

The Association of Librarians in the Jamaica Library Service (ALJAS)

The Association of Librarians in the Jamaica Library Service (ALJAS) was formed in 1975 by a group of “forward thinking” Librarians who sought to provide an avenue through which matters relating to the particular concerns of the group could be most suitably addressed. Through years of sustained effort ALJALS was able to secure improved working conditions, and conditions of service to develop and secure the professional and economic interest of its members. This initiative came out of recognition also that any advancement made by this professional /Managerial group would also lead to improved conditions for other category of workers thus contributing to the overall development of the service. One of the main objectives of the association therefore was to maintain and foster the highest standards of the Jamaica Library Service and the profession of Librarianship. In addition to being a professional association, ALJALS became registered as a trade union on November 8, 1994. The signal achievement of the association however, was the very critical role which it played in discussions leading to the restructuring of the Jamaica Library Service. This has had far reaching effects on the development of the organization.

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