

LIASA -in-Touch



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LIASA 2024 CONFERENCE

LIBRARIES IN THE AGE OF

DEMOCRACY

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EDITOR'S NOTE

Welcome to another bumper issue – 48 pages this time! I hope that you download the magazine and take time to read it at your leisure during your end of year break. It seems the record membership numbers have exponentially increased, not only the number of readers, but also the number of writers.

The next deadline is 24 January 2025. Detailed publishing specifications will be available in the Call for Articles via LIASAOnline.

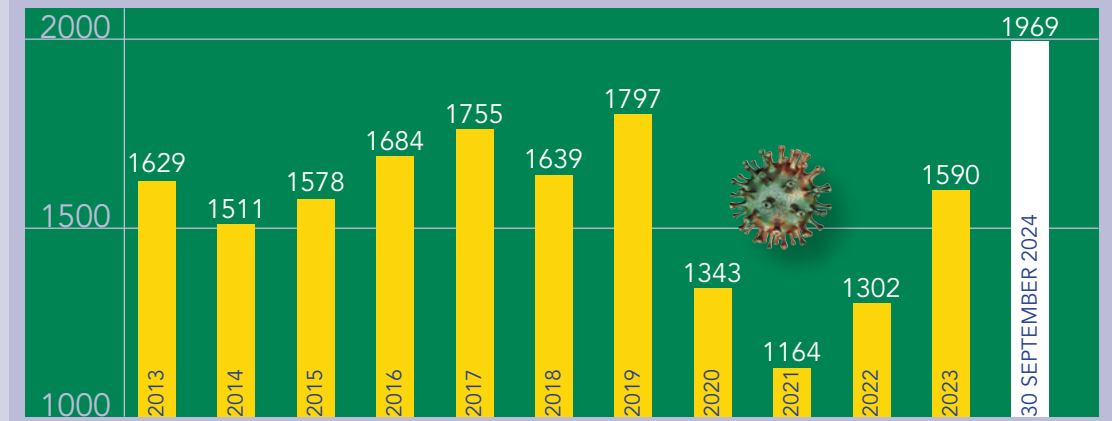
I wish all LIASA members a blessed Xmas, happy holidays and a great start to 2025.

NOHRA MOERAT PL(SA)
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MEMBERSHIP TOTALS: 2013 – 2024



It gives us great pleasure to announce that we have recorded the highest membership number in the past 11 years. A total of 1969 for 2024.

A big, warm thank you to each of the new members for joining the Association as well all those loyal and dedicated members that renewed.

While this year saw a great increase, there is still a concern about the huge number of unpaid invoices - a total of 299. These are members that requested an invoice or generated it themselves when they renewed but then did not make payment. There is a total amount of R191,613.52 owed on membership invoices which could significantly strengthen an already fragile budget. Please send us your ideas on how we can encourage payments on

membership invoices.

At the AGM held on 3 October 2024, the membership, as the highest decision-making body in LIASA, approved that the membership fees remain the same for 2025 and further approved that the International/African membership fee be reduced to a similar amount as RSA (from R1140 to R755). We recorded 30 onsite membership renewals at Conference and a total of 132 renewals during the period 1 October to 31 October.

All members are encouraged to pay their 2025 membership dues as soon as possible to ensure they get a full year of benefits. Renewing now also allows you to pay your membership fee in three instalments. Payments can be made via electronic funds transfer

or via card. Banking details for EFT payments as well as the secure online payment link can be found on your membership dues invoice.

If you have registered and have not received your emailed invoice: Sign in to your profile on MyLIASA at www.liasa.org.za

- ▶ then on the My Profile tab, located on the black menu ribbon, click on Manage Profile
- ▶ under the second group heading titled Invoicing, Payments and History click on Invoices
- ▶ ensure to select the Dues tab on the green bar
- ▶ then change the Filter by Status option to Any Status
- ▶ and lastly click on the little picture icon representing an invoice to open your invoice.

MEMBERSHIP FEES FOR 2025	
Category	Fee
Individual Members (not residing in RSA)	R755.00
Individual Members (residing in RSA)	R755.00
Undergraduate Student Members	R325.00
Members who are Pensioners	R325.00
Members who are Interns	R325.00
Unemployed Members	R325.00
Institutional Members	R3 811.50

Please contact the LIASA National Office Membership and Operations Coordinator, Thandolwethu Majoji:

- membership@liasa.org.za
- 012 323 4912

should you need any assistance on the MyLIASA platform or if you have general membership queries.

LEBOGANG MASALESA PL(SA)
LIASA MANAGER

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Charlie Malepo

From the President

Finance Committee: chaired by Jan Moeketsi, alongside Mologadi Maserumula, Charlie Molepo, Shanitha Bhim, and Lebogang Masalesa.

Marketing Committee: led by Romeo Matumba, with support from Mmaditshipi Seageng and LNO colleagues Aphelele and Thandolwethu.

Academy Committee: comprising the President, President Elect, Ujala Satgoor, Dr Ndaka (Chair of the LIS Schools Forum), Nazeem Hardy, and Lebogang Masalesa.

CPD/Ethics Committee: chaired by Jeff Nyoka, with members Aphelele Ndzimande and Lebogang Masalesa.

Audit Risk & Performance Committee: positions for this committee are currently being filled, and the Board will be represented by the Chair of Finance, the President and President-Elect.

Nomination Committee: led by Prof. Lefose Makgahlela, with Charlie Molepo and secretariat support from Dina Mashiyane.

Community of Practice: Chaired by Mmaditshipi Seageng and Jeff Nyoka.

The formation of these committees signifies our commitment to fostering collaboration, enhancing governance, and encouraging greater member participation.

Earlier this year, LIASA was proud to host South African Librarians' Day at the NLSA. This event featured prominent speakers, including CHELSA's immediate past chairperson, Dr Daisy Selematsela, Puleng Kekana from the Department of Sport, Arts and Culture, and our keynote speaker, the revered Ellen Tise, who is not only the first LIASA President but also a former IFLA President. The conversations about the contributions of the LIS sector to our country over the last 30 years of democracy were both

enlightening and inspiring, serving as a formidable lead up to our conference themed "Libraries in the Age of Democracy."

Further to our outreach and advocacy efforts, I, along with the LIASA Manager and the Training and Development Officer, attended the SAQA Professional Body contact session. We are excited to announce that LIASA and other professional bodies will have an opportunity to participate in the upcoming career expos at institutions of higher learning. Additionally, we were invited to contribute an article for the SAQA Magazine; a chance to showcase our initiatives and achievements. Implementing the Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) process is high on our agenda, and we will work diligently to facilitate designations for candidates who qualify based on their prior work experience.

LIASA's engagement with the UNESCO Communication and Information National Committee continues to thrive, with my recent election as its representative. Jeff Nyoka also represents the City of Johannesburg. During this year's meetings, the UNESCO Secretary-General introduced the Information For All (IFAP) National Committee, where I was later invited to represent the library profession. As a significant part of our mission, LIASA is striving to further develop a strategy aimed at promoting Digital Media and Information Literacy (DMIL) for South Africa. The launch of the SADLD on 25 October marks the beginning of an annual event that will be celebrated on the last Friday of the Open Access (OA) and Global Digital Media and Information Literacy (GDMIL) week.

Our consultations with other organisations in the LIS and literacy sectors have made great strides, and we are in the planning stages for future meetings.

By the time of the next LIASA conference, we intend to have established connections with all existing LIS sector organisations. Furthermore, LIASA is in active discussions with the ETDPSETA regarding our potential role as the assessment partner for LIS QCTO qualifications, and we intend to regain representation within the governance structure of the ETDPSETA.

We held our annual conference in Durban from 1 to 4 October with over 700 delegates in attendance. The AGM was held on Thursday the 3rd, and there was agreement that we should set up a process that will help in filling in the gaps in the constitution, to be approved by the AGM 2025. The Board was mandated to form an ad hoc committee that will assist with the process. Both the organisation and financial reports were adopted by the members. Our next conference will be held in the Eastern Cape in line with the AGM resolution.

Lastly, State President Ramaphosa has sent the Copyright Amendment Bill to the Constitutional Court for review. While we are discouraged by the act, we are however hopeful that at least the Court will guide him on the way forward. LIASA joined 19 other progressive organisations under the umbrella body ReCRreate to be *amicus curiae* to the BlindSA vs President matter, in order to assist the Court by providing information in support of signing CAB into law. The case will be argued on 28 November 2024.

I wish all LIASA members a happy festive season, and our Christian members a Merry Christmas. I look forward to 2025 with the hope that our members will renew their membership and more will join to pass the 2024 membership of 1969 members.

CHARLIE MALEPO PL (SA)
LIASA PRESIDENT

OUR ANNUAL EVENT: THE LIASA CONFERENCE





**Library and Information
Association of South Africa**

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