

Labour Corners

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The Trade Union Library is an information resource centre dedicated to servicing trade unions and workers since 1985. To provide information as widely as possible proved to be difficult given the pressures on limited resources. Thus the concept of establishing Labour Corners in public libraries came into being in 2003.

Providing better access and resources for workers within public libraries was then identified as a feasible and viable solution to disseminate information. As a pilot project for 2005, five provinces were identified as being under-served in terms of access to information resources. Each province has identified two libraries in two different towns to host the Labour Corners, with Esselen Library in Worcester being one of the centres in the Western Cape.

Main objectives of the project

- ◆ Bridging the information gap by making resources easily available to workers through establishing Labour Corners in public libraries

- ◆ Promoting sharing of information by encouraging unions and workers to participate in expanding the Labour Corners through donating learning materials
- ◆ Promoting a culture of reading and continued learning among the working class by making information on issues that affect them easily available through public libraries
- ◆ Improving the services of the public libraries to communities by adding more valuable resources through Labour Corners.



Services available through Labour Corners

- ◆ Information on dismissals
- ◆ Workplace Law
- ◆ Industrial Law Journal
- ◆ Wage database
- ◆ Arbitration Awards
- ◆ Labour Law Library
- ◆ Labour Law Reports
- ◆ Labour Acts
- ◆ Labour Law through the Case Law of South Africa
- ◆ Occupational Health and Safety Library and Internet access to labour-related information.

The municipality established a network point, and assumed responsibility for the maintenance of the computer and the management and administration of all book and other reading material.

The launch of the Labour Corner project was held at the Esselen Library in November 2005.

Ms Busisiwe Vananda, information manager at the Labour Research Service, discussed the benefits of the Labour Corner during the launch which was attended by 50 members representing a variety of trade unions.

The launch was also attended by Mr N Khohloloane, Director of Community Services and the two labour relations councillors of the Breede Valley Municipality, Councillors Buys and Richards.

Trade Union representatives and members of the public in need of labour-related information are welcome to contact the

librarian at Esselen Library,
 Ms Knockpaal at
 (023) 348 2735.

Note: See article by Busisiwe Vananda on the Trade Union Library in CL Mar/Apr 2004 pp52-53.



Above: The locations of the Labour Corners in the country depicted on a poster

Left: Ms Busisiwe Vananda, Information Manager, Labour Research Service



Left: Equipment was provided by the Labour Research Service

Right: Trade Union members attending the launch

