



## ILIG International Award 2010

This annual prize is awarded to a person, group or committee, which has made a real difference to a community through their work in library and information services in countries outside the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

This year, two recipients for 2010 were announced at the ILIG informal held at CILIP HQ on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> July. .

**Vimbai Hungwe** was the President of AHILA, the Association for Health Information and Libraries in Africa, and Senior Programme Officer at ITOCA, the Information Technology Outreach Centre for Africa.

Prior to joining ITOCA Vimbai had a distinguished career making a difference in all the roles he filled. His first professional post was at the University of Zimbabwe Medical School Library, from whence he moved to Zimtrade (Zimbabwe's export promotion body) and then to the Ministry of Agriculture's Central Library and Africa University Library. He played a pivotal coordination role in the provision of agricultural information to Zimbabwe's Agricultural Research Centres falling under the Ministry of Agriculture and gained first hand experience on constraints faced by researchers in Africa.

At the Pan-African Africa University where he doubled as Agriculture and Health Science Librarian he helped set-up the agriculture and health collection and was heavily involved with the promotion and training of use of e-resources for research, learning and teaching, which equipped him well for joining ITOCA in 2004 . Vimbai travelled the length and breadth of Sub Saharan Africa conducting workshops and training on how to access internet based resources whilst at ITOCA. He was involved in planning, organizing and conducting of workshops as well as implementing outreach and support for the WHO Research4Life programmes (HINARI, AGORA and OARE), TEEAL and PROTA. Vimbai's research interests were in Information literacy and evidence based practices.

Vimbai died tragically in a road accident on Sunday 6 June 2010 in Pretoria. He was a vital, leading champion for health information in Africa. His passing is a cruel and untimely loss for the global health information community on whom he had such a positive and inspiring impact during his career.

**Jane Kinney Meyers** has been involved with libraries and information for international development in Malawi, Zambia and other African countries.

She lived in Malawi for nearly four years in the mid-1980s, developing a network of research libraries for the country's Ministry of Agriculture while on a World Bank project, and pioneered CD-ROM applications for Africa. Ten years later, she returned to neighbouring Zambia to live and work for three years. She established a reading programme, served on the Board, raised funds, and created an informal library for street children. She soon saw dramatic social and educational benefits among the street children who used the library, and this inspired a plan to build full-service, public-access libraries for street kids, orphans and other vulnerable children and youths. On her return to the USA in 2001, she developed the concept, approach and organization of the Lubuto Library Project, based on the success and impact of the library in Lusaka.

The first Lubuto Library opened on 21 September 2007, and has had about 50,000 visits per year. Construction has begun on the second library, with an anticipated opening date of 10 September 2010.

Lubuto was one of twelve projects recently selected to receive a grant under the eFL.net Public Library Innovation Programme. These grants are funded by Gates Foundation to encourage innovation with information technology in public libraries.

The grant will help Lubuto to reach orphans and vulnerable children by creating early reading programs in Zambian languages through its One Laptop per Child (OLPC) Zambian Language Literacy Programming project. The project creators will use six of the new XO 1.5 laptops granted to Lubuto by the OLPC Foundation. The programs will then be made available on laptops in the libraries and via the Lubuto.org website to inspire the creation of similar programs in other African countries and languages.

Jane Kinney Meyers is an exceptionally dynamic librarian whose professional ideas about building libraries with the support and assistance of African governments have had a positive impact on some of the world's most vulnerable children and youths.