

OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF LIASA, THE LIBRARY AND INFORMATION ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH AFRICA

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The LIASA National Office (LNO) closed over the Christmas holidays and the staff took a well-deserved break.

However, as soon as the New Year arrived, we were back at our posts to process all the membership applications and payments that were received during that time of rest. At the end of the early bird period, 31 December 2021, we had 473 paid-up members for the 2022 membership year. At the time of writing, we already have 607 members which is a 13% increase on the 2021 numbers for the same period, but still 22% lower than the figures for the same period in 2020. Keep an eye on the graph on the landing page of the LIASA website (www.liasa.org.za) to see how the membership totals grow. Hopefully, by the time you read this March edition, the number has increased significantly. We thank those members who paid their membership dues before 31 December and also those who continue to make payment in 2022.

2022 is a significant year for LIASA and while arrangements are in progress to celebrate LIASA's 25th birthday, we can reveal in the meantime that members who have renewed and paid by 31 March 2022 will receive a LIASA 25-year commemorative t-shirt in July, LIASA's birthday month. Therefore, remind your friends and colleagues to renew and pay their 2022 LIASA membership as soon as possible for them to enjoy a full year of membership benefits.

Benefits include, but are not limited to, a printed copy of the *LIASA-in-Touch*, access to the current issue as well as all back issues of the electronic version of the magazine; members' only

MEMBERSHIP FEES FOR 2022	
	2022 Fees
Individual Members (residing in RSA)	R680
Individual Members (not residing in RSA)	R1 025
Undergraduate Students	R310
Pensioners	R310
Interns	R310
Unemployed	R310
Institutional Members	R3 425

content on the LIASA website; discounted fees on paid events e.g. the LIASA Annual Conference; networking opportunities at National, Branch and Interest Group level – sharing of ideas, knowledge, problems and solutions; access to information about events, webinars, training opportunities, and industry news sent through the LIASOnline mailing list. Ensure you are subscribed to the mailing lists you want to get information from: www.liasa.org.za ▶ sign in to your profile ▶ click on **Manage Profile** located under My Profile on the black menu ribbon ▶ click on Edit Bio under the Information & Settings heading ▶ on the Edit My Member Profile, look for the Email Preferences option under the Account Information heading ▶ click on Manage Email Preferences and tick or untick the boxes as per your preference.

The LNO has also started with MyLIASA training for Branch and Interest Group Executive Committees. MyLIASA is the Association Management System we use and the compulsory training, under the umbrella of the Clare Walker Professional Development Centre, will teach the Branches and Interest Groups how to build their own micro website that is a collective area for group relevant information

for members to access, as well as a repository for the group's documents and information. Currently there are already 53 registrations for the training and we trust that each person serving on a committee would have successfully completed the training by the end of March 2022.

Planning for South African Library Week (SALW) 2022 is going well, and the Task Team comprising of Charlie Molepo (Chair), Linda Ntaka, Rebecca Senyolo, Danie Malan, Shanitha Bhim, Mseni Tembani, Ugo Okoli, Annamarie Goosen and Kagiso Ledwaba, are meeting weekly to finalise an exciting programme for the launch event as well as liaising with the poster designer, Alecia Steenkamp, on the design of the final downloadable poster. This year we are making the poster available in portrait and landscape formats. If not yet done, you can download the poster and other items at <https://www.liasa.org.za/page/2022salw>. During SALW, keep an eye (and ear) open for SALW related information in the national and regional print media, on a few radio stations as well as the LIASA and industry related Social Media channels.

ANNAMARIE GOOSEN (PL)SA
 LIASA MANAGER

CALL FOR ARTICLES: LIASA-IN-TOUCH, JUNE 2022

Dear Colleagues

I hope that you have all received your print copies of the December 2021 issue together with your surprise gift calendar. This year LIASA celebrates its 25th birthday since coming into being on 10 July 1997. The June issue will celebrate this milestone event. You are invited to send your congratulatory messages, highlights and what LIASA means to you and the LIS profession by **22 April 2022**.

Please note the following to ensure correct publication:

- Articles should be short and concise - maximum of 600 words in the form of an MS Word attachment and

not in the body of the email. Kindly provide your name, professional body designation (if awarded), job title and institution at the end of the article.

- Photographs (not more than 6) should be sent separately as JPEG attachments and PLEASE NOT inserted in a Word file. Furthermore, to ensure a good quality image, check that the camera (including cameras on cellphones) resolution is set to at least 300dpi. Please send the original file from the camera, not an edited or compressed photo.

- Captions, dates etc. should not be inserted in the photograph. Please write your captions at the end of the article (Word document) – jpeg file number followed by caption. It is important to correctly identify persons appearing in the photograph so please check names and their spelling when you take the photo.

Please send your contributions directly to me at: LiasaInTouch@liasa.org.za I look forward to your submissions.

NOHRA MOERAT PL(SA)
 EDITOR



Nazeem Hardy

Dear LIASA members

LIASA is only as strong as the people who choose to belong to it and we are lucky to have individuals who give selflessly of their time and expertise to furthering its aims and objectives.

Recently, we were shocked by the sudden passing of Prof Rocky Ralebipi-Simela. I had the privilege of working with Prof Rocky during her time as Editor of the South African Journal of Libraries and Information Services (SAJLIS) and I will always remember her warmth and generosity as well as her passion for her profession and especially the up-and-coming professionals. We have lost another stalwart and giant in our profession. As we work towards building a stronger LIASA, let us channel the passion Prof had for librarianship, librarians and LIASA.

I also wish to pay tribute to Michelle Kahn who in her role as layout and editing manager of SAJLIS for the past 10 years, contributed to making the Journal a success. Michelle has decided that it is time to move on and I wish her well in her future endeavours.

Branch and Interest Group Committees (2021-23)

I reported in the December issue that we were in the process of resolving the gaps in the Branch and Interest Group committees.

Following a meeting with the committees and the Electoral Officer, Laila Vahed, the following was resolved for the 2021-23 term of office:

- IGBIS. Mercia Moreana agreed to step into the role of Chair-Elect.
- ILLIG. Seganabo Jane Kgoele agreed to step into the Secretary position.
- PACLIG. Manda Hough agreed to move into the Chair-Elect position. PACLIG did not, however, have any of its other positions filled; these will therefore remain vacant and

the Interest Group will be held in abeyance for this term.

- Western Cape Branch. Elzana Dlomo unfortunately had to resign from the Treasurer portfolio. This meant that the current committee consisting of the Chair and the Chair-Elect went into abeyance.
- Gauteng North Branch. Sagren Naidoo agreed to fill the Chair-Elect position.

Restructuring

As noted in various communications to date, restructuring remains the main priority of this term. We have picked up the strands from the previous term and EXCO has put a plan in place to move the conversation forward.

On 15 December 2021, we circulated a White Paper on LIASA Restructuring which went out for comment to the broader LIASA membership. The period for comments recently closed and as indicated in that communication, the input received will be taken to the Representative Council for discussion at its meeting in March 2022. A huge thank you to every member who commented. These are the first steps in attempting to deliver on the resolution of AGM 2019 and will hopefully contribute positively to a final structure.

South African Library Week 2022

The preparations for South African Library Week 2022 are well under way and under the auspices of the President-Elect, the committee has come up with a stunning poster design (the cover of this issue). Additional information is provided elsewhere by the National PRO.

Collaboration

Collaboration remains a strategic pillar of LIASA's objectives. To this end, various meetings have been held with, among others, CHELSA, Nal'ibali, NEDiCC, NLSA and DSAC. Some progress has also been made with regard to the formation of the Student Chapter and we will continue to push forward in making this a reality.

The LIASA/Clare Walker Professional Development Centre

In my previous column I noted the need to kick-start this initiative and am pleased to report that we are working towards making this a reality. All training interventions will in future be marketed under the Centre's name and these include Branch and Interest Group interventions which have now been finalised. Recent discussions held with among others Denise Nicholson (Copyright); Naailah Parbhoo-Ebrahim and Prof. Ina Fourie (Digital Wellness); and Dr Neil Evans, Prof Ina Fourie and Naomi Haasbroek (Abstract writing), will see the roll-out of training on these topics.

In Conclusion

As I am writing this column, the first for this year, everyday more and more, our profession seems to be under attack. In the US we see incidents of book-banning, the first book-burning and public librarians threatened with jail time for housing certain materials. The very real threat of anti-mask groups' aggression towards public librarians seems to be on the increase. In the UK, the decimation of public libraries,


either by closing them down or turning them into volunteer-run centres, continues unabated.

Back home, we are also seeing some disturbing patterns. The vandalising as well as burning down of libraries continues as libraries bear the brunt of protest action, lack of adequate security during lockdown as well as the ever-deteriorating social cohesion that drives a lot of these actions. The recent fire at Parliament again brought to mind the burning of the Jagger Library last year and reminds us that the conversation started at last year's conference and the need to expand it to encompass the broader spectrum of the GLAM sector is still an imperative. In recent weeks we have also seen the announcement of library closures in the City of Cape Town. A report tabled at a Council meeting in 2021 proposed some initial closures, with more to follow. The first of these is slated for April this year. The main impetus for this report is the impact of the pandemic on municipal finances. The issue of the unfunded mandate has once again reared its head and after all this time, it seems as if we are still having the same conversations we've had for the past 20+ years with no resolution in sight.

This year will see LIASA celebrating its 25th anniversary and much of this year will focus on this milestone celebration. However, after 25 years, we find that there is still so much to do and the issues raised above are but a fraction of the very large battles we need to fight as the professional body.

I hope that LIASA can count on the active support of each and every member and the broader LIS community.

NAZEEM HARDY PL (SA)
LIASA PRESIDENT (2021-2023)



In Memoriam

Prof Rocky Ralebipi-Simela

LIASA Member (#40)
12 April 1955 – 16 January 2022

REMEMBERING PROFESSOR ROCKY RALEBIPI-SIMELA AND CELEBRATING HER PRESENCE IN OUR WORK AND LIFE

Rocky, as we affectionately called and remember her, was an inspiration in so many ways to her students and colleagues in library and information science with whom I worked over the years and co-edited the volume of essays on Professor Seth Manaka, her mentor.

With a sunny disposition, she was a model of professional discipline and collegiality, committed throughout to access to information as a basic human right. With funding from Ford Foundation, she initiated the project to bring library and

information services closer to poor rural communities. South African history will forever thank her for the opportunities she provided to the poor millions to develop their information literacy.

(continued on page 22)

ReImagine! RePurpose! ReDiscover! ... Libraries!

SOUTH AFRICAN LIBRARY WEEK (SALW) 2022

South African Library Week was initiated in 2001 by LIASA.

The purpose of this week is for all types of libraries to create awareness about libraries and to market their services to current and any potential patrons and users. Also, during this week, the Library and Information Services (LIS) community showcases to all South African stakeholders and government their contribution to the important role that libraries play in our society, from advancing literacy, making the basic human right of freedom of access to information a reality, and to promoting tolerance and respect among all South Africans. South African Library Week (SALW) was officially celebrated for the first time in 2002 with the theme "Free your mind - Read". This year marks two decades of celebrating libraries in South Africa.

The LIS community is greatly affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. As we all return

to the "new normal" we are still grappling with providing appropriate services and the after effects of the pandemic. This is not only limited to budget constraints but also an opportunity for the LIS sector to ReImagine and RePurpose our services so that the communities we serve will ReDiscover libraries and the potential there is in libraries.

The theme ReImagine! RePurpose! ReDiscover...Libraries! will be celebrated, demonstrated and embraced during SALW 2022 from 14 – 20 March 2022. The official launch will be a virtual event, and you are invited to join us online on 14 March 2022. Details of the event and other relevant information will be communicated to all members via the LIASA mailing list, LIASOnline, as well as through the LIASA social media channels.

The poster, bookmark and other branded items are available online and can be downloaded at <https://www.liasa.org.za/page/2022salw>. A toolkit that contains templates and examples

of documents to create the necessary awareness amongst the community, local press, councillors and users can also be downloaded at this above-mentioned link.

For the first time since LIASA has produced a SALW poster, it will be available not only in a portrait format but also in landscape. Download and print the version that will suit your needs best. Place the posters in your libraries, shops, municipal offices, clinics – any place that has either a wall space or a notice board for a printed poster to be added, or if they have an electronic display board for a digital copy to be displayed. Members of LIASA and the LIS community are urged to create a buzz in their social media and within their communities to reiterate the importance of libraries and showcase how libraries are embracing the new normal, following the theme.

During South African Library Week, LIASA and the National Library of South Africa will be launching a project to compile

a poetry anthology to celebrate the SALW 2022 theme as well as LIASA's 25th anniversary. We therefore encourage persons, members and library users alike, to submit their individual poems, speaking to the theme of ReImagine! RePurpose! ReDiscover...Libraries! for possible selection and inclusion in the anthology to the National Office. More information about the project will be shared on LIASA and NLSA's social media.

The 2022 theme will also echo throughout the year, as LIASA celebrates 25 years of being THE Association for LIS in South Africa. LIASA throughout this year will continue striving to ReImagine itself and Repurpose the Association for a new generation of professionals and in this way, help the sector Rediscover LIASA as a Professional Body for everyone.

#bevisible! #salw2022

LINDA NTAKA PL(SA)
LIASA PRO

Digital Divide in the Information Era

CHALLENGES EXPERIENCED BY LIBRARIES

The information era which places libraries at the centre of disseminating information, has necessitated the need for libraries to disseminate information digitally and not only through hard copies.

This requires libraries to be on track with the changing scenario and to start disseminating information online through the internet, web pages and e-mail services among others. Libraries can now provide a variety of services to their users as the Internet has the capability to share, store and retrieve large amounts of information quickly and easily. The internet is a facility or a gateway for increasing a library's access to a large pool of resources and services.

Among the many inequalities exposed by the COVID-19 pandemic, the digital divide remains one of the more prominent. The pandemic has exposed the extent of societal inequalities in that access to remote platforms, whilst making

it easy for colleagues and families to function digitally, also places at a disadvantage those companies and families without such access. According to the World Economic Forum, billions of people are going online to stay in touch either with work or families during this time. However, almost half of the world's population has no access to the internet. In order to deal with the digital divide, South Africa has made access to its COVID-19 website free of charge, with no data or airtime required, and local broadband provider Telkom has done the same for educational websites and sites providing coronavirus updates, such as the National Institute for Communicable Diseases. These are some of the government's efforts to address these challenges.

The CCMA library services are accessible to CCMA full-time, part-time and external users at the CCMA National Office and via the provincially appointed mini-library caretakers, SharePoint and the InfoHub mobile application. The librarian facilitates provincial virtual workshops in which staff and users are trained on how

to access the library services on SharePoint and the physical library. The library ensures that staff and users acquire all case law requests, articles, judgements and arbitration awards within 24 hours and where this is not possible, the librarian notifies the requestor in writing.

However, during the pandemic the CCMA's library function has also experienced the challenges of the digital divide in that, whilst most of the services were available, the less sophisticated or less skilled library users were gravely affected, requiring the librarian to offer many training sessions. The other disadvantage was that a number of library users who recently found themselves unemployed due to the poor economic situation found it challenging to access the library's digital platforms.

Loadshedding is yet another challenge that has affected the digital operations of the CCMA library in that most electronic services or requests could not be effectively actioned due to the interrupted power supply. However, the move to Lockdown Level 1 on 1 October 2021

which allowed for a maximum of 750 people indoors meant that physical libraries could be utilised while adhering to COVID-19 protocols.

Although the digital age is providing lots of new opportunities for various institutions including libraries, there are some notable challenges too. These include information privacy, information security and copyright. In addition, the challenges of information ethics, information impactedness and the digital divide are forcing libraries to reshape their operational as well as structural environments. There is a great need for these various challenges to be addressed both from a theoretical as well as practical (technical) perspective so that a holistic approach can be developed to address them zealously. This means that physical libraries are still relevant in the information era especially considering the stark digital divide in South African societies.

THANDI CHAUKE
HO-NATIONAL LIBRARIAN: BRICS UNIT



sport, arts & culture

Department:
Sport, Arts and Culture
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



What is a Library?

Click on the image of the video to watch it in your preferred language or copy the URL to your browser.



Trailer

<https://tinyurl.com/libraries-trailer>



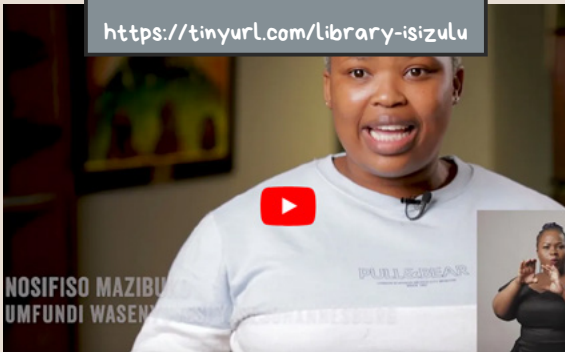
English

<https://tinyurl.com/library-english>



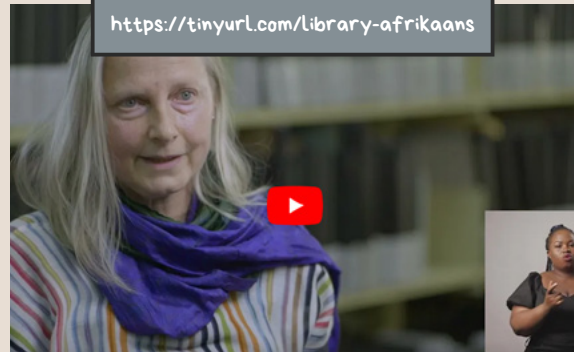
isiZulu

<https://tinyurl.com/library-isizulu>



Afrikaans

<https://tinyurl.com/library-afrikaans>



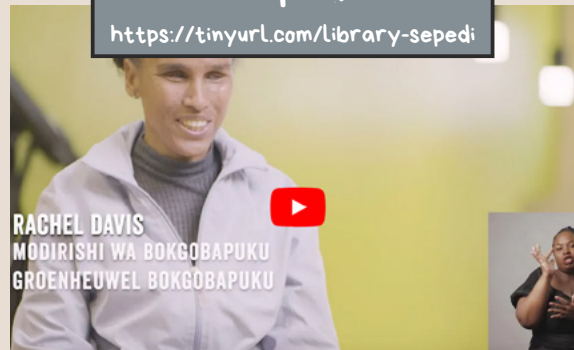
isiXhosa

<https://tinyurl.com/library-isixhosa>



Sepedi

<https://tinyurl.com/library-sepedi>



These videos were made possible through the generous sponsorship from the Department of Sport, Arts and Culture



Ellen Tise

Overview of IFLA's FAIFE Advisory Committee

professionals across the globe, and provides advice to the Governing Board. <https://www.ifla.org/units/cos/>

The Advisory Committee on Copyright and other Legal Matters (CLM) focuses on questions around the acquisition and use of library resources and effective library services, including copyright laws, and subscription and license agreements. CLM also plays a leading role in work around open access, open science and open education, and is the primary IFLA committee discussing IFLA's work to promote copyright reform at the global level, notably at the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO). <https://www.ifla.org/units/clm/>

The Advisory Committee on Cultural Heritage (CCH) oversees and coordinates work taking place across IFLA around cultural heritage, working to maximise its impact and reach. In particular, CCH looks at how IFLA's work on cultural heritage, including that of IFLA's Preservation and Conservation Centres, reinforces the IFLA Strategy, raises awareness of cultural heritage activities with IFLA members and strategic partners, and supports IFLA's policy development and advocacy in areas relevant to cultural heritage. <https://www.ifla.org/units/cch/>

Advisory Committee on Freedom of Access to Information and Freedom of Expression (FAIFE)

The Advisory Committee on Freedom of Access to Information and Freedom of Expression (FAIFE) is at the heart of IFLA's

efforts to promote intellectual freedom and achieve the vital mission of supporting libraries in their role as gateways to knowledge and ideas. It provides advice to the Governing Board on IFLA's position and response to emerging issues in these areas.

Through its work, FAIFE raises awareness around the close link between librarianship and intellectual freedom, collects, prepares and circulates materials that help libraries and library organisations to advocate and take action to promote and defend intellectual freedom, and monitors intellectual freedom developments and issues in the library field.

It also acts as a focal point on the issue of freedom of expression, libraries and librarianship, and stimulates dialogue and collaboration with relevant international bodies, organisations and campaigns. <https://www.ifla.org/units/faife/>

The Committee has a broad mandate, covering everything from external advocacy to internal capacity building, and subjects related to all human rights and ethics as well as to internet governance. In terms of the subjects currently on the agenda of the committee, these include intellectual freedom, censorship, human rights, artificial intelligence and open access.

Traditionally, FAIFE has had to be proactive in its work, given that there is not the regular opportunity to define and express positions as is the case with CLM. However, in the past years, FAIFE has started to engage more closely in activities around the Human Rights Council to raise issues. In some more limited cases, FAIFE has acted on specific issues (primarily in situations where the local library association would not be able to do so) for example the [IFLA Statement on Hungarian laws on LGBTQ+ content](#). It has also produced more reactive statements on issues such as internet shutdowns where these become clearly relevant.

Areas of work

Over the years, FAIFE has produced various reports or provided input into guidelines and statements, for example the [IFLA Guidelines on Public Internet Access in Libraries](#), reports such as [IFLA Response to UN Expert Mechanism on the Right to Development and the Sustainable Development Goals](#), [IFLA Comments on UNESCO draft Recommendation on Open Science, Libraries in Digital](#)

[Skills Strategies](#), and statements such as the [IFLA Statement on Libraries and Open and Good Governance](#), [Library Pledge for Digital Inclusion](#), [IFLA Statement on Libraries and Artificial Intelligence](#), [IFLA Statement on Net Neutrality and Zero-Rating \(2016\)](#), [IFLA Statement on the Right to be Forgotten \(2016\)](#) and the [IFLA Statement on Privacy in the Library Environment](#).

Other areas of work include, presenting webinars on topics such as "Public Internet Access in Libraries: Realising the Potential, Avoiding the Pitfalls", "Track and Trace: COVID-19 and Library Privacy", etc. and conducting surveys such as the one on Intellectual Freedom in order to stimulate the global library field's engagement with Intellectual Freedom issues.

A key strategic objective of FAIFE is to develop a collaborative network of strategic partners to strengthen the voice of the library and information community, including in international fora. Some notable collaboration includes Amnesty International USA around the Banned Books Week and building and expanding IFLA and FAIFE engagement with the UN Human Rights Council around human rights issues central to the library field (i.e. freedom of expression, privacy, right to education, right to culture, etc) This included engaging with the Universal Periodic Review process and responding to calls for contribution by OHCHR – to collect and share information on good practices and key trends impacting libraries' work to support and help deliver fundamental rights

Other focus areas over the last two years include building on the IFLA statement on censorship, collecting information and raising awareness around current censorship challenges and the guidelines for public internet access to raise awareness of the challenge of censorship in all its forms as it affects the library and information community through digital and face to face opportunities.

For those who are interested in learning more about FAIFE and/or engaging with FAIFE, there is a blogging platform and the possibility to share relevant information on a range of topics through the FAIFE Network. Please contact IFLA at ifla@ifla.org to join the Network.

ELLEN TISE

CHAIR: IFLA FAIFE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
2019 TO 2021 AND 2021 TO 2023.
IFLA PRESIDENT 2009-2011
LIASA PRESIDENT 1998-2002

Introduction

The purpose of IFLA's Advisory Committees is to advise the Governing Board, to coordinate related activities across IFLA in key thematic areas, to support IFLA policy development and advocacy, and to facilitate the development of relationships with relevant global and regional organisations on issues for which the advisory committee is responsible. <https://www.ifla.org/governance-advisory/>

There are four advisory committees, namely Copyright and other Legal Matters (CLM), Standards (CoS), Cultural Heritage (CCH) and Freedom of Access to Information and Freedom of Expression (FAIFE). Each committee has 10 members, including a chair, appointed by the Governing Board, as well as ex officio members and expert advisors.

As stated on the IFLA website, the four Advisory Committees cover a range of policy areas and topics, and support the work of IFLA's top-level governance on major policy or other cross-cutting issues. They are mandated to work to ensure that all parts of IFLA are able to benefit from their deep expertise. <https://www.ifla.org/governance-advisory/>

The Advisory Committee on Standards (CoS) coordinates IFLA's work to develop and maintain professional standards and guidelines for information

Digitization and Preservation Offerings by UKS



Digitizing your collection is not just a nice to do but has become a must with many benefits which include facilitation of timely access to information and research data, access to information to global audiences from anywhere in the world, enhanced sharing of information, easy discoverability of information etc. The benefits are endless.

Digitization is also an important part of preservation. We have read and seen news of disasters like fires and floods damaging libraries that contain valuable records. Some are lost forever. With many people preferring to work from home and reluctant to visit libraries because of COVID, having digitized information enables them to access it within the comfort of their homes.

After thorough research on digitization and its need, UKS have decided to get into the digitization space and offer well needed solutions.

UKS's wholistic offerings for digitization and preservation:

- Running digitization projects
- Training on digitization and preservation
- Providing document imaging scanners
- Providing advisory services on digitization and preservation.

Running your Digitization Project

Should you want to embark on a digitization project, UKS has expertise to run the project for you. From developing a project charter, plans, training, testing and all the way to project go-

Ethics in Cataloguing and Classification: a webinar review

On Friday 10 December 2021, the United Kingdom and Ireland Art Libraries Society (ARLIS) hosted a webinar addressing ethical concerns in cataloguing, subject indexing, and classification presented by Deborah Lee, a Senior Teaching Fellow at University College London.

The presentation covers ethical issues surrounding designing and maintaining cataloguing guidelines and classification systems; ethical concerns when working with these systems; ethics research; and the hurdles encountered when raising ethics questions in theory and praxis. The webinar is available on YouTube via ARLIS's channel and is well worth a watch for all metadata practitioners.

Briefly defined, ethics constitutes principles of what is right or wrong – the moral dimension to living in society. Ethical questions surround concerns like disability, gender, migration, race, religion, sexuality, and the myriad cultural imbalances found in our globalised and diverse societies.

During the presentation Lee considers ethical questions surrounding classification systems design and maintenance.

Systems are built by humans and are vulnerable to reflecting inherent biases. These biases may be visible or hidden. For example, the hierarchical schema adopted in the Dewey Decimal Classification (DDC) are less visible to users than the subject headings found in Library of Congress Subject Headings (LCSH). Coverage is another concern – marginalised or minority groups may not receive equal consideration. Terminologies adopted for group labels and geographic subdivisions may reflect cultural biases that are insensitive or even offensive when seen outside western knowledge systems.

For example, in the DDC, one can still find outdated or prejudicial classifications. One criticism levelled is that Christianity dominates the religion schedules. The DDC editorial committee welcomes proposals from libraries, institutions, and the public, in the pursuit of an improved classification system that best fits users' needs.

The LCSH editorial committee regularly posts lists of approved changes to subject headings; these revisions are often in pursuit of equitable and inclusive

live. By the time UKS are done with your project, your digitized records would be easy retrieve using various retrieval methods. We work closely with you onsite until the project is finished.

Digitization and preservation training

UKS offers a Digitization and Preservation course, which covers a wide range of topics ranging from defining digitization and preservation, digitization methods and process, preparing records and documents for digitization and retrieval, planning for, and running a digitization project, preserving physical records, workflow, and integration of digital information to support compliance, audits, legislation and regulations as well as maintenance of equipment used for digitization. This course can be offered online or face-to-face.

Digitization Scanners

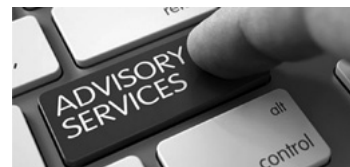
Quality is what UKS strives for. Because we value quality, for document projects we use and offer scanners from I2S, a company that specializes in image capturing and processing technologies. The scanners can handle multiple formats



documents from postage stamps to 2xA0 formats. We train you on how to use the scanners.

Advisory Services

As experts in digitization and preservation, UKS offers advisory services to those who want to embark on a digitization project or are already digitizing. Our



advisory services range from offering advice of compiling digitization and preservation policies, digitization processes, preparing documents and more.

must strive to identify and overcome these prejudices in their work.

Knowledge classification is for the good of the end-user, to promote accessibility and knowledge discovery. Aspiring to non-discriminatory and reflective metadata practice serves both the institution and its users. Many ethical concerns can be addressed through dialogue between groups and communities. With this brief review I hope to stimulate thought and conversation around these ethical questions amongst South African metadata practitioners. How can we contribute further towards informed and thoughtful cataloguing and classification design and application?

SARAH GOLBY
IGBIS PRO (2021-2023)

Resources:

ARLIS UK & Ireland. 2022. Cataloguing and classification ethics: an ARLIS online talk, Friday 10 December 2021. [online video] Available: <https://youtu.be/5dtEm685YgQ>

Cataloguing Ethics Steering Committee. 2021. Cataloguing code of ethics. Available: <http://hdl.handle.net/11213/16716>

Library of Congress. 2021. Library of Congress Subject Headings (LCSH) Approved Lists. Available: <https://www.loc.gov/aba/cataloging/subject/weeklylists/>

OCLC. 2022. Help revise the Dewey Decimal Classification. Available: <https://www.oclc.org/forms/dewey-editorial-volunteer.en.html>

Bookbinding Revival Workshops

Hosted by George Wentzel, Retired Master Bookbinder, with 48 years' experience

The workshops have proven to be very successful over the years as they are interactive with participants given sufficient practical work exercises; many have ventured to do Bookbinding as a hobby and earn cash.

George has hosted more than fifty Bookbinding Workshops around the country teaching this scarce skill and sharing his knowledge. These workshops have been hosted as far as Kimberley, De Aar, Hanover, Richmond, Pretoria, Potchefstroom, Randfontein, Vereeniging, Mthatha, Lichtenburg, King Williams Town, St Albans Prison, Robertson, Caledon, Rupert Museum, Afrikaanse Taal Monument, Rhodes University, University of Cape Town and the Cape Peninsula University of Technology.

Six years ago, a Richmond Bookbinding Project was started whereby George taught four girls from the local community. This project has been funded by the National Arts Council for the past two years and George is still involved with mentoring these girls and providing text blocks and materials on a monthly basis.

Workshop Programme

Day 1 focuses on parts of the book, the grain of paper, materials and adhesives, folding sections, demonstration of overcast hand sewing, demonstration and practical exercise of kettle sewing. This is followed by a demonstration of the perfect binding of loose sheets and then a demonstration and practical exercise of how to make note pads.

Participants are then given the opportunity to endpaper their books, trim their endpapers, line their books with mull and make their own A6 quarter-bound Books. This is followed by a demonstration of a full-bound leather book with artificial raised bands.



Rupert Museum Workshop



Workshop in Kimberley

After lunch, Day 1 concludes with a demonstration and practical exercise of making a full-bound A6 book with various materials. This also includes casing-in the books using the book press.

Day 2 starts off with a demonstration of an A5 full-bound book with round pleated

corners, bevel edges and a sunken label using brillante material. This is followed by a practical demonstration and exercise in making an A6 full-bound leather book with artificial raised bands. Participants are then taught how to make an A5 half-bound leather book which forms part of their practical exercises.

Book Repairs

This is a very interactive session because after explaining various repairs and discussing various methods, participants are given the opportunity to do those repairs and discuss them with the group. Repairs range from tip-ins, repair of tears, broken end papers, broken spines, splitting of sections and the use of Japanese Tissue for repairs. Repairs to broken paperback books are discussed as well as how to strengthen and reconstruct the book.

Workshops can also be done over three days to include Library Disaster Management Training and Recovery.

Each participant leaves the workshop with the five books they made, a jar of glue, a glue brush, a steel ruler, a pair of scissors and an NT Cutter. They are also presented with a Certificate of Attendance.

GEORGE WENTZEL
RETIRED BOOKBINDER FROM NLSA
GEOWENTZEL20@GMAIL.COM



Workshop in Robertson



Workshop at St Albans Prison



Beautiful new and colourful chairs for the Music Library

Five new seminar/discussion rooms at the Mamelodi Campus Library



New computers in the student computing area at Mamelodi

UP DLIS renovates the Music Library and Mamelodi Campus Library

The renovation of two libraries at the University of Pretoria (UP), namely the Music Library and Mamelodi Campus Library, commenced in 2021 after approval in 2021 and 2019 respectively.

The renovations involved upgrading the existing infrastructure and facilities to offer users more than just a seat for studying; the intention is to facilitate an experience that creates a conducive and productive space, encouraging creativity and collaboration. Due to the challenges presented by COVID-19, the renovations will be phased in. We are pleased to announce that there has been incredible progress with the first phase of renovations, but also some delays, many of which were COVID-19 imposed. The progress to date will be discussed briefly for each library.

Music Library

The first phase of the Music Library's renovations was to upgrade one side of the library

which included upgrading the flooring by replacing the carpets with vinyl flooring, acquiring new colourful chairs to brighten the mood, repainting walls, and installing new floor skirting. The information desk was also revamped with a new jacket. The colours chosen are distinct tones of grey, and at one stage, we were tempted to rename the library "Fifty shades of grey".

With all the delays we encountered, the project took far longer than expected, but we accepted this and looked forward to the results. Since we were in the process of upgrading, we decided to renovate the entrance, creating a more open, friendly space. A project that was supposed to have been completed in six weeks eventually took about 7–8 months, but it was worthwhile waiting it out and enduring the aches and pains. Our biggest challenge now is to obtain funding to revamp the eastern side of the library as well. We hope the budget will be approved so that we can start with

yet another face-lift as the next phase of the renovations.

Mamelodi Campus Library

The first phase of the Mamelodi campus library renovations included upgrading the safety of the library. Safety plays an important role in keeping our community and resources safe. The building was fitted with the latest security cameras, new security gates, and access control machines. Additional exit points, smoke detectors and extractors were installed to ensure full compliance with fire safety regulations.

Furthermore, the upgrade included a new air-conditioning system, five new seminar/discussion rooms to promote student collaboration, as well as a new student computing area where a few computers have been installed and additional computers are expected to arrive during the course of this year. The circulation counter has also been

completed, the furniture has been delivered, and the computers have been installed and are operating perfectly.

Another new feature of the library is the separation of the library collection area from the rest of the library building which allows library staff members to have control over the library's collection area. Students are therefore able to study until late as the collection is closed and protected; the library closed at 4 pm before this new feature was installed.

The next phase of the renovations will include upgrading the student bathrooms. A new cafeteria area in the library will be built to provide students with convenience because we understand how important it is for students to be energised throughout their studies without disrupting their daily movements. Additional computers are expected, as well as the remaining furniture for the soft seating area, and flooring for a few areas of the library.

ISOBEL RYCROFT AND SIXOLILE DLUNGWANE

The Department of Library Services at the University of Pretoria launches its first Book Nook

On Tuesday, 30 November 2021, a ribbon-cutting ceremony took place of the first Book Nook at the Merensky 2 Library auditorium on the Hatfield campus.

This was followed by a series of photographs taken of various gleeful, some ecstatic, UP staff members. These included, among others, Professor Vasu Reddy, the Dean of Humanities; Professor Molly Brown, the Head of Department of English, and Ms Lindiwe Soyizwapi, the Library Director.

The event being celebrated was the soft launch of the Department of Library Services' (DLS) first Book Nook: a dedicated space within the library for leisure reading and related activities to highlight the pleasure and reward obtained from reading. While the number of invitees was kept to a minimum – under 14 staff members were in attendance to comply with health regulations – all who were there could testify that, as mentioned by Prof. Brown, it was intensely gratifying



Prof Molly Brown and Elsabé Olivier sharing in the joy of the new Book Nook

at this time to come together and celebrate the achievement of such a positive goal.

A programme consisting of a number of short speeches in the library auditorium had preceded the ribbon-cutting. The programme director, Ms Viveka Pillai, Manager of the Humanities Faculty Library, highlighted the impact that library spaces can have on student success. She then introduced the Library Director Ms Soyizwapi, who welcomed the attendees to the event. The director proceeded to remind the audience that reading is an activity to be enjoyed throughout one's lifetime and that it is hoped

that students who have not yet acquired this wonderful habit, will be enabled by the presence of the Book Nook to do so. She also indicated that the DLS hopes to create similar reading spaces in each of the University's libraries over time.

Prof. Brown said that she could remember exactly how many years ago she had received her first library card - that books and reading had changed her life. She was in an excellent position, together with her co-initiator Ms Heather Thuynsma from the Humanities Faculty, to explain how the Book Nook had come about. Having witnessed the popularity of the Mind-Altering Books event in September 2019, Prof Brown said, and the number of favourite titles students had submitted during that month, it became clear that the time for a dedicated reading area in the library had arrived. Prof Brown also acknowledged past library and faculty projects focusing on writers and reading that had contributed to the interest in

leisure reading.

In his address, Professor Vasu Reddy, Dean of the Faculty of Humanities, remembered witnessing a culture of reading in Japan, where readers were everywhere – even reading while walking. He referred to the magic of reading and hoped that the Book Nook would help stimulate every UP student to love reading.

When it came to thank those who contributed to establishing the Book Nook, librarian Ms Adrienne Warricker had a long list of names from among others the Humanities Faculty, Future Africa, DLS and UP Facilities, and Exclusive Books who donated 70 titles.

Although physical visits to the library may be limited and events hosted in the Book Nooks will not be possible in the foreseeable future, there are already plans to launch a virtual reading circle, and the DLS has invited interested parties to submit their ideas and requests for such events.

ADRIENNE WARRICKER

THE INAUGURAL CEN-FREE-SOL BOOK FAIR COMES TO LIFE

Chairperson of the opening ceremony and University Librarian: Ms Betsy Eister

After many months of preparation and sleepless nights, 2-3 November 2021 finally came to mark a new milestone in the history of the three neighbouring institutions- Central University of Technology (CUT), University of the Free State (UFS) and Sol Plaatjie University (SPU)- when the inaugural CEN-FREE-SOL Book Fair was launched.

The Book Fair is a product of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that was signed by the three institutions' academic libraries' Directors: Ms Betsy Eister (CUT), Ms Jeannet Molopyane (UFS) and Dr Sabelo Chizwina (SPU). As the chairperson of the first session and in her welcoming address, Ms Betsy Eister, who could not hide her joy, referred to the day as, "an exciting event and an achievement of our professional lives." She also highlighted that, as an important support



structure of teaching, learning and research, the three libraries decided to translate a long-held

vision into practice, with the main aim of enhancing literacy at the centre of South Africa. The CEN-FREE-SOL Book Fair, according to Ms Eister, is a suitable platform where academics and stakeholders with similar interests are able to engage on various carefully selected themes that include mental health, corruption, whistle-blowing, white-collar crime, culture, life challenges, African languages and many more. Another important reason for establishing the CEN-FREE-SOL Book Fair was to put at the forefront the critical role that books play in promoting reading and the recognition of the unique talents of various authors. It is also an acknowledgement of the many hours and days that different authors spend conducting research, perfecting their craft and ultimately sharing their wonderful and sense-making stories that span different disciplines.

The inaugural 2021 CEN-FREE-SOL Book Fair received a shot in the arm when the three Deputy-Vice Chancellors (DVCs) from the three institutions and whose portfolios include managing libraries, gave the event a thumbs up! They collectively acknowledged the fruits coming out of the MOU and have cited innovation, platform for exchange of ideas, book appeal, re-scripting one's life and creating imaginations as some of the low-hanging fruits to be reaped from the Book Fair. As a parting shot and to prove what books can do, the acting DVC at CUT quoted Richard 111 (Act 1: scene 1), "This hand, which for thy love did kill thy love, Shall for thy love kill a far truer love." The curtain was indeed officially raised!

MONDE MADIBA
DEPUTY-DIRECTOR LIBRARY SERVICE:
LIBRARY & INFORMATION SERVICES, UFS

A no-holds barred book discussion: *Uncaptured* by Ms Mosilo Mothepu

Chairperson and a Librarian at SPU: Ms Boitumelo Masilo

Facilitator and Director of Transformation at CUT: Prof Sepeng

Author: Ms Mosilo Mothepu

One of the drawcard-sessions at the inaugural 2021 CEN-FREE-SOL BOOK FAIR was a discussion on the book *Uncaptured*, by Ms Mosilo Mothepu. Under the theme "Corruption, whistle blowing and its impact on society in South Africa" and facilitated by Prof Sepeng from CUT, attendees got a front row, A-List experience from Ms Mothepu who applied a no-holds-barred approach, taking them through her personal journey as a whistle-blower.

Ms Mothepu, a former CEO



of Trillian in 2016, never thought that she would one day write a book on anything, not even on corruption in South Africa. She is a B. Com. accounting graduate with

Honours in corporate finance and never thought in a million years that God would guide her on a path that she never dreamt of.

As a CEO, Ms Mothepu enjoyed a VIP seat that, unfortunately, led to her witnessing the grandest and industrious looting of "our family jewels" that included Eskom, Transnet, SAA, Denel, SAA Express, all of which are now under business rescue or in need of bailing out. She says billions of Rands were siphoned off without any contracts or jobs done. She knew, six weeks prior, of the firing of former Minister of Finance Nhlamhla Nene who refused to sign a trillion Rands nuclear deal and Dudu Myeni's Airbus deals. All this led to her leaving Trillian and going to the then Public Protector Thuli Madonsela to report what was happening. This led to her being persecuted by the Hawks,

being isolated and having nine criminal charges laid against her ranging from conspiracy and theft, to corruption.

Despite her good deeds, it made her realise that corporate South Africa does not value integrity because she was unemployed for two years. She suffered tremendously and also realised that this world does not value integrity or view integrity as valuable currency. She had to go as far as Paris to seek financial assistance since there was no support from the State, businesses or fellow South Africans. She felt totally isolated, and even after reaching out to the president of the country, there was no response. Despite all of the pain, she has no regrets, and the detriments she is suffering under, are nothing compared to "what our forefathers went through."

Book discussion: *Repatriation of linguistically exiled letters*

Facilitator: Dr Molele, SPU

Author and Creative Writing Academic at SPU: Mr Sabata Mokae

In one of the sessions whose theme was the *Repatriation of Linguistically exiled letters* and facilitated by Dr Richard Molele from Sol Plaatjie University (SPU), Mr Sabata Mokae shared his views on the project that led to the launch of his book co-authored with Prof Jesmael Mataga, also from SPU. Mr Mokae is an academic and novelist who teaches creative



writing in African Languages at SPU. Included amongst his many accomplishments is authoring the biography of Sol Plaatjie, Setswana books, translating two of Gcina Mhlophe's children's books, co-editing with Brian Willan Sol Plaatjie's *Mhudi*, and also being awarded MNET's literary award for the best Setswana novel.

According to Mr Mokae, the repatriation of letters can be likened to a literary revolution and in order to give the audience a better understanding, he took us back to a conference of African writers of English expression, held in June 2021, at the University of Makerere, Uganda. What was discomfiting about that conference was that it excluded African writers who write in their mother tongue. The exclusionary approach that the conference organisers adopted was an indictment against African mother tongue writers if one considers the magnitude of the conference in Anglophone Africa.

The conference intentionally or inadvertently, excluded the African writers who were writing in mother tongue. Mr Mokae also bemoaned this practice that he feels contributes to the death of many African languages that are not given a platform to thrive and grow. He also made an example of many libraries across the country whose African languages collections are not only despicable but at death's door. What worries him most is that such collections are not only small but composed of old titles that are being re-used.

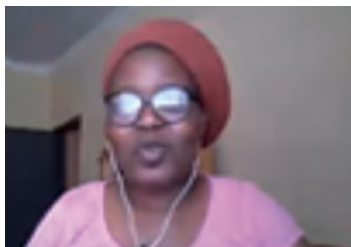
The *Repatriation of Linguistically exiled letters* came out of many debates that include

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The Stellenbosch Mafia invades the inaugural CEN-FREE-SOL Book Fair

Chairperson and Director UFS LIS: Ms Jeannet Molopyane

Although Mr Pieter Du Toit, the author of the popular “*The Stellenbosch Mafia: inside the Billionaires club*,” could not connect live, thanks to technology, a recording was shared wherein he was interviewed by Ms Sbu Dlamini, a lecturer at CUT. He could not hide his excitement and felt honoured to be part of the first CEN-FREE-SOL Book Fair. He confessed that he was a big supporter of any festival, anywhere in the world that encourages reading. According to him, his book revolves around the extremely wealthy individuals who are also heads of the biggest companies in South Africa. Although the



title “*The Stellenbosch Mafia*” is commonly used in political circles, in essence, it is about the members of this group whose influence cut across the socio-economic divide. Getting to know the three billionaires means one would need to link them to the South African history that identifies them as powerful and privileged white Afrikaner men. In addition, another interesting fact is knowing how they amassed such wealth over the years and built these big companies.

What most people usually want to know is whether they are evil in how they conduct their business operations. What Pieter discovered during his research is that people who are close to the billionaires were critical of the title (*The Stellenbosch Mafia*) and at times he had to explain that there was a perception that the billionaires were influencing the direction that the South African economy was taking.

Although the title was popularised by Julius Malema, who accused President Ramaphosa of being controlled by these men, it was first coined in 2002 by a financial journalist in a joking manner and since then it's been stuck on these powerful individuals. Pieter describes them as a group of Afrikaner businessmen and executives who made a lot of money in

Johannesburg and later moved down to Stellenbosch. They are associated with companies that include PSG, Capitec, Mediclinic, and Remgro, to name a few. According to Pieter, even though the term “*Stellenbosch Mafia*” seems controversial, he never found anything that links the billionaires to wrongdoing but acknowledged that it got the negative connotations at the state capture commission where political opponents used it to attack each other.

The book is just a South African story with history and politics mixed into it. From the author's perspective, the book is a colourful story of business and wealth creation whose target audience was mostly black readers who were not privy to this part of history.

Experts in LIS give keynote addresses at the inaugural CEN-FREE-SOL Book Fair

Keynote Speaker and University Librarian, National University of Lesotho: Dr Buhle Mbambo-Thata



Keynote Speaker and Editor of *Imbiza Journal for African Writing*: Dr Siphiso Mahala



To officially open the much-anticipated 2021 CEN-FREE-SOL BOOK FAIR, the organisers identified two distinguished experts in Library and Information Services: Drs Buhle Mbambo-Thata and Siphiso Mahala to deliver keynote addresses.

Dr Mbambo-Thata, currently the University Librarian, National University of Lesotho, is a distinguished professional in the LIS field who once served as the University Director: University of Zimbabwe, Executive Director: UNISA Libraries, Director: resources development at the African Library and Information Associations and Institutions

(AfLIA), a recipient of an IFLA medal for excellent service to libraries in Africa and recognition as UNISA's woman of the year to name but a few. In her presentation titled: *Towards a reading nation: exploring the RSA reading landscape*, she shared statistics (Book council 2015 and Reading Trends 2017) that indicated low levels of reading and literacy within families and the general population in South Africa. Although the statistics did not include or consider the impact brought by COVID-19,

an argument by Prof Recias Malope in the 70s at the then University of the North that, though written in English, the book *Mhudi*, was a Setswana novel in its entirety. Hence the call was made for the repatriation of similar books that did not need to be translated, since these are two different exercises. Repatriation was necessary, in the case of *Mhudi*, because the book is written in English by a person of Tswana origin. This also meant the

return of *Mhudi* from English to its linguistic base. Further arguments (Shole and Poole) that were made about the need for its repatriation included important areas that include the author being of Tswana origin and the fact that the book was inspired by the Setswana setting, history and social-cultural world. According to Mokae, the above arguments also confirm that that the story in *Mhudi* could not have been conceptualised in English. When asked about

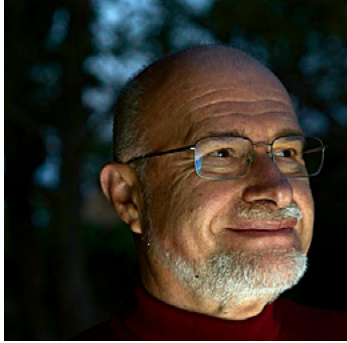
the historical realities inherited from the past are still with us. She contends that overcoming hindrances and improving literacy requires a book development and multi-disciplinary approach to policy development. Despite all the challenges she identified, there are a few positive signs including the President's initiative that encourages reading and the involvement of several NGOs in initiatives that encourage reading by the youth using digital devices. In her concluding remarks she urged writers to keep the current generation in mind by writing for them in order to entrench and sustain a culture of reading for pleasure and learning.

A second keynote address was delivered by Dr Siphiso Mahala, an accomplished short-story writer, novelist, playwright and literary scholar who plies his trade in literature and IsiXhosa. He has authored the following books: *When a man cries*, *Yakhal'indoda*, *African delights*, *The house of truths*, *Red apple dreams* and other stories. He is a founder and editor of the *Imbiza Journal for African Writing*. He has also held teaching and research positions at various South African

universities. Dr Mahala confessed that throughout his life's journey, libraries have always been at its centre. Books, according to Dr Mahala “saved my life”. As a teenager and growing up in Makhanda during the state of emergency in the 80s, books were his companion since he spent about two years not being able to attend school. He believes that his introduction to books was by accident and later, he embraced reading as part of his lifelong experience. He suggested that reading should be encouraged and introduced to children at an early age before they start school so that they read not as a chore but for leisure. Reading is also encouraged through the *Imbiza* journal with emphasis on formation of collaborations across communities. Dr Mahala called for the professionalisation of the LIS sector and bemoaned what has become a culture within the libraries where one finds that they are headed by people who are not qualified librarians. He congratulated the three academic libraries for collaborating and introducing the book fair especially in under-served communities in the centre of South Africa.

the reasons why he wrote *Mhudi* in English the writer wanted to showcase to the world the beauty of the culture and thinking of an African or as he put it then, “the back of the native mind.” Ngúgí wa Thiong'o's book, *Decolonising the Mind*, argued that “the future of the African literature depended on the willing writer, ready to invest time and talent in African languages, a willing translator willing to invest time and talent in the art

of translation from one African language to another, a willing publisher ready to invest time and money or a progressive state willing to state which will overhaul the current linguistic policies”. Inspired by the above powerful argument, a project was started wherein books written in English by Setswana speaking writers including *Mhudi* and Ellen Khuzwayo's *Call me Woman* were targeted to be repatriated in order to liberate the authors.



Global Gleanings #1 I

A COLUMN OF NEWS, VIEWS AND SNIPPETS FROM THE INTERNATIONAL LITERATURE OF BOOKS, LIBRARIES, AND INFORMATION, COMPILED BY PETER LOR

In loco parentis?

Not many readers of this column will be old enough to remember the impassioned debates about children's books, which raged in the Cape Town newspapers in the early 1970s.

They were set off by a decision taken by Cape Town City Libraries to ban from their collections popular children's series such as those by Enid Blyton (who authored over 600 books separately and in various series), the Just William books, by Richman Compton, the detective stories featuring the Hardy Boys, and Nancy Drew (both series written by a syndicate of authors and published under pseudonyms) and, in Afrikaans, the Trompie and Saartjie series both written by Topsy Smith. Kids lapped them up, one after another, but the librarian in charge of selecting books for Cape Town children, Lydia Pienaar, who had recently been awarded masters and doctoral degrees for her work on children's literature, decreed that the addicted children wasted valuable time they should have spent reading books of better quality. She had

worked out that the average child could only read about 700 books during childhood. After that the golden opportunity to enjoy good children's books from a child's perspective, was lost for good. Her opponents, including many parents, argued that these books got kids reading books, which was better than not reading at all or, horrors! reading comics.

Comics

The debate about comics is not over. In a 2020 article in the *Washington Posts'* Perspectives section, children's librarian Karen MacPherson makes the case that comics, which she prefers not to call graphic novels, are real books and can be a valuable literacy tool to encourage reluctant readers.¹ Another slant on comics comes from efforts to save an endangered indigenous language, Hñāñho (also known as Otomi), spoken by the Nāñho people from the Mexican state of Querétaro. Here a series of comic books featuring an impish deity called Tlaloc is being created.

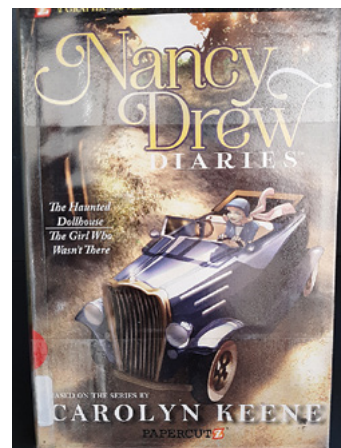
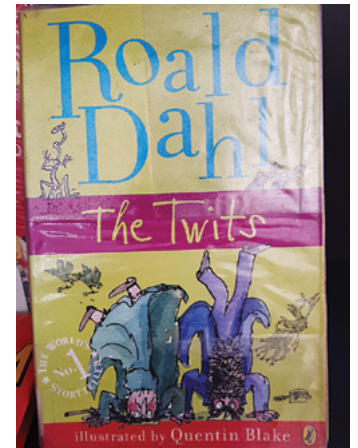
Tlaloc derives from the traditional mythology of the Nāñho people. Their language and culture are in decline as a generation gap emerges: parents still speak their own language alongside Spanish, but their children only know Spanish. The comic books help the children connect with their culture while keeping the language alive.² Is this an idea worth trying out in South Africa?

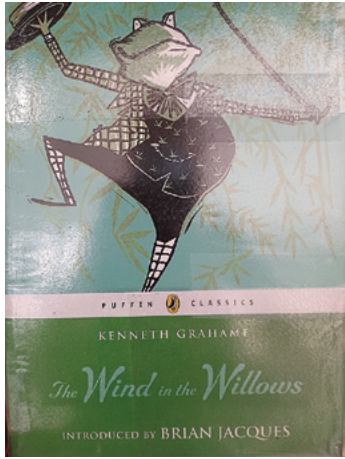
Sanitizing children's collections

As a child I read lots of series books and comics. This did not stop me from reading "good" books too, and from majoring in English and French literature later. The articles I cited earlier prompted me to read more about the series which featured in my childhood reading. I discovered that many of them are still being published and have given rise to stage, film and television adaptations. I also discovered that well-intentioned sanitizing and correction of classic books for children and teen readers

is alive and well, and creating controversy. Accusations of racism, xenophobia and sexism have been levelled at many children's classics. Publishers have been sensitive to such criticism and have withdrawn some titles from circulation or altered text passages or illustrations that might be found offensive. Children's favourites, including *The wind in the willows*, *Where the wild things are*, and the Harry Potter books, have been found undesirable and banned by high-minded censors in school and library boards. Not surprisingly, books by Roald Dahl³, who delights kids with his rollicking, irreverent and sometimes revolting stories, and gets them clamouring for more, feature prominently on lists of challenged books. Another addictive author with a gift for enticing reluctant readers was Dr Seuss. Recently the estate of Theodore Geisel (Dr Seuss) decided to withdraw six of his books from publication because of racist stereotyping.⁴ This means that they will no longer be published, but it does not

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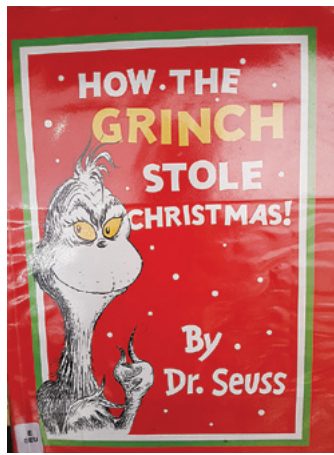
affect what happens to the tens of thousands of copies already in libraries or private homes. What happens to library copies is for the librarians to decide.

Culture wars

The controversies that this ignited in the U.S.A. are but skirmishes in the ongoing culture wars which are being waged on a broad front between conservatives and liberals. Liberals think it is good to expose kids to a wide range of ideas and societal issues, including gender roles, sexuality, traditional family structures and values, disability, racial discrimination and critical views on colonialism and imperialism. On the other hand, books with LGBTQ protagonists,⁵ or books that are critical about America's history of slavery and racism attract the ire of conservatives.⁶ To them, critical race theory is as the proverbial rag to a bull.⁷ (Bulls are actually colour-blind.) Conservatives prefer kids not to read books with such challenging topics and non-traditional values.

US libraries are part of a vibrant and turbulent, locally-based democracy. There is a high rate of public library membership. People care about their libraries and they get actively involved in supporting them. They also want to have a say in how their libraries are run. Party politics and cultural ideologies spill over into school boards and library boards, which are elected by their communities. There are pros and cons to grassroots democracy.

We in South Africa often complain that our libraries are not sufficiently visible and recognized. But there are risks and benefits to visibility in the political arena. Without visibility it is difficult to negotiate the resources we need for library services. But with increased visibility also comes risk.⁸ On balance though, I would say, let's rather be visible and equip ourselves to deal with the challenges that may arise.



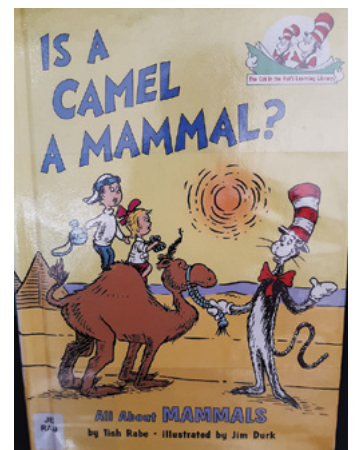
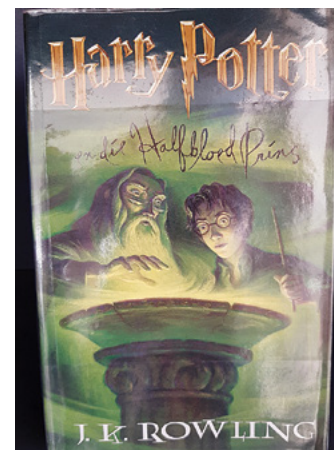
Tailpiece

Special library collections come in all shapes and sizes: the National Toy Train Library in Ronks, Pennsylvania serves miniature train enthusiasts⁹; seed libraries are being set up all over the U.S.A.¹⁰, and, my favourite: the library of Yale University's Law School has a certified therapy dog which can be borrowed for a thirty-minute session of "stress

busting". It is one of several university and college libraries in the U.S.A. which has a therapy dog on offer.¹¹ What better way to end this column than with a happily wagging tail?

More detailed information on some of the above references, with clickable links, as well as earlier columns, can be found on my blog at <https://peterlor.com/temp/>.

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UJ takes school librarians along the digital learning drive

The University of Johannesburg (UJ) Library in partnership with the Faculty of Education hosted a successful four-day online workshop for school librarians titled **Learning and leading in a digital world**. The event took place on 12, 14, 18 and 20 October 2021.

The school librarian workshops are part of the UJ library's community engagement projects that seek to contribute towards the empowerment of school libraries and librarians. The initial idea when the project started was to target quintile 1, 2 and 3 UJ feeder schools in and around Johannesburg, Gauteng. However, the virtual environment allowed us to open up these workshops to anyone interested and working in school libraries or teachers.

The Library, in partnership with the Faculty of Education, saw a

need to engage school librarians on an annual basis through workshops and seminars, the aim being to bring various experts in libraries, library education, and technologies to the school librarians, thereby contributing towards ensuring that learners are prepared when they enter tertiary education.

The 2021 workshops focused on empowering school librarians to teach in a digital environment, hence the programme was divided into four themes which touched on the following key aspects: Digital fluency and safety; Open Educational Resources; Communication channels, demystifying coding; Working in a constrained and under resourced environment; Digital literacy and citizenship; and, Becoming a change agent.

What made these workshops

interesting and quite effective is that the presenters and facilitators came from diverse environments and backgrounds from within and outside the University of Johannesburg. Through the leadership of Prof. Jacqueline Bachelor from the UJ Faculty of Education, a number of senior students in the faculty facilitated various sessions based on the topics that they were either teaching or studying. This innovative way of involving UJ senior students, interns and lecturers brought freshness and relevance to the workshops' content.

To bring balance to the workshop content, representatives from the Basic Education district office and teachers presented the current status of school libraries in their environments. From these presentations, it was evident that

there are various interventions aimed at the upliftment of teacher librarians and learners. However, the challenges facing school libraries are much bigger than the efforts to improve the status of school libraries in South Africa, especially within the black communities.

Despite the broad challenges facing the school library sector, the UJ Library in collaboration with the Education Faculty will continue to support teacher librarians through the annual workshops and seminars. Please look out for the invitation to join the 2022 Teacher Librarian workshops.

NOMOYA MAHLANGU
UNIVERSITY OF JOHANNESBURG LIBRARY
DIRECTOR: CLIENT SERVICES

UP Library hosts Symposium on Robotics and Artificial Intelligence in libraries

The University of Pretoria's Department of Library Services (UP DLIS) hosted the International Symposium on Robotics and Artificial Intelligence (AI) in Libraries and the Education Sector on 10 and 11 November 2021. The virtual event was held over two days and brought together academics, computer scientists and AI enthusiasts from all over the world. The online event attracted about 200 participants and several speakers.

Keynote speaker Professor Tawana Kupe, UP Vice-Chancellor and Principal, introduced attendees to UP Library Services' robot librarian Libby as well as Stevie, the Faculty of Health Sciences' mobile treatment robot, before directing his attention to the role of libraries. "In South Africa, libraries have a critical role to play, not only in nurturing and growing our democracy, but also as gateways to participation in society through lifelong learning, and access to information for students, graduates and citizens," he said. "By supporting open-source AI, public institutions can ensure that researchers are able to access powerful systems that are free from corporate bias. At UP, we are passionate about Africa's potential to rise and thrive as a knowledge economy, with our libraries at the centre. From early childhood development to university and beyond, digital literacy is a must."

Prof. Arthur Mutambara, former Deputy Prime Minister of Zimbabwe and Executive Director of the University of Johannesburg's Institute for the Future of Knowledge, was a guest



The local symposium committee, left to right back row: Brenda Nsanzya, Lazarus Matizorofa, Eddie Mathiba and presenter Isak van der Walt. Left to right front row: Una Mgwenya and Elsabé Olivier

speaker at the event and focused his attention on how universities can play a role in global problem-solving. "The role of the library is to solve global challenges," he said. "Universities should produce a new kind of graduate. We can solve global challenges through innovation, entrepreneurship, and by adapting to the fourth industrial revolution and innovation."

"AI and robotic technologies are increasingly gaining practical implementation in libraries across the world," added Isaiah Michael Omame, author and librarian at the Federal University of Lafia in Nigeria. "The rapid development and supply of AI and robotic technologies, coupled with the increasing demands of digital information services, have necessitated libraries worldwide to reinvent their mode of delivery. Consequently, a number of libraries around the world are

fast evolving in tandem with this development. Robots are carrying out real-time library activities. Today, we have smart AI-enabled libraries with voice-activated systems. Robots are becoming our library colleagues!"

UP Registrar Prof. Caroline Nicholson, a guest speaker, began her presentation by touching on how the use of robotics in libraries relieves library staff from routine tasks, before focusing her attention on AI. "In the broader teaching and learning context at UP, AI is also being harnessed to support the University strategy," she said. "To date, the use of AI in teaching and learning has been predominantly focused on the provision of AI assistants and chatbots, intelligent tutoring systems, and on applications to support testing, evaluation and comprehension. UP does offer some simulations, game-based learning and virtual reality –

especially, but not exclusively – in the science, engineering and technology fields. These technologies have proven especially valuable during the current COVID-19 crisis, and the shift to online multi-modal teaching and learning where they have significantly contributed to an enhanced student experience and student success. It should be acknowledged, however, that simulations, game-based learning and virtual reality could be more extensively utilised in the teaching and learning space."

Other themes explored during the symposium included autonomous delivery vehicles and other robots for library operations, cognitive automation, and collaborative robots and hybrid robotics.

MECAYLA MASEKA

Tshwane Book Publishing Campaign

Librarians of the City of Tshwane, in partnership with the American Corner Pretoria staff, hosted an international author as a visitor to a hybrid function on 5 November 2021. This mixed online and face-to-face gathering was held under the Book Publishing Campaign theme, Local is lekker (local is nice).

The subtheme was "From homelessness to publishing a book". The guest speaker was Dr DeBorah Gilbert White from Washington DC in the United States of America. She is the author of the book *Beyond Charity: A Sojourner's Reflections on Homelessness, Advocacy, Empowerment and Hope*.

Dr Gilbert White met Hlumisa Kwinana on Facebook and they chatted about the books they had written and published. Hlumisa is the author of *The shield of the youth*. The book focuses on the social issues that youth and their families struggle with and offers possible solutions to the social illnesses that communities continue to face on a day-to-day basis.

When Hlumisa heard that Dr Gilbert White would be visiting the country in November 2021, she approached the City of

Tshwane's librarians to organise a meeting area for the international author to meet with local authors to discuss issues of common interest when writing books.

The highlight of the hybrid function was that stakeholders dealing with homelessness and destitution were invited to come and share their experiences about their situation in Tshwane and how the government can assist to improve and ultimately bring an end to this social ill. Mr Tinyiko Maluleke from the City of Tshwane Social Development and Strategic Interest Group Division also shared his expertise on this matter. Other speakers, like Ms Patricia Matolweni, shared their personal experiences of housing homeless boys in Tshwane.

The event was emotionally moving because of the experiences that were disclosed during the discussions. Hlumisa Kwinana also presented a case study on homelessness and destitution. During the presentations, Dr Gilbert White presented her personal experience of being homeless and how she is now advocating for homeless people in America. Her organisation is working towards improving conditions



Hlumisa Kwinana (Tshwane local author); Paulina Ndobe (Deputy Director: Tshwane Libraries); Dr DeBorah Gilbert White (author and guest speaker); Elizabeth Ramohlloane (Snr Librarian: Tshwane Libraries); Siphon Hlope (Deputy Director: Tshwane Libraries)

for and giving hope to homeless people.

Hlumisa is one of the authors listed on the City of Tshwane Library Authors' Database, which was established in 2018 when the Book Publishing Campaign was launched. This Campaign is an ongoing programme that is celebrated annually. The City of Tshwane Library, Heritage and Information Services Section identified that there is a shortage of writers, especially in indigenous languages, in Tshwane. There is also a low, if no, circulation of books in such languages or even books produced by local authors. In an endeavour to address the shortage of locally produced material, the Library, Heritage and Information Services Section came up with this campaign to show readers that locally written books

are interesting. Another aim is to produce a database where local authors can list their details and products in order for the Library, Heritage and Information Services Section to be able to procure the said items when conducting book selection and acquisition processes.

The City of Tshwane's librarians encourage local authors to continue to meet at their local libraries to foster social cohesion and to continue to write and publish books locally. Local authors are encouraged to send their details to librariesho@tshwane.gov.za in order to be placed on the database.

MMATHABO ELIZABETH RAMOHLLOANE
LIASA GN PACLIG CONVENOR
SNR LIBRARIAN: GRANT MANAGEMENT AND
READING PROMOTION, CITY OF TSHWANE

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DUT members from Left to right: Mr David Thomas - Manager: Academic Services, Ms Lucille Webster - Former Director: Library Services, Dr Benny Phaladi - Director: Library Services, Mr Sean Carte - Librarian: Digital Services, Mr Mandla Ndaba- Library Finance Officer, Mr Sagren Moodley - Manager: Information Resources, and Mr Siza Radebe - Manager: Campus Library & Sites

DUT Library Launches FOLIO, the First in Africa

The Durban University of Technology (DUT) Library is recognised as being the “First” in adopting and implementing cutting-edge technologies in Africa.

The DUT Library was the first university library in Africa to launch “Future of Libraries is Open”, commonly referred to in the international community as FOLIO. This is an open-source library service platform that allows libraries to work efficiently to provide library services. DUT went live with FOLIO on 1 July 2021.

A celebration of the official launch took place on Wednesday, 22 September 2021 at the Curries Fountain boardroom on the ML Sultan Campus in Durban. For the implementation and

launch of the global product, DUT partnered with Universal Knowledge Software (UKS) and EBSCO Information Services. The afore-mentioned partners are well-known information service providers on the African continent and globally. Ms Sanele Dlamini, from UKS, facilitated the launch smoothly and professionally. In compliance with COVID-19 protocols, only a few guests were physically present at the venue. Other guests joined the launch virtually.

Professor Nokuthula Sibiya, DUT’s Deputy Vice-Chancellor for Teaching and Learning, welcomed the guests. She pledged her full support to the project. The event was also attended by Professor Sibusiso

Moyo, Deputy Vice-Chancellor for Research, Innovation, and Engagement at DUT. During her remarks, she emphasized DUT’s commitment to achieving ENVISION2030 successfully in the region, the country, and on the continent. “The library has helped DUT to a greater extent to achieve the world ranking through Times Higher Education, by providing digital solutions and collaboration. The library’s support allows the university to compete with the best in the world,” said Prof Moyo. Richard Burkitt, Director of Innovation at EBSCO, cited DUT Library as another example of a library that is contributing to the realisation of libraries’ future vision. “DUT, you are leading the way in future

library vision.” he said.

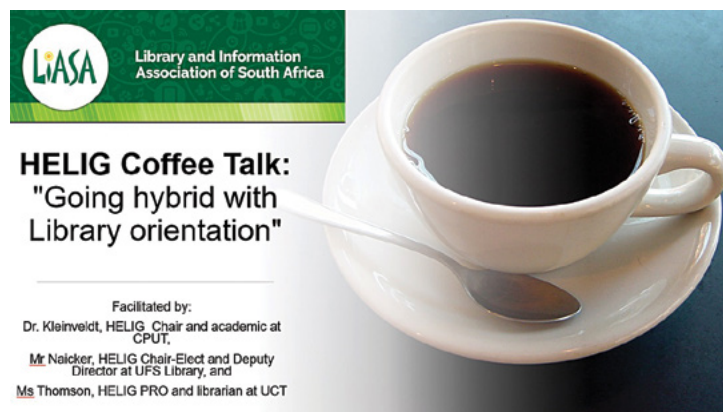
Other speakers included the former Director of Library Services at DUT, Lucille Webster; the current Director of Library Services, Malefetjane Benny Phaladi; UKS’s CEO: Executive Operations, Neesha Ramsumar; Mr Ishmael Mohammed and Ms Bongwiwe Shongwe from UKS; EBSCO’s Vice President of Sales: Sub Saharan Africa, Colleen Mills; EBSCO’s Senior Regional Sales Manager, Ms Bronwyn Rassmann, and Mr Sagren Moodley, DUT’s FOLIO project coordinator.

ROMEO MATUMBA
LIBRARIAN: MARKETING AND COMMUNICATION, DUT LIBRARY

HELIG hosts a Coffee Talk

The first HELIG Coffee Talk of 2022 explored the topic of “Going Hybrid with Library Orientation”, facilitated by Lynn Kleinveldt (Chair), Larshan Naicker (Chair-Elect) and Ingrid Thomson (PRO).

This followed up on the 2021 Coffee Talk on “Going Virtual with librarian orientation” which was a very lively and vibrant discussion. Many academic libraries are not yet ready to fully open their physical space, hence the continuation of the topic. During the informal talk, librarians shared ideas about upcoming library orientation and how their institutions were handling the hybrid mode. Larshan Naicker set the scene, sharing the plans for UFS and showed a video example of a faculty librarian’s short introduction of himself.



Theresa Schoeman (UCT and past MAIG Chair) provided tips and strategies for getting the libraries incorporated into the orientation programmes of the institutions. Orientation should be looked at as a 6 month or a year-long

programme, rather than a week at the start of the academic year.

HELIG Coffee Talk was super informative and gave me insight to what the other universities are doing during this Covid-19 period. I learnt that technology

can be adapted to the new intake of students. e.g., You tube videos introducing individual faculty library staff to their cohort. Orientation has always on the ‘dry side’, but the upside of the pandemic has been for me to think outside the box and let technology be utilised in a more efficient manner. - Nuroo Davids, UCT Libraries

The HELIG Coffee Talks are a monthly informal get together to have conversations about a variety of topics. It is an opportunity for HELIG members to share, discuss and debate issues. Check the LIASA Calendar for upcoming events.

INGRID THOMSON PL(SA)
PRO HELIG NATIONAL

Open Access Week: Experiences from an emerging institution

SoL Plaatje University Library and Information Services (SPU LIS) hosted its first Open Access Week (OAW) through various virtual events in embracing and celebrating open scholarship.

The primary objective was to enhance understanding of Open Access issues and advocate for Open Scholarship in an emerging institution. The OAW 2021 theme was: 'It Matters How We Open Knowledge: Building Structural Equity'. In addition, the SPU LIS hosted the following events.

25 October 2021: Webinar – Open Access (OA) for emerging researchers

Day 1: The programme commenced with a lecture by Professor Leslie Chan, an Associate Professor at the University of Toronto, Scarborough. SPU LIS recognised Prof. Chan for his formidable experience as an Open Scholarship and OA authority (see <https://www.utsc.utoronto.ca/~chan/>). In his address, Prof. Chan focused on the subject of emerging researchers. The lecture was captivating and truly inspiring. He highlighted that OA creates an enabling environment for the preservation, and encourages the publication, of local content. He also discussed how OA motivates peer production and the gift economy. Prof. Chan demonstrated OA principles by sharing his expertise at no cost.

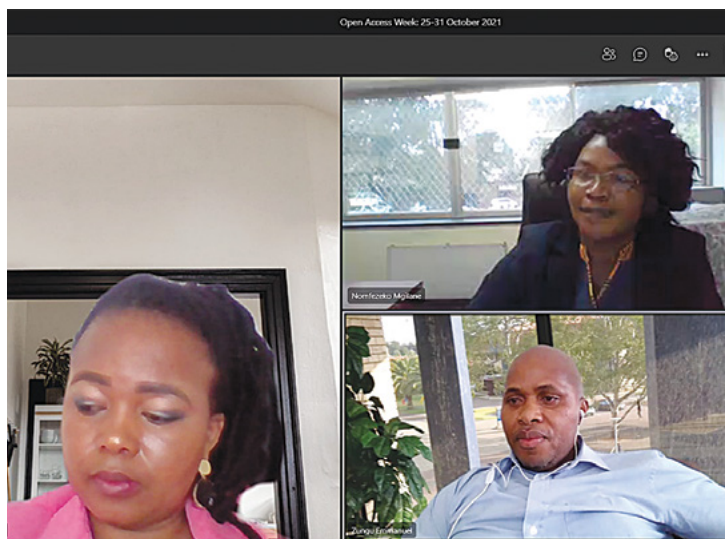
27 October: Fishbowl discussion – OA advocacy: a shared dialogue experience

Day 2 proved to be an eye-opener around Open Access dynamics in South African Libraries:

- Mr Molepo - Open Scholarship Director: University of the Free State asserted that library policies need to support OA publishing and the self-archiving by researchers; Libraries need to work with Library Consortia such as SANLIC to review the publishing agreements. Further, OA as a concept is not yet well received. However, self-archiving is growing gradually, which now calls for Open Access advocacy.
- Mr Zungu – Central University of Technology Library reaffirmed that Librarians are no longer mere custodians of



Prof. Leslie Chan & Boitumelo Masilo



Constance Ndumela, Nomfezeko Mgilane & Emmanuel Zungu

sources of information. Instead, they also support information creation, collection, and preservation. In addition, librarians today should design awareness programmes on OA and play an advisory role to academics when publishing.

- Ms Mgilane - Mogale City Libraries noted that users in Public Libraries appreciate the OA Move. They benefit primarily from Directories of Open Access Journals

and the Directory of Open Access books. Access to Open Repositories adds value to their information service. Partnerships with other institutions make it possible to serve the clients. She concluded that collaboration is key to oiling this OA movement.

- Dr Chizwina – Director: SPU LIS pointed out that talking about OA and matters of Open Knowledge requires us

to examine whether resources are open, understand the restrictions, explore the systems we have in place and our knowledge context. He emphasised the need for libraries to build their platforms and infrastructure to have equal access and share knowledge with the rest of the globe.

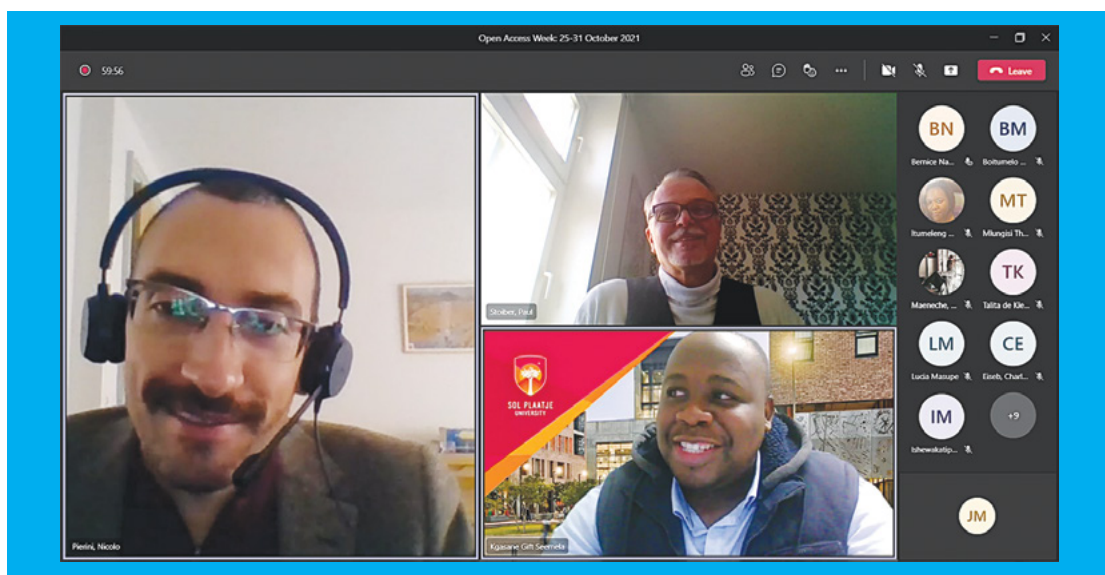
- Ms. Bale – Postgraduate Student SPU stated that not many students know or understand what OA means from a student perspective. The foundations have not been laid firmly about the culture of research. Ms Bale called for user education on OA, Open Data and systems for students.

28 October: Webinar – OA publishing (Elsevier) and using Taylor & Francis (T&F) electronic resources

Day 3's aim was to demonstrate the impact of, and their contribution to, Open Scholarship and research of library vendors. The library invited John Sterley (Elsevier) and Nicolo Pierini and Paul Stoiber (T&F). The concepts of giving, receiving and reciprocity play a pivotal role in OA. The benefits of OA alluded to were:

- removing paywall access.
- improving the emerging researchers' visibility
- Universities' prestige, reputation, competitive edge, and research output rankings; and
- It also encourages the support of the OA publishing fund.

SPU LIBRARY MARKETING



Nicolo Pierini, Paul Stoiber & Kgasane Seemela

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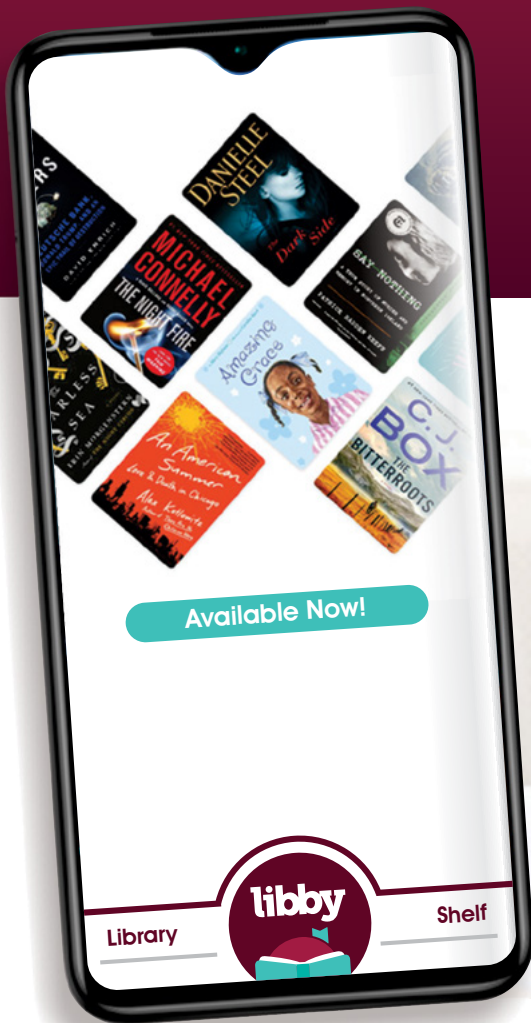
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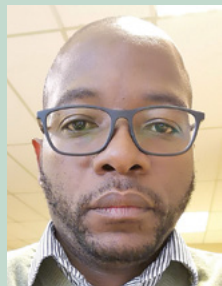
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Appointments at NWU LIS



The NWU LIS welcomed **CECIL NTOBEKO GASA**, who commenced duties as Manager Library Systems on 1 November 2021. He holds a BTech degree in Library and Information Studies (DUT), 2000.

Other qualifications include Knowledge Management and Innovation (UNISA) 2010 and a Diploma of Special Study in Business Computing (Westminster University), 2007. His previous work experience was at EOH Network Solutions as Technical Consultant since 2015 to when he started at NWU.



PHETHANI BUDELI joined the LIS on 1 September 2021 in the position of Assistant Librarian: Undergraduate Learning Commons (Mahikeng). He brings relevant knowledge accumulated from being

a Digital Reference Librarian at COR Concepts, Metadata Librarian at the National Library of South Africa and Library Assistant: Acquisitions at the University of Johannesburg. Phethani has a Bachelor in Information Science (UNISA), Higher Certificate in Archive and Records Management and is currently enrolled for Bachelor in Information Science (Honours).



MABOTSHA SUZAN MAMABOLO was welcomed as Senior Librarian, Information and Learning Services at the library on the Mahikeng campus on 1 December 2021. She will be responsible for the Faculty of Natural

Sciences and Engineering. She holds an Honour's degree in Library and Information Science from the University of Limpopo and has more than 10 years' experience of working in library services.



DENNIS MABENA was appointed as Assistant Librarian from 1 November 2021 at the Information Services desk in Vanderbijlpark. Dennis has been working as Library Assistant: Interlibrary Loan

Services at Vanderbijlpark since 2016, and obtained his Bachelor Degree in Information Science (UNISA) in 2019. Previously he also worked at the University of Pretoria as Information Assistant and Senior Information Assistant.



NTOBEKO SIKHAKHANE has been appointed as Manager: Information Resources from 1 August 2021. He holds a Bachelor's degree in Information Science (UNISA) obtained in 2010 and enrolled for the

Master of Philosophy (Library and Information Studies) at DUT in 2020. Other qualifications include the Certificate in Local Government Administration and Management (UNISA) in 2006, a Certificate in Management Principles for First-Line Managers (UNISA) obtained in 2015 and also a Postgraduate Diploma in Library and Information Studies at UCT. He held positions at Drakenstein Municipality (Paarl), Sol Plaatje Municipality (Kimberley) and at Engen Petroleum in Durban.

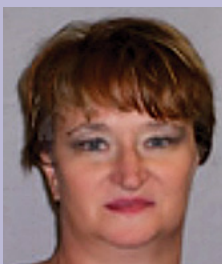


KHOLOFELO KHOMOTSO MAKOLA has been appointed as Librarian: Cataloguing from 1 November 2021 and is based in the library on the Mahikeng Campus. Kholofelo holds a Bachelor's degree

in Information Studies from the University of Limpopo (2014) and completed a Programme in Archival and Records Studies at UNISA in 2018. She held positions at HSRC as a Metadata Librarian and also at the NLSA.

MAGGIE MELK-SINDWA has been appointed to the Information Services Team (Potchefstroom) in her new position as Faculty Librarian from 1 September 2021. Maggie worked as Assistant Information Specialist at the University of Pretoria. After her return to the NWU LIS in August 2019, she was the Personal Assistant to the Chief Director LIS, Dr Moyo. Maggie holds an Honours degree in Development and Management, and a Postgraduate Diploma in Library and Information Science.

Retirements



HELENA BRAND retired from NWU LIS at the end of December 2021 after a total of 39 uninterrupted years of service. Helena started working in Loan Services in 1984, and moved to the Periodicals Department in 1985. She was permanently appointed in 1986 and has been working with periodicals ever since in different capacities. Helena has been a stalwart to the LIS and her extensive knowledge of periodical matters will be dearly missed.

LOUISE Vos, NWU



It was with a heavy heart that the NWU LIS said goodbye to **CHRISTINE BRONKHORST** in December 2021. Christine started her professional career at the University of Pretoria Library where she

was an Information Specialist for Natural Sciences and Engineering (1996 – 2001). After completion of a Master's Degree in Information and Knowledge Management, she joined the NWU LIS in 2001. During the past 20 years as Faculty Librarian, she rendered support to the Faculty of Law, later also to the Potchefstroom Business School and the Schools of Social and Government Studies at different times during her career at the LIS. She will be remembered for her excellence and professional service to the faculties where she served. Christine was responsible for the chapter "Accessing legal information: where and how to find legal information" in the Law textbook: *Introduction to Law and Legal Skills in South Africa* (2012 and 2nd ed 2021). Christine was also approached to support the NWU task team with high-level information to the State Capture Commission (Zondo Commission). The LIS wishes Christine a prosperous new career path at the NWU Business School.

LOUISE Vos, NWU

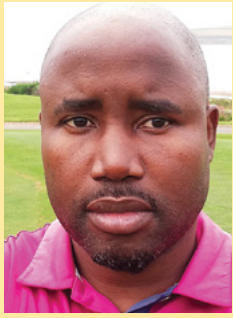
News from DUT Library



DUT Library welcomed its new Director, Dr Malefetjane Benny Phaladi who joined the Durban University of Technology (DUT) as of 1 September 2021. He was appointed after the retirement

of the former Director, Lucille Webster, in August 2021. Dr Phaladi is an experienced professional with over 20 years in both the academic and corporate sectors. His previous experience includes leadership and management roles at the Tshwane University of Technology (TUT) as Manager: Library and Information Services, Information Technology & System (LIS, IT & Systems), and Head of Library Services for its Polokwane Campus; at UNISA as Manager: Research Information Management; at Wits University as a Branch Head Librarian for its Geo-Maths Library, and as Head of Library Services at Rand Water. He is a holder of five degrees in Library and Information Science and Information Technology Management. In addition to his PhD in Information Science from Unisa and foundational degrees in the LIS field from University of Limpopo, Dr Phaladi has a Master's degree in Information and Knowledge Management from Stellenbosch University and BCom Honours degree in IT Management from University of Johannesburg. His philosophy in life is to embrace and respect diversity and humanity.

News from DUT Library



NHLANHLA NHLEKO has been appointed Manager: Campus Library and Sites at the B.M. Patel Library on the ML Sultan Campus as of 1 December 2021. Nhlanhla has more than 14 years of experience working in special, public, and

academic libraries. His previous roles include Subject Librarian in the Faculty of Engineering and Built Environment, Acting Manager: Academic Services, Postgraduate Librarian and Stack Attendant at the DUT. Nhlanhla also served as an Information Training Librarian for part-time afterhours operations at Tshwane University of Technology, Durban Learning Site. He holds a Master's degree in Information Technology from the University of Pretoria, as well as qualifications in Library and Information Science. Currently, he is pursuing a PhD in Information Technology. With this move, Nhlanhla hopes to continue developing collegiality, synergy, and harmonious working relationships within DUT and externally with the LIS fraternity.

SIPHO MCHUNU joined DUT on 1 December 2021 as Circulation Librarian at the Alan Pittendrigh Library on the Steve Biko Campus. Sipho started his career in 1999 at the former M.L. Sultan Technikon Library, as a Library Assistant and Assistant Librarian until 2011. His other experiences include working as a Faculty Librarian at the Central University of Technology, Circulation and Information Librarian at Tshwane University of Technology, and as a Branch Librarian at UNISA. He holds a Bachelor of Technology in LIS and is a proud member of LIASA.

ROMEO MATUMBA, LIBRARIAN
MARKETING AND COMMUNICATION, DUT LIBRARY

(continued from page 3)



Rocky helped us develop the notion of information justice accompanying the different vectors of distance, class, and other related injustices that continue to haunt our pursuit of fundamental change in social, economic, and political relations. While distance and the cost

of information may appear to be a disparate set of challenges, Rocky showed that in many ways they all come back to questions of access and justice. These imperatives shed light on the diverse set of problems that our democracy has to grapple with and provide innovative ways of thinking about the political economy of information in the network society, as well as about their interconnectivity.

There is, as Rocky reminded us often, a close relation between information access and transport vulnerability, the struggle for an information commons, the splintering of library and information infrastructural systems,

Appointments at University of Johannesburg Library



KHULEKANI ZUMA has been appointed as Faculty Librarian: Education. He is a Library and Information Science specialist who began his academic journey by enrolling and obtaining a Diploma in Library and Information Science

as his first tertiary qualification at the Durban University of Technology (DUT) in 2013. In 2014 he obtained his B-Tech Degree in Library and Information Science from DUT. In 2019 he obtained his Honours Degree in Information Science from UNISA and is currently a Master's Degree candidate at DUT. His work experience in the LIS field began at the DUT, Umsunduzi Local Municipal Library, Umgeni Water, Department of Higher Education and Training (Vhembe TVET College) and the University of KwaZulu-Natal.

His research interests are 4IR, Blockchain Technology, Information Literacy, Blended learning, Digital Records Management and Indigenous knowledge.

We are excited to have Khulekani's industry experience and first-class education help us to reach our goals for 2022! He will be based on our Soweto Campus.



PETER MATSHITSE has recently been appointed as a Shelver at the University of Johannesburg Library. He has a Diploma in Teaching and Sports Management. Peter played soccer for BAFANA BAFANA. He also worked as an Educator and now is a shelver at UJ Library.



ZANELE BRIDGET NYALUNGA has been appointed as an Assistant Librarian: Research Support. She obtained a Higher Certificate in Archives and Records Management in 2016 and a Bachelor's degree in Information Science in 2019 from

UNISA. Currently, Zanele is doing an Honour's Degree in Archives and Records Management at UNISA. Zanele has worked at Masoyi Community Library in Mpumalanga as an Assistant Librarian Intern. She also worked at Mpumalanga Provincial Archives and Records Management Services as an Archives and Records Management Intern.



THERESA MKATEKO VUKEYA has been appointed as Faculty Librarian of Humanities. She has a Master's degree in Commerce, specialising in advanced Information and Knowledge Management from UJ. Theresa has 23

years of experience in the library space, twenty of which is at UJ Library, two years as a library assistant at a public library and one year as a student assistant at Limpopo University library. She joined UJ as a Library Assistant at the circulation desk in 2001. In 2006 Theresa was the General Information Librarian, and in 2016 an Information Librarian for the College of Business and Economics (CBE) and Humanities.

She obtained a Master's degree in Commerce (MCom.), specialising in advanced information and knowledge management from UJ in 2018.

RENEKA PANDAY, UJ

Remembering Professor Rocky Ralebipi-Simela and Celebrating Her Presence in our Work and Life

the management of unequal citizenship regimes and regional borders, and the impact of marginalisation and spatial exclusion. Yet most of our policies and development plans, in practice, continue to fail to get an effective grasp of the whole terrain. They still have to do enough to democratise the very approaches they continue to employ, for example, by seeking out implementable ideas around information justice from the Library and Information Services Transformation Charter that Rocky commissioned as Chairperson of the National Council for Library and Information Services. The Charter defines the challenges facing the sector and provides a clear framework for the principles and mechanisms for effecting the changes needed for it to contribute to the elimination of information illiteracy and inequality, and the building of a reading public. Consistent in her commitment to build an information literate society, she commissioned, as National Librarian, an assessment of reading patterns in the country as a whole. The picture that emerged is disappointing.

She enjoined us to think of the library as a special place for everybody, as a

companion to all of us, and that it should be integrated into the knowledge economy at all levels. She hoped that equal access to information would become a norm that inspires inclusive deliberation and decision. The interdisciplinary fields of distance, mobility, and information access, out of which the Library and Information Services Transformation Charter grew, offers an opportunity to bring multiple perspectives about various forms of distance, mobility, and unequal access in relation with each other. There are fundamentally political, social, and economic questions that require attention to the information injustice built into present experiences of being a citizen excluded from the inner circle of knowledge and power – the lack of an information commons, as it were, and processing ideas through information technologies.

BY PROFESSOR MUXE NKONDO
FORMERLY CHAIRPERSON OF THE COUNCIL OF THE
NATIONAL LIBRARY AND OF THE PANEL OF EXPERTS
THAT DRAFTED THE LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SERVICES
TRANSFORMATION CHARTER



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Facilitating *access* to information



Think outside the box...

“I see no fundamental difference between the role of libraries in the 19th century and today. Broadly I see that as to educate, inform and yes, entertain. The media and the delivery methods are all that have really changed.”

Mick Fortune - Chair, Library Communications Framework



Access



Onsite

Through the library's Wi-Fi



Offsite

URL referral from the library's website



Offsite

Using a library card



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120+
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