Stephney Winsome Lorraine Ferguson

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Born in Hanover, Jamaica Stephney Winsome Lorraine Ferguson was a past student of the Montego Bay High School. Ms Ferguson started her academic journey with a Diploma in Library Administration from the Association of Library Administration (ALA). She later received her Bachelor of Arts in 1972, from the University of the West Indies Mona and later in 1978, a Master of Arts in Library Science from Indiana University in the United States.

Her roots took soil in Librarianship at the St James Parish Library and later spread as she joined the staff at the then College of Arts, Science and Technology (CAST), now The University of Technology. She later assumed the role of Director of the National Library of Jamaica in 1978 and Head of the Department of Library and Information Studies. At the peak of her career in 1997, Ms. Ferguson was appointed Campus Librarian and in the same year, University Librarian. Under her tenure, she oversaw the strategic transformation of the Mona Library, fostering an increase in the adoption of technology that is student-centered and aided in the fostering of increased use of library services.

She later oversaw the official opening of the Mona Electronic Reference and Information Centre (MERIC) at the Main and the Science Branch Library with the aim of fostering greater access to print and electronic information sources. Additionally, Ms Ferguson sought to increase the subscriptions to international databases and pushed for greater access to remote services by users which later led to the launch of the Library's website in 1998. She was very responsive to the needs of the students for greater access to the Library, she extended the summer opening to **10 pm** and introduced the *Overnight Reading Room (ONRR)* Mon – Friday 10:00 pm - 6:00am. Additionally, the Academic Staff Room as well as the post graduate Reading Room was established for those target user groups.

She also fostered great levels of social inclusion among staff with the staging of the **Staff Fun day** as well as the **Annual Staff Awards.**

Awards

2003 – *ACURIL - ENNA Medal of Excellence for having been a Distinguished Past President*

2004 – *Vice Chancellor's Award for Excellence*

2005 – *UWI Pelican Award*

Publications

"Defining a Role for a new National Library in a Developing Country: The National Library of
Jamaica, 1980-1990". *Alexandria* 8, 1(1996): 65-74

"Library Association and the Advancement of Librarianship ain Developing Countries." *IFLA
Journal* 17 (1991) : 63-71.

"Performance Evaluation; its introduction and Operation at the National Library of Jamaica."
LIAJA Bulletin (1985 -86) :21-23.

Strategic Plannig for National Libraries in Developing Countries: An Optimist's view." *Global
Trends in Library and Information Science*. Ed. Subhas C. Biswas. New Dehli: Gyan
Publishing House, 1995, 1995. 315 – 22.

Contribution to the profession

President: 1975	Library and Information Association of Jamaica (LIAJA)
President: 1986-1990	Commonwealth Library Association (CommLA)
President: 1999-2001	Association of Caribbean University, Research and Institutional Libraries (ACURIL)