



SOUTH AFRICAN LIBRARY WEEK 2025 LAUNCH EVENT



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Global Gleanings #24: Information wars

Peter Lor started this feature and has never missed an issue since. Read his fascinating articles!



International Mother Language Day

Kabelo Duncan Kgatea has won the novel prize at the 2024 South African Literary Awards.



World Read Aloud Day

Voices Come Alive: How Runnymede Community Library marked World Read Aloud Day.

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EDITOR'S NOTE

Welcome to this bumper issue with its main focus on SA Library Week. Thank you for sharing your stories.

We've introduced a new practical feature in the Contents List. Just click on a title and you will go straight to its page.

The next deadline is 25 July 2025. See the [Call for Articles](#) via LIASAOOnline.

NOHRA MOERAT PL(SA)

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Membership

The membership total recorded at the end of 28 February is 1435, consisting of 1126 individual members of which 205 are designated Professional Librarians, 50 institutions, 56 interns, 40 pensioners, 54 students and 109 unemployed members. According to the previous statistics, this is the highest number ever recorded during this period. Statistics show that the figures recorded during the reporting period in February over the past three years were as follows:

- 2024 – 1028 members
- 2023 – 744 members
- 2022 – 847 members.

By the end of 30 April, the membership total recorded was **1822**. This number continues to grow, and we thank each and every member that joined and/or renewed including those who actively recruit at their institutions.

Membership benefits include:

- 1) Professional Body that confers a designation.
- 2) Four issues of the magazine, *LIASA-in-Touch*, are available in electronic format, accessible exclusively to members via their login credentials.
- 3) Access to the *South African Journal for Library and Information Science* (SAJLIS).
- 4) Discounted rates for training sessions, colloquiums, courses, workshops and the LIASA Annual Conference.
- 5) Access to grants and international LIS conferences and organisations
- 6) Subscription to the LIASA online Career Centre.
- 7) Be eligible for LIASA Awards

The following are ways that you can renew your membership:

Visit the LIASA website using this link <https://www.liasa.org.za/>, navigate to **Members** tab on the menu bar and click **Current Membership Renewal** which will prompt you to log in and start the renewal process. Alternatively, contact the Membership

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and Operations Coordinator, Thandolwethu Majozi, via email at membership@liasa.org.za or via office telephone on 012 323 4912.

LIASA National Office Collaborations

- **Department of Public Works and Infrastructure (DPWI)**
The LIASA National Office (LNO) proudly participates in significant events that demonstrate LIASA's commitment to excellence, advocacy, and collaboration in the LIS profession. On 17 March 2025, the LNO staff joined DPWI to celebrate SA Library Week 2025. The highlight of this celebration was the official launch of the DPWI Online Library System, a transformative platform designed to enhance access to critical information resources. This digital leap forward aligns with LIASA's vision of empowering communities through accessible knowledge, supporting digital literacy, lifelong learning, and strengthening the information society. LIASA was proud to support this milestone event, which was well attended by DPWI staff and librarians. The LNO team actively engaged with attendees, distributed promotional materials, branded items, and promoted LIASA's values and mission throughout the day.
- **UNILISA Conference (1-4 April 2025)**
The LNO partnered with Unisa's Department of Information Science and exhibited at their Fourth Biennial UNILISA Conference. The conference was held at the state-of-the-art Kgorong Function Hall on the Pretoria Campus. It was attended by librarians and information service providers, including LIASA President, Charlie Molepo, as well as forward-thinking academics

from across the globe who delivered thought-provoking presentations on the future of AI, archiving and knowledge management in higher education. While delivering his presentation, the LIASA President emphasised the importance of collaboration with SASA, KMSA, Unisa and other key LIS stakeholders to advance the profession.

- **American International School (AIS)**
On 11-12 April 2025, the LNO collaborated with AIS in Johannesburg by exhibiting at their Library Fair, hosted in the school hall. The event attracted a diverse audience, including librarians from across the African continent. This was a vibrant and enriching experience that provided the LNO team the opportunity to showcase LIASA's work, initiatives, and membership benefits. Engaging with international attendees was particularly rewarding, as many expressed strong interests in joining LIASA, a testament to our growing influence beyond South Africa's borders. These events reinforced LIASA's position as a thought leader and advocate for innovation, excellence, and inclusivity in the LIS profession.

Upcoming Events

- South African Librarians' Day: 10 July 2025 (More information will be shared via LIASAOonline communication platform)
- LIASA Annual Conference: 30 September – 03 October 2025
Theme: *Libraries as Innovation Hubs: Empowering Communities*
Venue: Boardwalk Hotel, Casino & Convention Centre, Gqeberha
Please follow this link <https://www.liasa.org.za/page/conf2025> for more information or contact the office.

LEBOGANG MASALESA PL(SA)
APHELELE NDZIMANDE PL(SA)

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Charlie Molepo

From the President

to strengthen the association. During the SAQA review site visit, the panel commended our record management practices, particularly in relation to membership, and recommended our database management system as a model. Building on this momentum, the LIASA Board will embark on outreach initiatives in the coming months to engage potential members and raise public awareness about LIASA's role and mandate.

In line with the resolution of the AGM, the Board has established a Constitutional Review Committee to align our constitution with the evolving needs of the association. The committee is led by President-Elect Prof. Lefose Makgahlela, with support from Maropene Ramabena, Laila Vahed, Teboho Morajane, and Immediate Past President Nazeem Hardy. Their work will address identified gaps and incorporate recommendations from both the Board and SAQA.

A matter of great concern has been the recent appointment of a non-librarian to the position of National Librarian. The post, which became vacant in February 2025, was advertised in December 2024 and re-advertised in February 2025. LIASA formally raised concerns with the NLSA Board regarding the job advertisement, which listed an MLIS as a preference rather

than a requirement. Despite our objections, the appointment went ahead. LIASA, in collaboration with SASA, SAISU, and KMSA, is actively working to reverse this decision. We have written to both the Minister and the Public Protector to intervene.

On 21 May 2025, LIASA joined other organisations in a protest at the Constitutional Court in support of the **Copyright Amendment Bill (CAB)**. The case of President vs Blind SA and Others was being heard, and LIASA, as part of ReCreate, participated as a friend of the court. We continue to advocate for the signing of the CAB, which is crucial for equitable access to information. During the protest, we also highlighted the ongoing issues at the NLSA.

In a positive development, the Board has officially recognised IGBIS as LIASA's first Community of Practice (CoP). The decision to retain the name was supported by members and endorsed by the Board, acknowledging IGBIS's respected professional identity.

We are also excited to announce the upcoming launch of our second CoP: the Wikipedia CoP. This group will lead efforts to recruit volunteers to create and translate content for Wikipedia, particularly in indigenous languages, through the SWIP project—a collaboration between SadiLar, WikipediaSA,

and PanSALB. The CoP will be launched on 10 July 2025, during South African Librarians' Day (SALD), under the theme **"Twelve Languages, One Nation, One Wikipedia"**. This initiative celebrates South Africa's linguistic diversity and promotes multilingualism and inclusivity in digital knowledge spaces.

Lastly, I am proud to reflect on the success of South African Library Week (SALW) 2025. We were honoured to be joined by the Deputy Minister Peace Maboe, who delivered the keynote address. The event also welcomed the Limpopo MEC for Sport, Arts & Culture, the Executive Mayor of Makhado, the District Mayor, The Department of Education officials, UNIVEN Library Director, councillors, learners, and community members. Earlier that day, the LIASA Board accompanied the Deputy Minister in donating books and sports equipment to a high school in Makhado—a gesture that underscores our commitment to literacy and community development.

As we look ahead, let us continue to work together to strengthen our profession, advocate for our values, and build a more inclusive and informed society.

In solidarity,

CHARLIE MOLEPO PL(SA)

As we reach the midpoint of 2025, we find ourselves just a few months away from our flagship annual conference. This year has already proven to be a significant one for LIASA, marked by progress, advocacy, and renewed recognition.

In the previous issue of *LIASA-in-Touch*, I shared that we were undergoing the re-accreditation process with the South African Qualifications Authority (SAQA). I am pleased to report that **LIASA has been re-recognised by SAQA until March 2030 with no conditions**. This is a major milestone that affirms our standing as the professional body for library and information services in South Africa.

As part of our commitment to good governance, we undertook a restructuring process

All About Mzansi ▶ Quiz Competition ◀

On 25 March 2025, the Rand West City Libraries hosted its second annual All About Mzansi Quiz competition in celebration of South African Library Week (SALW) and Human Rights Day.

The competition, held under the theme "Libraries for Sustainable Communities" aimed to encourage a culture of reading amongst the primary school learners around the Rand West City Local Municipality and to foster an understanding of South African history and heritage. All participants displayed their general knowledge about South Africa.

The competition was managed by Programme Director Rosinah Ramaleba. Njabulo Mavuka presented the opening and welcoming remarks and Phumzile Makwerela delivered the opening prayer. Thandeka Legae outlined the purpose of the day. Ria van Tonder and Phillip Moatshe were the adjudicators. Maria Mapena was the timekeeper, and Thato Mothupi captured the moments



Educator Lesego Pule, Winner Hlelokuhle Dladla and Programmes Librarian Thandeka Legae

on camera. The vote of thanks was delivered by Clement Daniels, the library manager.

The quiz competition tested the learners' general knowledge about South Africa, and they demonstrated impressive

understanding and great enthusiasm. The hard work and dedication of the educators were also evident in the learners' performance.

Hlelokuhle Dladla from Avante Primary School emerged as the

winner, with Kagiso Motsau from Sedimosang Primary School taking first runner-up, and Lindsay Isaacs from Toekomsrus Primary School securing second runner-up. Interestingly, last year's winner was also from Avante Primary School. The question remains: how long will Avante hold on to the top spot? We will have to wait until next year to find out.

The event highlighted the importance of encouraging learners to engage with our rich history and heritage. The educators and the library team also learned interesting facts about our beautiful Mzansi, the rainbow nation as it is affectionately known.

The All About Mzansi Quiz continues to inspire our learners to value education and expand their knowledge about South Africa.

THANDEKA LEGAE PL(SA)
PROGRAMMES LIBRARIAN
RAND WEST CITY LIBRARIES



**Library and Information
Association of South Africa**

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