches at that time in Johannesburg. It opened for business on 12 January 1950. Until 2007 it housed a special gift - a collection of 800 volumes that Dr A. B. Xuma’s widow donated to the library in 1963. Dr Xuma was a qualified teacher who went to America where he obtained his B.Sc and M.D. degrees, studied gynaecology in Europe and obtained further degrees in Edinburgh. In 1933, when he was practicing in Johannesburg, he wrote to the Johannesburg Librarian requesting discarded materials to augment his free book service for “those desiring to acquire knowledge.” His personal book collection, mostly books on ethnology, race relations and African affairs is now housed in the A.B. Xuma House (museum) in Sophia Town.



Collections

The first consignment of books received by the library in 1890 was noteworthy more for its binding than its literary or educational content. The selection of the first 1033 volumes had been left to the “best judgment” of Mudies, a firm of London book merchants. The books arrived, via Cape Town and Kimberley by ox-wagon in all their finery – and finely bound in brown half-pigskin with the title, author and name of the library embossed in gold. Today, only 30 volumes have survived and are preserved as a reminder of the library’s humble beginnings.

The mistake that the first Library Committee had made by leaving the selection of the consignment of books to the discretion of the booksellers was not one to be repeated. Down the years books have, and still are, selected with extreme care Their expense demands it - and it remains the Library’s responsibility to maintain a good balance of reference material as well as popular fiction.

Very often the books given to the library are unobtainable and sometimes extremely valuable. The earliest recorded gifts to the library were the two volumes of Stanley’s classic “In Darkest Africa” donated in 1891. One other instance which must be mentioned was the gift of a Kelmescott Chaucer, donated to the library in 1952 by Nicholas Monsarrat, author of “The Cruel Sea”. The book is actually one of only 48 copies ever printed, and its extreme rarity is further enhanced by an inscription it contains to Miss May Morris, daughter of the famous printer, William Morris.



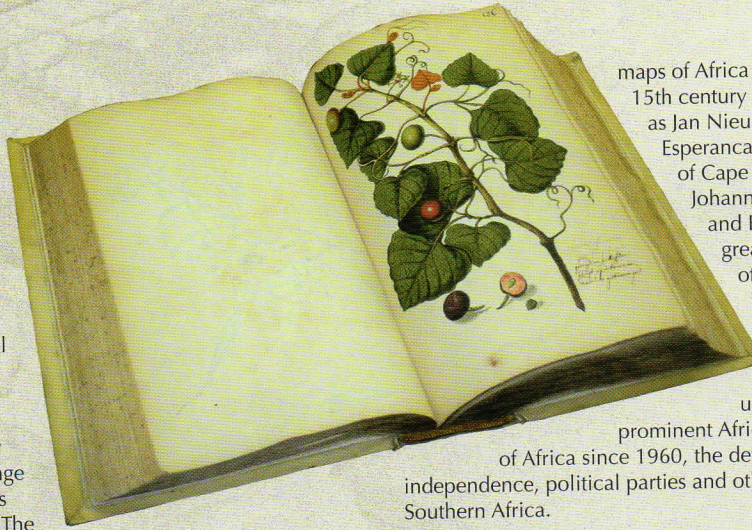
AFRICANA COLLECTION

The special collection comprises of the Harold Strange Library of African Studies and the Children's Book Collection.

The Harold Strange Library of African Studies is one of South Africa's major collections of Africana, concentrating on material south of the Zambezi River. Attracting researchers, authors, historians and genealogists from around the world, it is named after the Africana collector Harold Strange whose collection was purchased as the nucleus of the library in 1913. The collection includes material on every conceivable aspect of Southern African social and political history and comprises manuscripts, private papers, books, periodicals, pamphlets, maps, newspapers and newspaper cuttings, photographs and theatre programmes. Strong points of the collections include African languages, literature and ethnology, Afrikaans language and literature, South African English Literature, Anglo-Boer War (including original diaries), history of the Witwatersrand and especially Johannesburg and original maps of Africa from the 15th to 20th centuries.

There is a large collection of rare and beautiful exploration, travel, botanical and zoological books from the 15th century onwards, including a *Ptolemy Geography*, *Van Linschoten's Travels*, *Captain Cook's voyages*, *Le Vaillant's travels* in the Cape and his *Birds of Africa*, and the unique volume of original paintings, *Icones plantarum et animalium* (Pictures of plants and animals) of the 18th century Cape traveller Hendrik Claudius.

The extensive map collection comprises illustrated and hand-coloured



maps of Africa and Southern Africa from the 15th century onwards including such items as Jan Nieuhof: Caart van de Cabo de Bona Esperanca (1660), John Thornton: Draught of Cape Bona Esperanca (1702) and Johannes de Keulen: In de Baay Falso, and Robben Eyland (1734). Also of great interest to researchers are maps of early Johannesburg, Anglo-Boer War campaigns and the pioneering gold mines of the Witwatersrand.

The library keeps the collection up-to-date with biographies of prominent Africans, works on the decolonisation of Africa since 1960, the development of Africa since independence, political parties and other aspects of contemporary Southern Africa.

The research-oriented specialist Children's Book Collection is a reference collection of children's books and books and periodicals about children and their books, intended for researchers and those working with children and their books. It includes the Mavis Anderson Collection of historic children's books dating from the 18th century, and a comprehensive collection of well-loved classics of children's literature. It has a number of rare volumes printed on private presses and some examples of fine binding.

One of the outcomes of the library upgrade project was the opportunity to bring the two collections together. They are now housed in beautiful wooden book shelves behind locked glass doors on the third and top floor of the library that also holds most of the antique furniture of the early days. Temperature controlled glass enclosures are also being constructed on the third floor for the safekeeping of the most precious of the Africana Collection.



REFERENCE COLLECTION

The Seymour Memorial Library of Science and Technology which was incorporated into the Reference Collection in 1927 is considered to be one of the finest scientific collections in South Africa. Founded in memory of an extraordinary man, Major Louis Irving Seymour, one time Chief Mechanical Engineer at Rand Mines, this library was originally independent and controlled by trustees. Between 1908 and 1927 it was housed in the now University of the Witwatersrand until the trust was passed on to the City Council. The strength of the Seymour Library lies in its sets of serials, reports of conferences and government reports from every corner of the world, stock which is constantly supplemented by many scientific and technical societies.

The Reference Collection has materials ranging from practical handbooks to advanced scientific treatises, in areas not covered by the Art, Performing Arts and Africana Collections. A total of over 1 million items are housed in the reference collection and its underground stacks of 40 kilometer shelving, including back issues of over 6 000 journal titles and approximately 1 500 current journal titles. Items are retrieved from the underground stack by a computerized book transportation system. Some of the special collections include Government Publications, Johannesburg Stock Exchange listed companies annual reports, British, ISO and South African Standards, Statistics South Africa Reports, and a map collection. The philatelic collection of which a portion was housed for the past three years at the Sandton Library will be returned to the library to re-instate and complete the collection. The Municipal Reference Library established in 1938 and situated in the Civic Centre was closed in 2011 to be incorporated in the Reference Collection from 2012.

The reference services at the library also include the extremely busy Young Adult Reference Collection and Services that was established as far back as 1973 and aims to provide reference material to high school pupils to supplement their textbooks and provide sources for school project work. In addition, study guides and past examination papers are provided.

The Reference Services also include the Newspaper Cuttings Collection (currently being digitized) that covers historical, biographical and sociological topics pertaining to Southern Africa with emphasis on Johannesburg and environs. The new era of digitisation, begun in 2008, brings the prospect of greater access to the cuttings collection by the public. The Newspaper Collection is also part of the Reference Services and consists of 13 000 bound volumes. Historic holdings include the South African Commercial Advertiser from 1824, Grahamstown Journal from 1831, Natal Mercury from 1852 as well as a wide range of current South African daily papers. Other Reference Services include electronic access to information and electronic databases, the Internet and digitized library material, as well as providing the inter-library loan service. In addition there is electronic access to numerous international and local databases.

The most important outcomes of the library upgrading project are the extension of the Young Adult Reference services from one to two rooms (Project Room and Study Room). Three centre extensions to provide an Internet access area, an exhibition/youth area as well as additional study and wi-fi access areas have been added as mezzanine floors to the reference and lending sections.

ART COLLECTION

The Art Collection includes the Michaelis Art Collection and the Performing Art Collection. The Michaelis Art Collection is named after Sir Max Michaelis, who donated one thousand pounds for art books in 1912, forming the nucleus of the collection. The collection and services focus on the visual arts in the broadest sense, including painting, drawing, sculpture, graphic and industrial design, photography, ceramics, crafts, architecture, interior design, furniture, fashion and jewellery. There is a comprehensive collection of South African art and architecture, including rare out of print books, journals and press cuttings. The breadth and depth of the collection makes it a popular research library for students of art, architecture, fashion and interior design as well as artists, academics and members of the public who love the visual arts. Art classes are arranged by the library staff.



The Performing Arts Collection (Music) had humble beginnings. It grew from a few tiers of bound scores in the Lending Collection, later supplemented by several reference works. Only from 1950 onwards was a sum allocated to the purchase of scores and then, in 1953, the Music Collection acquired all the orchestral scores of the disbanded City orchestra. The collection caters for the public at all levels, from the absolute beginner and amateur musician and performer to the fully-qualified professional, orchestras and choirs. The collection comprises books on music, theatre, dance and film, an extensive sheet music collection, including chamber music, sacred, opera, orchestral, libretti, and miniature scores. There is a comprehensive compact disc collection ranging from early to modern music, African traditional, jazz, pop and even sound effects. Listening stations are available for the public. The film collection has a wide range of local and international DVDs; viewing stations and a television are provided.

The music collection is still closed and will only re-open to the public in June 2012. This is due to the specially designed furniture that is currently being manufactured.

LENDING COLLECTION

All ages and interests are catered for, from picture books and story books for toddlers to books for primary and high school pupils and adults. There are books in African languages, books for new literates, for young adults, and books in large print. Reference works in the Children's Section are geared to assist primary school pupils with their school projects. The non-fiction collection covers virtually every subject under the sun and the fiction stock ranges from classics to the latest literary works and best-sellers. The lending services are free of charge.

Partnership with the Carnegie Corporation of New York

Since July 2001 to date the Carnegie Corporation of New York (CCNY) has been working with the City on projects that benefit disadvantaged

communities and promote library services.

The first grant of \$543,871 (±R4 million) was allocated in July 2001 and the final report was submitted in October 2004. The Want to Read project concentrated on improving children services in disadvantaged communities and the funding was towards the purchase of books for children, the training of specialised staff for children services and the initiation of reading development programmes such as the Story Skirmish that is currently one of the most popular library programmes involving a minimum of hundred and seventy (170) schools per annum.

The grant resulted in the City prioritising capital funds for the upgrading and extension of libraries in disadvantaged areas to provide separate children sections. Twelve (12) libraries were extended, upgraded and provided with beautiful new children's furniture from 2002 to 2005.

When CCNY announced its new emphasis on Revitalizing African Libraries; Centres of Excellence, the library services applied for a \$50 000 (±R 375 000) planning grant to complete a strategic plan as a foundation for the Johannesburg Public Library (JPL) to become a Centre of Excellence/Model City Library. The strategic plan was completed in October 2004 and a Business Plan for the Expansion and Upgrading of Information Resources of the Johannesburg Public Library was submitted to obtain a \$2 million grant.

The grant was approved in 2005/6 and used towards the appointment and training of staff to rid the reference collections of irrelevant, unused, out of date and worn out materials ("dead wood" was removed in preparation for new acquisitions) to link ±400 000 remaining stock items of the special collections to the data base (currently 90% completed), to purchase new stock and to acquire the equipment for the digitisation of the library's News Cuttings Collection in order to avoid further duplication and to improve on information provision. The purchase of additional audiovisual equipment, attendance of international conferences and training opportunities were also approved.

The approval of the grant funding by the Corporation was based on an agreement with the City to provide the capital funds for the upgrading and extension of the Johannesburg City Library and to relocate the Bibliographic Services Unit from the Library Theatre to suitable premises. Both conditions are fulfilled – the Bibliographic Services Unit was relocated from 2007 to 2009 to newly renovated premises (at a cost of ±R 5,5 million) at 22 Solomon Street - or the former Smit Street Technical Workshops - that has since become the head quarters for the Library and Information Services Directorate (also housing the information technology, administration and programmes units) and the task of extending and upgrading the Johannesburg Public Library into a Model City Library at a total cost of R 68 million to date.

The successful outcomes of the grants have resulted in a follow-up grant towards the completion of the Model City Library. The CCNY approved a further grant of \$2 million in June 2011 towards, inter alia, the purchasing of 212 Internet workstations, 14 network printers and 89 database access computers as well as the creation of an information communication infrastructure, security systems, signage, an auditorium/visual centre, community skills development programs and a marketing program. The implementation plan is in process and final completion is envisaged for the end of May 2012.



Building Project

With the advent of the 21st Century it had become clear that the building could no longer adequately accommodate the number of users, the growing book stock and the requirements for electronic access to information. The building required extensive renovation in almost all aspects from roof to basement and the floor area would have to be considerably expanded. Two earlier proposals to increase the available area by bridging the open courtyard with an additional floor had come to nothing, but with the obtaining of a substantial grant from the Carnegie Corporation of New York this prospect was resuscitated.

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The physical realisation of the City of Johannesburg's commitment to the Carnegie Corporation of New York to upgrade and extend the Johannesburg City Library commenced with the arrival of the contractors on site in May 2009. This extensive and complex undertaking involved the renovation of the original 1935 library building and the construction of a new three-storey addition in the central courtyard, linked by escalators and bridges to the original building. The new floors together with the addition of mezzanine balconies in both the lending and reference areas increased the old library's capacity of 11 198 m² by an additional 1967 m². While the old building could seat 255 people, the renovated and extended Centre of Excellence provides seating for 566.

The design and building approach by the heritage architect (Jonathan Stone) was to ensure that new work/additions are identifiable and do not "distort or obscure the cultural significance of the library or detract from its interpretation and appreciation" (Australian ICOMOS Burra Charter, 1999)

The new facilities bring a modern element to the classical design of the old library, creating a seamless flow from the old to the new structure. The three new floors rising in the centre of the original building brings the library into the modern era of electronic information with the provision of public-access computers as well as wi-fi areas on the first two floors. A splendid glassed-in double-volume third floor is a less formal reading and study area and an exhibition space. The Upgrade Project has provided an excellent opportunity to optimise and consolidate the arrangement of the various collections which will enable easier access to staff and public and heighten public awareness of the very extensive special collections available to them.

Renovation and construction were not without their problems. At the beginning of the construction period it was discovered that the electrical systems within the existing building were inadequate and unsafe. Urgent work was undertaken to make the building safe and to replace the entire electrical installation in order to comply with regulations. Constructing a new three-storey building in the central courtyard of the existing library

presented special logistical and engineering challenges. As there was no direct access, materials had to be lifted by tower crane over the existing building into the site. The nature of the project was extremely complicated not least due to the integration of new plumbing, electrical, fire and information technology services within an historic building. Every attempt had to be made to preserve the fine materials, finishes, mouldings and workmanship of this heritage site. This meant that each service route had to avoid concealed concrete beams, do the least damage to the building fabric and where possible be concealed from view.

The project began with demolitions to remove partitioning and walling added since the building was originally opened in 1935 so as to restore the large volumes intended by the original design, a striking feature of the library being the large, high-ceilinged well-lit rooms. A portion of the foyer floor was removed to accommodate the new escalators leading to the new extension, two new lift shafts were built and excavations commenced for the 85 piles required to support the three floors of the new building. By the end of 2009 construction of the first floor of the extension was in progress as well as the two mezzanine study levels above the Reference and Lending areas.

The following year saw the completion of the three floors of the new building, refurbishment and replacement of copper sheeting and tiles on the roof, installation of glass in the eight large skylights, cleaning of the exterior stonework and sculptures and restoration of woodwork including floors, doors and panelling. By year end the highest point had been reached with the installation by crane of the new space frame roof over the extension. The floors in particular required specialist work which was not always successful at the first or even the second attempt. However, the wood block floors have been recovered and generally completely re-laid. The original cork floors have been fully restored where possible and the foyer floor brought back to the original pattern.

As part of the upgrade, the existing lift shaft of the single existing lift was substantially increased in size to take a much larger lift car and a new lift



shaft for a second lift cored through the building. This work proved to be immensely challenging to implement structurally, in terms of compliance with the latest regulations and minimising the heritage impact of such an installation.

In 2011 work continued to complete both old and new buildings, including the copper roof over the extension, the link bridges to the old building, restoration of the original cork and wooden flooring, installation of escalators and two lifts, electrical and plumbing installations, air conditioning and fire control systems.

Fikile Construction summarised their experience as follows: *"The activity on the site has been high pressure all the way, as is typical of a site like this, a renovation of a gracious old landmark, there have been challenges as the professional team and the contractor were more or less on a journey of discovery along which many changes and solutions had to be crafted to produce what you see. Working in a building that effectively has some of its contents still occupying its rooms posed an additional challenge there were restrictions in movement and execution of works. In addition because of valuable fixtures such as the brass clocks, brass light fittings and copper-sheeting roof more security than usual had to be procured"*.

The completion of the project presents Johannesburg with a finely restored heritage building integrated with a modern three-storey extension providing additional space for study, electronic information access and exhibitions. The basement includes the reconstructed theatre and the Newsroom with provision for the establishment of a coffee shop (planned for 2012).

The ground floor with its magnificent marble pillars, moulded ceiling and stained glass window houses the Lending Collection, the Reference Collection and the Young Adults Section (lower) Also on the ground floor is provision of the Literacy Training Centre.

The first floor is linked by bridges, lifts and escalators to the new

cantilevered study levels above the Lending and Reference areas which can accommodate 180 users, with wi-fi capability for those using their own laptops, as well as to the first level of the new extension which will be provided with 70 computers for free public use.

Above this, the second floor accommodates the Art Collection, including the Michaelis Art Library and the Performing Arts Library. The renovated library provides new sections for the public to listen to recorded music and watch films at individual listening and viewing stations. Glass doors lead to the second level of the new building which will be provided with an additional 70 public-access computers.

The top floor accommodates the Harold Strange Africana Collection, the Children's Book Collection and study and exhibition areas.

Management Structures

The Johannesburg Library staff members are to be justifiably congratulated – those people who have for so long, and with such dedication, brought knowledge, romance, fantasy, light and laughter into the lives of so many readers.

From 1891 to 1987 the following City Librarians toiled and succeeded in their goal of building rare and special collections and also provide in the information and reading needs of the users from all walks of life:

Robert Campbell Henning (1891- 1904)

Samuel Asher (1911 – 1936)

Reginald Kennedy (1936 – 1960)

Anna Hester Smith (1960 – 1975)

Lucy Kennedy (1975 – 1987)

From 1987 the Johannesburg Public Library reported to the Director: Library and Museum Services:

Dawn Evenden (1987 – February 1993)

Ramesh Jayaram (1993 – June 1997)

Victor Modise (1997 – 2000)

During the time of the above Directors and until December 2001, Joan



Bevan was closely involved with the management of the Johannesburg Public Library.

After the 1994 democratic elections the City was restructured and the library services of Johannesburg (33 libraries), Soweto (9 libraries), Sandton (5 libraries), Randburg (4 libraries), Roodepoort (8 libraries), Ennerdale (2 libraries), Diepmeadow (3 libraries), Midrand (2 libraries) and Dobsonville (1 library) were amalgamated and restructured in Library and Information Services of the autonomous Northern, Southern, Western and Eastern Metropolitan Local Councils. The Johannesburg Public Library remained with the Metropolitan Council but the Bibliographic/Technical Section provided services to all the branches of the former independent councils.

The iGoli 2002 plan restructured the City into 11 regions and the Johannesburg Public Library became part of Region 8. During this time the following librarians influenced the future of the Library and Information Services, and the Johannesburg Library in particular in terms of obtaining grant funding from CCNY:

Bongi Mokaba was instrumental in obtaining the first grant ("Want to Read") and influential in obtaining funds from the Council for the integration of the library computer systems to accelerate automated library operations and circulation. Atilla Lourens and Sue McMurray managed and succeeded in executing the Want to Read project. Elise Roberts (Head: Bibliographic Services) managed the automation project that involved the unification of three (3) library systems of the former councils (Johannesburg, Randburg, Sandton, Roodepoort) and the manual capturing of stock at the non-computerised libraries (Soweto, Ennerdale) in order to fully implement automated circulations at all the branches at the time.

Atilla Lourens and Elise Roberts were responsible for the development of the business plans for the Planning Grant and for the first \$2million grant towards Johannesburg as a Model City Library (Expansion and Upgrading of Information Resources of the Johannesburg Public Library). Atilla Lourens (Project Manager), Elise Roberts, Elize van der Westhuizen, Nola Agulhas and Ann Antrobus ensured the implementation of the plan. In 2006/7 the City restructured to 7 regions and the Johannesburg Public Library became part of Region F. The Library and Information Services Directorate became one of the directorates of Community Development

and in December 2008, Nobuntu Mpendulo was appointed as Director: Library and Information Services. The funding for the Johannesburg upgrading and extension project was secured under the leadership of the Executive Director: Community Development (Pilisiwe Twala-Tau).

In 2007 the Johannesburg City Library was established as a separate entity on the structure, reporting directly to the Director: Library and Information Services.

The business plan for the second grant of \$2 million was prepared and approved with the Project Directors: Karen Naude, Nobuntu Mpendulo and Atilla Lourens. The team that is currently implementing the outcomes for the grant is hereby acknowledged: Nobuntu Mpendulo, Atilla Lourens, Karen Naude, Cavelle Carmichael, Elize van der Westhuizen, Nola Agulhas, Maryna Moolman, Nkosinathi Qubeka and the staff from 22 Solomon Street.

The special support of Deon Venter (Deputy Director: Capital Projects) to the Library and Information Services in raising the needs-profile of the Johannesburg City Library and for being instrumental in securing 22 Solomon Street for the Administrative Functions of the library services, is hereby acknowledged as well as Alistair Marshall, a dedicated librarian who remained on site at the Johannesburg City Library during the upgrading project to protect the interests of the library.

Dr. Rookaya Bawa (Carnegie Corporation of New York) is acknowledged for her support from 2006 to 2012 and her trust in the Johannesburg Library Project.

Monyatsi Ben Ramela was appointed on 01 February 2012 as Assistant Director for the Johannesburg City Library and will take the library into the future.

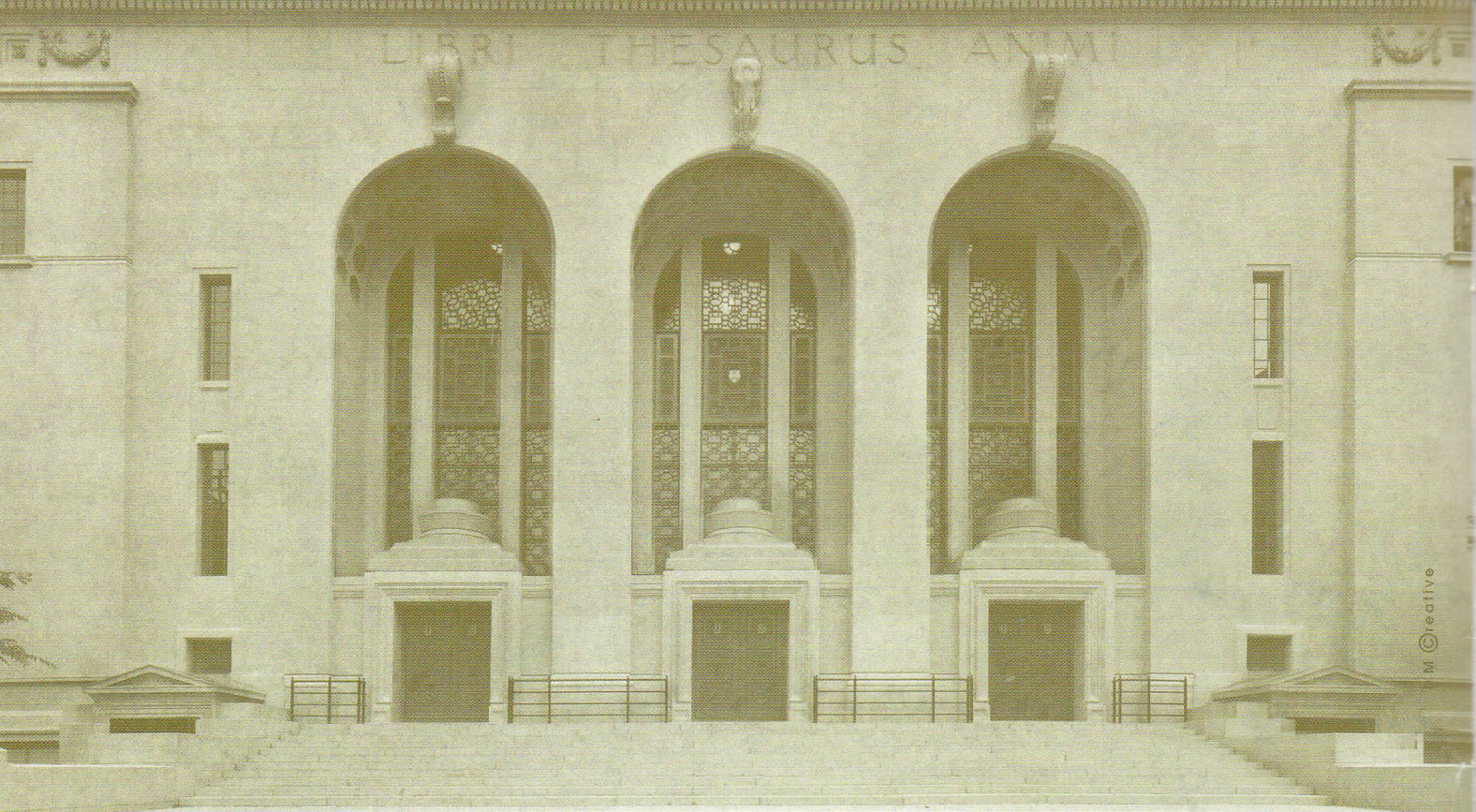
With acknowledgement to:

"The Heart of the City" by R.F. Kennedy.

"The Johannesburg Public Library: 100 years of bringing books to the people".

Business Plans and Writings by A.C. Lourens, E. Roberts and A. Marshall





M Creative



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