

LIASA IN TOUCH

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LIASA Representative Council 1999



1997 **LIASA** 25 YEARS 2022

1997 - 2022

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One December morning in 2008, I sat across a table from Rachel More, Ujala Satgoor and Robert Moropa being interviewed for the position of CiCD Coordinator at LIASA.

Little did I know when I walked into my new job on 2 January 2009 that 13 years on, I would still be with LIASA and celebrate its 25th birthday. During this time, I have occupied many positions and have seen many staff members come and go. It is a pleasure to have stability at the LIASA National Office with Kagiso Ledwaba celebrating eight years with LIASA and Lebogang Masalesa five years. Having worked with seven Presidents and Executive Committees, each term of office bringing its own highlights, challenges and joys, I've seen CiCD, NGPL, and many other major projects running its course and successfully concluded. I remember the big move in July 2009, when we moved to LIASA House on the National Library of South Africa's premises, who to this day very generously hosts the LIASA National Office. During the past 13 years I've met so many wonderful people, each in their own right contributing to my personal development – whether it is through mentorship, being a role model, being a friend, or just through a smile of encouragement or a few words, while rushing past at the annual conference.

While we can reminisce about the good old times, we have also

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seen progress. While a shortened version of EXCO meetings was done through teleconferences pre-Covid-19, it was not the norm. These days face to face EXCO meetings are scheduled quarterly only, while there are monthly virtual meetings. In person events are slowly coming back again, but webinars and virtual events are still very popular. Not only is it cheaper, which results in more regular meetings or events, more people are able to fit them into their schedules since travel time is not a factor with virtual meetings. Persons that might not have been able to attend events or meetings in the past due to distance or personal circumstances, now have the opportunity to join in these events. Since the beginning of 2022 up to the end of April, there have been 11 webinars presented by the Interest Groups; the SALW launch event had more than 280 attendees; 64 meetings, both Branch and Interest Group Committee as well as EXCO or task team meetings, and also General Branch Meetings; and 32 training sessions on using MyLIASA (16 each of sessions 1 and sessions 2) for Branch and Interest Group Committee Members.

MyLIASA, the LIASA Association Management System, is a great all-under-one-roof system for you, the member, the Representative Council, Executive Committee, Branch and Interest Group Executive Committees and the various task teams to find, store and,

disseminate information and it serves as a repository and an archive to preserve the LIASA institutional memory and history. MyLIASA Training is compulsory for all Branch and Interest Group Committee members and to date 42 have successfully completed the 2-session training.

Since the beginning of the year, you would also have seen the monthly email on LIASAOnline alerting you to the upcoming events and meetings for the following month. You can register for the events through the links provided or you can head over to the Calendar on the LIASA website and view all the events there. All webinars are recorded and uploaded after the event to the LIASA YouTube Channel, LIASANews (<https://www.youtube.com/user/LIASANews/playlists>), where you can view it if you were not able to attend the live webinar. On top of that, all designation holders can earn CPD points by attending the live webinars.

In April we reached 1000 members for 2022. While this is an 11% increase compared to the numbers for April 2021, it is still on average 24% lower than the totals for April 2020 and 2019. How do you show the value of being a LIASA member to your colleagues and friends – let us know!

Congratulations on 25 years, LIASA!

ANNAMARIE GOOSEN (PL)SA
LIASA MANAGER

From the Editor

Dear LIASA member

Welcome to the 25th Anniversary issue where you can discover the origins of LIASA from the members who were instrumental in its establishment and laying strong foundations. You can also share in the reflections of members on how they have benefitted from the Association and why they renew their membership year after year – “ask not what LIASA can do for you, but rather what you can do for LIASA” (to paraphrase a more famous quote). Of special note is the article on LIASA's Professional Body status, what it means and how you can apply to be awarded the Professional Librarian designation. These articles illustrate how membership of LIASA is of mutual benefit and I hope that they will encourage you to maintain your membership and also recruit more members.

This issue also celebrates the 20th year since the official launch of South African Library Week. This year's theme “ReImagine!

RePurpose! ReDiscover... Libraries!” seems to have resonated with librarians across the country especially after the past two years of COVID-19 restrictions and many were happy to once again welcome visitors to their libraries.

Further, enjoy the variety of news snippets from libraries, from World Read Aloud Day celebrations to coding programmes and the introduction of InstaNovels to encourage leisure reading.

My heartfelt thanks go to all the contributors and our loyal advertisers for this 48-page bumper anniversary issue.

The deadline for the September issue is 22 July 2022. Please look out for the detailed Call for Articles which will be distributed via LIASAOnline and send your contributions directly to me at: LiasaInTouch@liasa.org.za I look forward to your submissions.

NOHRA MOERAT PL(SA),

From the President



Nazeem Hardy

and LIASA was allowed to be the publisher of this prestigious journal. (See the article by its first editor, Prof. Dennis Ocholla, elsewhere in these pages)

Reflections

It is my privilege to be the President of the Association during this momentous time and there are many contributors who will, together with me, reflect on this amazing journey.

My own journey with LIASA started in the then Bellville Library Chief Librarian's office, when she encouraged me to become a member. I had heard of LIASA via colleagues but had not paid it much attention at the time; Ilze Swart was a huge advocate for the Association and encouraged many librarians to become members and even more so, to get involved. Not long after that, I got roped into starting a PACLIG Interest Group in the Western Cape, again with Ilze's prompting, and I was proud to be part of this fledgling attempt to get this entity off the ground.

My next major involvement with LIASA came about when I applied for the South African Library Leadership Project (SALLP) and this opportunity created many firsts for me. It afforded me my first time to fly somewhere, anywhere, and then, when I was accepted to be part of the programme, my first trip overseas. The SALLP project brought me into contact with the LIASA leadership as well as future leaders of the Association and probably served as the foundation for where I find myself today. The SALLP journey placed me on a trajectory to "pay back" this amazing opportunity that was afforded to me and I saw this as the natural course that my professional life would take.

I spent a number of years in

the LIASA structures following this, including Branch Chair, which also afforded me my first stint as an EXCO member. This was followed by my election as LIASA National PRO, whereafter I became an ordinary LIASA member again. In 2015, I started working more closely within a LIASA environment when IFLA came to Cape Town. The hosting of the Public Libraries Conference by the City's LIS Department energised my participation in LIASA once again. In 2016 I attended the Western Cape AGM where discussions started around restructuring, leading to a motion made at that year's Conference and which started us on a journey that is still playing itself out. Little did I know at the time that I would be President at a time when we are trying to bring that restructuring conversation to fruition. In 2018 I was approached to stand for President-Elect and the rest, as they say, is history.

Looking back at the time that I have been involved with LIASA, much of it has revolved around connections and networking. The people that I have met on this amazing journey have all enriched my professional life, have been there when I needed advice and solutions to problems, and acted as an informal university that has shaped the professional I am today. LIASA has always been the means to cope with work and to balance the demands of my work life and in turn enrich it, because it afforded me an outlet for the professional side of my life which helped me work better in many ways, especially in times when the work itself was not always personally fulfilling.

South African Library Week 2022

The South African Library Week celebrations took place in March and it was wonderful to see

people embracing the theme in a variety of ways and instil the sentiment that we were striving for. The many celebrations during this time can be enjoyed elsewhere in the magazine. While it is satisfying to see how libraries adopted the theme and made it their own, it is a concern that we still have library organisations that do not embrace the LIASA SALW theme and imagery to celebrate what is a LIASA flagship event. We need to work harder at making this a truly nationally celebrated event under one theme and one poster.

LIASA-SCECSAL Conference 2022

By now you should have seen the notice on LIASOnline advising that we will have a joint LIASA-SCECSAL Conference this year. This will certainly be a highlight on the calendar as we get to share and exchange ideas and information on libraries on the African continent. The theme for this year's conference is "AGAINST ALL ODDS: RESILIENCE OF LIBRARIES IN A POST-TRUTH WORLD". The theme allows us to carry through our SALW theme to the conference as we deliberate on reimagining, repurposing and rediscovering libraries in a post-truth world. This is a practice started during 2021 where the SALW theme resonates throughout the year, including Conference and other events.

The Conference theme specifically looks at taking a somewhat reactionary subject to one that is more positive in outlook when speaking about libraries in the COVID era.

I hope that you will be able to join us either in person or online as we look forward to hosting you at this special event.

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

Dear LIASA members

Welcome to the 25th Anniversary edition of the *LIASA-in-Touch*. It is indeed a milestone for us to have reached this point in our history.

While we are celebrating 25 years of existence, the journey of LIASA started before that and in the late Clare Walker's definitive article "LIASA 1997-2007: Background and recent history" (https://cdn.ymaws.com/www.liasa.org.za/resource/resmgr/about/walker_clare_article-liasa-1.pdf), this journey to the "new dawn" that is LIASA is described in detail. It is worth our while to read that document in order to understand where we come from.

And while we celebrate LIASA's 25 years, we also celebrate other milestones during this incredible year. It is 20 years since the first SA Library Week (SALW) celebrations took place at the opening of Etwatwa Library in Daveyton with the theme "Free your mind – Read! (2002).

LIASA-in-Touch, LIASA's official magazine also celebrates its 25th year, having started out in 1997 as an A5 leaflet and evolving into the wonderful publication it is today.

SAJLIS celebrates its 20th year in its current manifestation. As per the SAJLIS history, it was in 2002 that SAJLIS changed its name

1997 Interim Organising Committee including UP staff



LIASA 25TH Anniversary Celebration Gallery



ULIS-2 Interim Executive Committee 1996 -1997



SOUTH AFRICAN LIBRARY WEEK
17 - 22 MARCH 2003



SALW 2006 Gauteng South
Maria Digoamaje and Ntombi
Tladihyani



LIASA Representative Council 2002



SALW 2005 LIASA officials and guests



VIPs @ LIASA Conference 2006



IFLA President Dr Alex Byrne @
WLIC 2007



Rene Schoombe and Nazeem
Hardy @ IFLA-WLIC 2007



Gcina Mhlope opening WLIC 2007



eTV delegates @ WLIC 2007



WLIC 2007: Ingrid Thomson



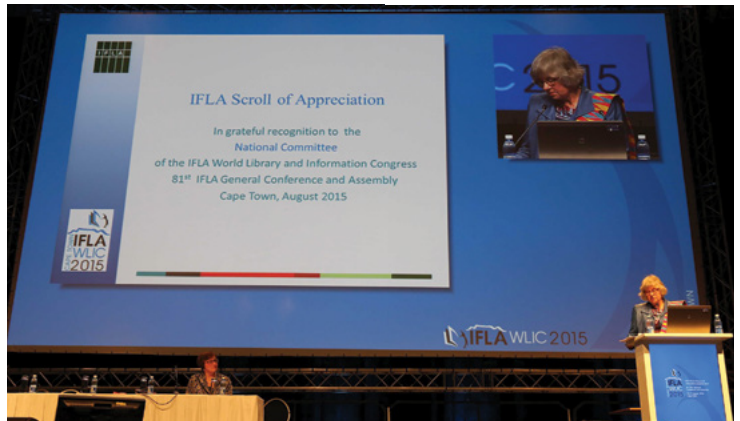
South African Library Week 2003 on the road to Kuruman



Jou REG om te lees!



Nadine Gordimer being honored at SALW 2010



IFLA-WLIC 2015 Cape Town Scroll of Appreciation



Exco 2012-2014: M Hough, M Ntombela, I Thomson, U Satgoor, S Molawa, T Mzizi, K Muller and T Els. Absent: J Myeza



Naomi Haasbroek
LIASA Honorary Member



Sinikka Sipilä (centre) outgoing
IFLA President with the scroll



Exceptional contribution LIASA
2014 Awards: Laila Vahed



Exceptional contribution LIASA
2014 Awards: Clare Walker



Naomi Haasbroek, Segametsi Molawa, Mandla Ntombela, Ujala Satgoor and Rachel More, 5 LIASA Presidents @LIASA 2017



LIASA Representative Council 2016 - 2018

SALW 2017: City of Cape Town march



Global Gleanings #12

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

LIASA in the Literature. Part 1: the beginnings

Twenty-five years! It calls for a celebration, and so this edition of my column and the next are devoted to what has been written about LIASA, both here and internationally. It comes in two parts. In Part 1 I deal with LIASA's "prehistory", the processes that led to its founding in 1997, and its first annual conference in 1998. Part 2 deals with LIASA's development after 1998, and will follow in the next issue of *LIASA-in-Touch*.

This is more than a literature review, for I also share some personal recollections and reflections on a hectic period of my life, when I was deeply involved in what became LIASA. To compile it, I searched my own database, followed up references, and (not having access currently to any of the specialist bibliographic databases) searched in Google Scholar. If any important sources have eluded me, I will be happy to receive the references. I have not limited myself to foreign literature. In fact, most of the references are to South African writings. However, I have not included items from LIASA's own publications, annual reports and the like, which are important sources for historians.

From NEPI to ULIS

The founding of LIASA in 1997 was the result of a long process of reflection, consultation, and concerted action by the leadership of our profession. I was privileged to play a part in steering this process. My involvement started when I participated in the ANC-aligned National Educational Policy Investigation (NEPI) project, working on what became the NEPI report on library and information services (National Education Policy Investigation 1992). NEPI was intended as preparation for the expected transfer of power to a democratically elected government. It alerted the library profession to the need for change. In particular, it raised the question: how can and should libraries contribute to the reorientation and transformation of our society? This was the theme of the Conference on Library and Information Services in Developing South Africa (LISDESA), jointly organised by the South African Institute of Library and Information Science

(SAILIS) and the African Library Association of South Africa (ALASA), following a long process of confidence building between these associations. The LISDESA Conference took place in Durban in January 1995 (Syphus 1995). Here disunity in the profession became glaringly obvious as a major obstacle. A new, unified, non-racial library association was urgently needed. After vigorous debate, a resolution was passed by an overwhelming majority at the final plenary session of the conference. It called for the establishment of a representative Steering Committee for the **Unification of Library and Information Stakeholders (ULIS)**.

The ULIS Steering Committee was instructed to organise a conference within 12 months, when a national library association would be formed. By dint of a huge amount of work and despite several setbacks, the Steering Committee organised the ULIS Conference, which was held in Johannesburg in July 1996. This conference unanimously adopted a formal resolution to embark on a process of unification which would result in the formation of a new library association (Walker 1996). I was elected to chair the Interim Executive Committee that was formed to lead this process. Wanting to adopt a non-partisan position, at this point I resigned as a member of SAILIS. I had been a member of SAILIS and its predecessor since 1968.

The Constituent Conference, 1997

It was a tall order, but within a year we managed to organise LIASA's Constituent Conference. It was held in July 1997 in Pretoria, attended by over 450 participants. Robert (Bob) Wedgeworth, then President of IFLA, Leo Voogt, IFLA Secretary General, Ross Shimmon, Chief Executive of CILIP and later Leo Voogt's successor at IFLA, and Kay Raseroka, our mentor and in a sense the "godmother" of our association, were there to support and guide us. A draft constitution was proposed and debated at length. On the final morning the proposed constitution, as amended, was put to the vote and adopted unanimously and enthusiastically by a show of hands. Then a final vote was taken on the name of

the new association. I have a vivid memory of the three notable IFLA personalities sitting and squatting on the podium while they counted the votes. The members of the provincial support groups (PSGs) and a Transitional Executive Committee (TEC) were elected. The conference concluded with the launching of the new association at a festive luncheon for all the participants and several guests of honour, including the then Minister of Education, Prof. Sibusisu Bengu. Here Bob Wedgeworth announced the result of the vote on the name of the new association. The name chosen was the Library and Information Association of South Africa (LIASA). The acronym LIASA appropriately sounds like the Nguni word "liyasa", which means "dawning" or "beginning".

During the Constituent Conference we started a membership drive. I signed up first, and that is how I became Member no. 1. My wife, Monika was next, and became Member no. 2. For the occasion she had arranged for the creation of an art installation, in the form of a bare tree. A piece of coloured paper cut into the shape of a leaf was included in the delegates' conference packs. Participants who wanted to join LIASA were encouraged to write their hopes and wishes for LIASA on their leaf, and attach it to the tree. Are there any old-timers who remember it, and still have photographs? Mine are lost. I do hope that some survive in LIASA's archive.

I was elected to chair the TEC. Our task was to recruit members, negotiate with the existing library associations, lobby government, hold elections for office-bearers, and organise LIASA's first annual conference.

Towards the first Annual Conference (1998)

The existing library associations with which we negotiated were SAILIS and ALASA. The Library and Information Workers Organization, LIWO, had opted out of the process. Here I need to clarify a point which is quite often misunderstood. We did not attempt to unify the library associations. We sought to unify the library and information profession. That is why we asked SAILIS and ALASA to disband

and to encourage their members to join LIASA. We did not ask them to transfer their members to us. The reason for this is that SAILIS was well-organised, well-resourced and much larger than ALASA. A merger of the two would have looked too much like a takeover by SAILIS. The members of ALASA had built up their association in the face of many difficulties and they were rightly proud of that they had achieved by themselves. Anything that looked like a takeover would have lacked credibility. This was a difficult decision, which the TEC members debated passionately. A merger would have created an association with a membership of several thousand from the word go. By the process we chose, we risked losing some of those members. This is indeed what happened. SAILIS and ALASA agreed to disband, but despite our recruitment efforts most SAILIS members and some from ALASA never joined LIASA. Today LIASA is still struggling to grow its membership. We had to pay a price for our credibility, but I do not think we realized how large and long-lasting the effect of the decision would be.

During this period, along with other TEC members, and with the generous support of the State Library Board, I travelled all over South Africa to explain to LIS workers what we were doing and to encourage them to join. We went not only to major cities but also to smaller centres where library associations had never met. I recall going to George, Uitenhage, and Empangeni, among other towns.

All the TEC's tasks were urgent, but one stood out. We had to act without delay to sensitise government to the deterioration of the country's libraries. After we had collected information from members and institutions throughout the country and from other sources, a memorandum on *The state of libraries in South Africa* (Lor 1998a) was submitted to the Parliamentary Portfolio Committee for Arts, Culture, Languages, Science and Technology, which received it sympathetically – but without doing much about it. When presenting the memorandum, I suggested to the MPs that on every six-pack of beer a one cent

levy should be imposed to fund books, reading and libraries. They thought this amusing. But just imagine how much money this could have raised! The memorandum was widely disseminated and received considerable attention from the media.

In preparation for the first annual conference, the TEC had held an election for LIASA's committees and office-bearers. After my exhilarating and exhausting spell in the hot seat, I was both proud and relieved to hand over LIASA as "a going concern" to LIASA's first elected President, Ellen Tise, and her executive at the first annual conference, held in Bloemfontein in November 1998. I remained active in the Northern Gauteng branch and national executive, but my attention necessarily shifted to my international work, as chair of the Conference of Directors of National Libraries (CDNL) and especially to my work at the State Library. Together with the South African Library in Cape Town, we were on the cusp of transformation as we drafted new legal deposit and national library legislation and prepared for the merger of the two national libraries to form the National Library of South Africa.



LIASA Transitional Committee 1997 - 1998

Front row: Koekie Meyer (Secretary), Tommy Matthee (Treasurer), John K. Tsebe (Deputy Chairperson), Peter Lor (Chairperson), Qondi Malotana (Eastern Cape), Carol Mafa (Northern Province) and Robin Gherasim (Western Cape)

Back: Mercia Coetzee (Free State), Marietjie Marais (Mpumalanga), Doors Serfontein (Kwazulu-Natal), Robert Pearce (Gauteng), Ellen Tise and Laila Vahed (Marketing)

Absent from photo: Theleso Leepile (North West), Ellen Phuthi (Northern Cape) and Robert Moropa

Literature about the founding of LIASA

A fair amount has been written about the founding of LIASA. Having been deeply involved, I was in a position to report on the process, but had little time to do this. I did report on LIASA to the international profession at a conference in Budapest in May 1998. It formed part of the Andrew Mellon Foundation's programme to renew libraries and librarianship in Eastern Europe after the break-up of the Soviet empire. Here the founding of LIASA was held up as an example for librarians in that region to

follow (Lor 1998c). I realize that very few of my readers are likely to read Ukrainian, but given our grave concern about the fate of our colleagues in Ukraine, I feel I should mention that Ukrainian librarians expressed a lot of interest in my paper. It was subsequently translated into Ukrainian and published in their library journal *Visnyk Knyzhkovoi palaty* (Lor 1998b). I find it very sad that colleagues who were trying so hard to establish a professional association fit for a newly democratic dispensation, are suffering under Russian aggression. The paper was

subsequently published by the Open Society Institute (Lor 1999). I also gave a paper on LIASA at the 1998 IFLA Conference (Lor 1998d). However, it was the late Clare Walker who was the most prolific in writing up our prehistory and beginnings (Walker 1993; 1994; 1996; 1997; 1998; 2004). Gwenda Thomas also reported on LIASA's prehistory in the *SAILIS* newsletter (Thomas 1996; 1997), and the birth of LIASA was discussed in a paper by Rachel More at a conference of African Library Association of South Africa (ALASA) in June 1998 (More 1998).

Concluding thought

There are limits to what one can learn from published literature about LIASA. For a fuller picture we need to study LIASA's own publications, trawl through its archives for unpublished documents, and collect the reminiscences of those who were there. I would encourage the current LIASA leaders to nurture the archives and to elicit reminiscences from the surviving pioneers by means of oral history recordings. Now, before it is too late!

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It gives me great pleasure to congratulate LIASA on its 25th anniversary.

It is a major milestone not just for the library and information profession in South Africa, but for the whole African continent. It has been a great honour and privilege to serve as LIASA's first president from 1998 – 2000 and 2000 -2002.

The launch of LIASA on 10 July 1997 in Pretoria came at the end of an intensive constituent conference which started on 8 July 1997, marking the end of the process of the unification of all existing library organisations in South Africa. The library and information sector did not escape the problem of historical baggage in post-1994 South Africa. Radical change was crucial for all organisations and associations in the country, from political organisations to sporting groups to professional organisations. Apartheid and separate development also meant that every discipline had more than one representative organisation. The Unification process for the library and information sector was initiated in January 1995 at the Conference on Libraries and Information Services in Developing South Africa (LISDESA). LISDESA was an initiative of the two largest existing organisations at the time, the South African Institute for Librarianship and Information Science (SAILIS) and the African Library Association of South Africa (ALASA). It was at LISDESA that the first Steering Committee for the Unification of Library and Information Stakeholders (ULIS) was elected and given the mandate to carry forward the process for a new organisation.

The process included the ULIS-1 Conference that was held in July 1996 in Johannesburg where an Interim Executive Committee (IEC) was elected and then mandated to draft a constitution for discussion by all the stakeholders. The IEC, supported by Provincial Support Groups (PSGs) representing all nine provinces in



the country, eventually arranged the Constituent Conference (ULIS-2) at the University of Pretoria from 8-10 July 1997.

Besides more than 450 delegates, the conference was attended by high level representatives of the profession, including the IFLA President at the time Robert Wedgeworth and Secretary-General Leo Voogt, as well as Ross Shimmon, Chief Executive of the British Library Association and later Secretary-General of IFLA. Kay Raseroka, IFLA President 2003 – 2005, from Botswana who chaired the conference and led the facilitations, assisted by Eileen Brannigan, who was well known for the role she played in facilitating the unification of South Africa's fragmented nursing associations.

After days (and nights) of tedious and arduous discussion and work, the constitution was unanimously adopted. The name **Library and Information Association of South Africa** was voted in by a large majority. Significant to note that the acronym LIASA, if pronounced "liyasa", in the Nguni languages means "the dawning". The Conference then voted in a Transitional Executive Committee

who had the responsibility to get LIASA off the ground, and among other things recruit membership, establish branches and host the first annual conference not later than December 1998.

And so, LIASA's first conference was held from 15-17 November 1998 in Bloemfontein under the theme "Towards a library and information renaissance in South Africa", where I was elected its first President for the term 1998 -2000 and for a second term from 2000 to 2002.

I was asked to reflect on my terms of office and to describe what I consider as highlights and contributions to the evolution of the Association. This is a tall order as my memory is not as good as it was 24 years ago, but I'll give it a go. There were many, but well, without any doubt, the top highlights were setting up LIASA structures, the grant awarded by the Carnegie Corporation of New York to set up the LIASA office and the appointment of staff, establishing branches in all nine provinces and national interest groups, recruiting members, hosting SCECSAL for the first time in South Africa in April 2002, the publishing of the South African Journal of Libraries

and Information Science as the official research journal of LIASA since 2002, the publishing of the newsletter *LIASA-in-Touch* and representing LIASA at IFLA.

However, my journey with LIASA started in 1996 when I was elected secretary of the Interim Executive Committee (IEC) at the ULIS-1 conference referred to earlier. I guess one could say I was in the right place at the right time. It was the first time that I attended a library conference. I had just started working at Wits University Libraries and I thought it was a good opportunity to meet other librarians and to network. So, when one of the delegates suggested that I volunteer for the IEC, I had no idea what I was letting myself in for. It was hard work with long hours, but an enriching and rewarding experience.

My involvement in LIASA led to many opportunities and contributed immensely to my career and resulted in the many leadership positions I have held in the profession to date. I attended my first IFLA Conference in 1997 in Copenhagen, Denmark, where South Africa was readmitted into IFLA and in 2001 I was elected to the IFLA Governing Board for two terms.

During my term of office, LIASA successfully bid to host the IFLA World Library and Information Congress in South Africa for the first time in 2007. Also in 2007, I was elected President-elect of IFLA, the first South African to hold this position - I quote from a news item in the IFLA Africa section Newsletter: "After hosting a world class IFLA Congrex 2007, South Africa plays a pivotal role in IFLA leadership. Ellen Remona Tise, President-Elect of IFLA is Senior Director of Stellenbosch University Library and Information Services, South Africa. She begins her two-year term as President-Elect in 2007-2009 succeeding Claudia Lux as President in August 2009 for a two-year term as President, 2009-2011. We wish her well." <https://archive.ifla.org/VII/s25/news/s25newsletter-dec07-en.pdf>

As I said, LIASA has had a huge influence on my career. Many of my achievements are due to LIASA and I'm sure the same applies to my successors.

Thank you to LIASA and my very best wishes for the next 25 years!

ELLEN TISE

SENIOR DIRECTOR: LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SERVICES, STELLENBOSCH UNIVERSITY
LIASA PRESIDENT 1998-2000 AND 2000-2002
IFLA PRESIDENT: 2009 - 2011

RACHEL MORE

My term as LIASA President (2008-2010)

Introduction

The establishment of LIASA in 1997 marked the beginning of library advocacy and unity within the library and information (LIS) profession. As LIASA celebrates its 25 years of existence, growth and achievements despite challenges, it is commended for its role in promoting and enhancing the image of the LIS profession. It is also appreciated for its dynamic leadership as the voice of the sector. LIASA is congratulated for continuing to represent the interests and aspirations of LIS professionals. May it grow and continue to advocate for the provision of access to information for all in South Africa.

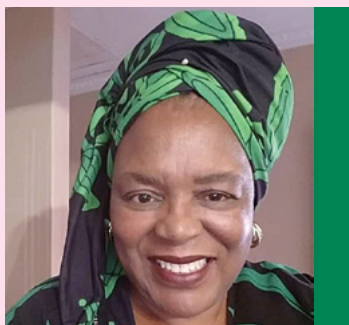
I am grateful to have been part of LIASA's journey throughout the 25 years. I appreciate the opportunity afforded me to be one of its Past Presidents (2008-2010). I express my gratitude to many who stood up to serve this noble organisation voluntarily throughout the years. It is their commitment and hard work which laid a firm foundation for the 25 years of LIASA's existence.

Reflection on My Presidency

When I stepped into the LIASA Presidency in September 2008, LIASA was 11 years old. Challenges were around finances, dwindling membership, lack of commitment as well as ineffective communication and marketing strategies. These challenges were a clear indication that drastic measures were needed to turn LIASA around. This inspired the choice of my presidential theme: "Repositioning LIASA for growth and development".

The highlights of my term and how they contributed to the evolution of LIASA:

- Supportive Executive Committee: I was fortunate to work with a team of dynamic leaders as part of my executive committee. They are a shining example of stepping up for LIASA leadership. One of them was LIASA Past President Robert Moropa, and three went on to become LIASA presidents (Naomi Hasbroek, Ujala Satgoor and Segametsi Molawa). It is great that Rebecca Senyolo is still serving in LIASA while two have retired (Judy Henning and Karin Kitching). Their unwavering support during my Presidency is acknowledged.
- Turning around LIASA's financial position: It was a great achievement to turn the financial situation of



LIASA from negative to stable by AGM 2009. Sources of income for LIASA's financial sustainability were identified as conferences, membership subscriptions, corporate products and fundraising drives. The 2009 conference yielded over R1million, and the President's Million campaign yielded R75,000 in the first year. By the end of 2009, LIASA grew its membership from 1300 to 1700 and was financially stable.

- The South African Library Week (SALW) programme which was launched by LIASA 20 years ago remains an important event in the calendar of LIASA and its members. The growing partnership between LIASA, NCLIS and DSAC over the years culminated in the official recognition and sponsorship of the SALW by DSAC. The theme was "Reading changes lives". Apart from interviews on TV and Radio, members received badges exclaiming "Proud to be a librarian".
- Our publication, the *LIASA-in-Touch* which was first published in 1997, continues to grow in quality and is reviewed positively by members. It captures the work done by LIASA and its members in different libraries

Why I stepped up for LIASA leadership

I stepped up to serve in various LIASA committees because it is our professional body and the voice of our sector. It offers dynamic leadership and represents my interests and aspirations. LIASA presented a great opportunity for me to become a leader, serve my profession and grow both professionally and personally. My nomination was a sign of confidence in my leadership. I stepped up to serve my profession.

What LIASA did for me (How I benefitted)

The benefits of serving in LIASA

MADELY DU PREEZ

Memories of a former Rep Council member and interest group chair

I served as a member of the LIASA Representative Council in 2002 when I was elected as the second chairperson of the Interest Group for Bibliographic Standards (IGBS), a position I held until September 2005 when Welna van Eeden became the IGBS chair.

The very first Representative Council meeting I attended was in Polokwane. This was a challenging and dusty venue for any conference which presented the LIASA Exco with many challenges. Yet in the end this proved to have been a very successful conference and we had a very successful first IGBS day.

In their first planning session for 2003, the IGBS executive committee decided to organise training events that would fill a need for cataloguing and classification training in South Africa and which would hopefully contribute to quality cataloguing. We had limited funds available and sought grants from Sabinet and the National Library of South Africa (NLSA) and bravely approached our very first three-day training workshop praying that at least 60 cataloguers would register for the event. We were pleasantly surprised when more than a hundred cataloguers registered and we were confronted with a too small venue to accommodate so many delegates. When the big day arrived, people were even prepared to sit on the steps in the venue to be part of this much needed training session – giving a new meaning to the concept "full house". Hereafter, these workshops became an annual event and larger venues such as the CSIR Conference Centre, Leriba Lodge and Unisa's Senate Hall were used to ensure we could accommodate everybody interested in attending.

Whereas the first IGBS training event focused on AACR2, classification and subject headings, later events sought to embrace the changeover from AACR2 to RDA as the cataloguing standard, MARC21, and the use

leadership are immeasurable. It moulded and shaped me professionally, elevating me to heights never envisioned. Today I am a committed, proud retired librarian who continues to serve my community. I am a LIASA Past President and an Honorary member of LIASA. I was fortunate to be among the first South African Library Leadership Project (SALLP) group to attend a fully sponsored leadership training



of different cataloguing software to further empower South African cataloguers.

During the first few years of IGBS' existence, Sabinet applied for a Carnegie Grant to train South African cataloguers who did not have a formal library qualification. They used IGBS as a training cataloguing platform for this purpose to empower cataloguers who were unable to acquire a formal library qualification. These training opportunities were offered in small groups at various venues across the country. Since the NLSA was the responsible body to ensure cataloguing standards in South Africa, they needed to ensure all South African cataloguers received RDA training. IGBS supported the NLSA with this training. Other needs such as cataloguing software, the use of cataloguers' desktop, and Web Dewey were addressed in later workshops.

COVID-19 contributed to a change in how LIASA communicates and organises events. What used to be physical events have now become online events making it possible for more members to participate and develop within the LIASA community. The IGBS team followed suit and cataloguing webinars have now become the new means of building a cataloguing community in South Africa.

I wish LIASA all of the best with the new Academy and training ventures.

MADELY DU PREEZ

programme at the Mortenson Centre for International Library Programs, University of Illinois, USA. I was exposed to international librarianship and able to build professional contacts which continue to benefit me.

Congratulations to LIASA. May it continue to grow from strength to strength.

RACHEL MORE PL(SA)
LIASA PRESIDENT 2008-2010

My LIASA story began with my participation in and attendance of the ULIS-2 (Unification of Library and Information Stakeholders) Constituent Conference at the University of Pretoria when the Library and Information Association of South Africa (LIASA) was launched on 10 July 1997.

As reported in the *e-bolela* newsletter of the then State Library, I was the 'curator' of the ULIS-2 listserv.

ULIS-2 was preceded by LISDESA (Conference on Libraries and Information Services in Developing South Africa) in 1995 and the ULIS-1 Conference in 1996, and had the mandate to form a new united LIS association. It was a 'new dawn' and LIASA was welcomed as an IFLA-member in Copenhagen, Denmark, in August 1997. New beginnings led to the First LIASA Conference in Bloemfontein in 1998, and following the LIASA Indaba on Branches and Interest Groups and a series of countrywide advocacy workshops, the formation of LIASA branches began in 1999.

The LIASA Gauteng North (GN) Branch was constituted in May 1999. The branch constitution was accepted at the GN Annual General Meeting in Nov. 1999, and approved by the LIASA Constitutional Committee, in July 2000. As LIASA member No. 417, I enthusiastically participated in branch activities and grabbed every opportunity to learn.

To belong to LIASA created a feeling of professional security and support, a sense of acceptance, inclusion, and identity. However, the biggest lesson and key ingredient of belonging, is effort ... and I gave my authentic self, in serving the GN Branch, while growing and learning and yes, having fun!

Who can forget ... the hard work, the challenges, the satisfaction after a successful event ... and the highlights, to name but a few from those early years:



- First GN Literacy Walk in the streets of Pretoria, presenting a Literacy Manifesto to the Executive Mayor of the City of Tshwane (Sept. 2001)
 - Night tour in the Pretoria National Zoological Gardens, celebrating oral tradition with the magic of storytelling (Nov. 2001)
 - Second GN Literacy Walk, presenting a memorandum on the state of community libraries to the Minister of Arts, Culture, Science and Technology (Mar. 2003)
 - Es'kia Mphahlele Community Library Branch Meeting, opposing the closure of libraries and advocating for libraries in the development of communities (Apr. 2005)
 - GN Directors' breakfast: Strength in partnership, encouraging institutional directors to motivate their staff to join LIASA ('Die Sinkhuis', Feb. 2006)
 - Hosting the 2006 Annual LIASA Conference, Saint George Hotel, Pretoria
 - GN SALW launch at the Saulsville Community Library (17 Mar. 2007)
- And in later years:
- 2015 Branch Seminar. Libraries for development: action, integration, and collaboration. Presenter: Ms R Mabudafhasi, Minister of Arts and Culture (Research Commons, UP Education Library, 25 June)
 - 2016 SALW event. Lifelong learning: caveats, nuances, and convolutions. Presenter: Prof. L. Dube, Unisa Dept. of

Information Science. (Villas Conference Centre, Arcadia, 17 Mar.)

- 2016 Branch Seminar. The library ecosystem: maximising collaboration and access to information for the marginalised LIS sub-sector. The LIS Transformation Charter, with Mr John Tsebe and Prof Archie Dick. (Research Commons, UP Education Library, 25 May).
- 2016 "67 Minutes for Nelson Mandela Day." Annual visit to the Paediatric Oncology Unit, Steve Biko Academic Hospital, Pretoria: Donation of books to young cancer patients (17 July.)

There is no better way to learn, than to join a LIASA governance structure. I was taught a wealth of professional and leadership skills since I first joined the GN Branch Executive Committee (BEC) as additional member in 2002. The GN Branch became my professional home, from where I could learn, give, and share. I served as branch treasurer from 2004-2005; as secretary, for two consecutive terms, from 2006-2010; and was elected as chairperson for the 2014-2016 term. I was honoured to be named Gauteng North Librarian of the Year in 2012. The learning continued with my election as national secretary to the LIASA Executive Committee, in 2010.

In addition, I was privileged to be part of a small group of cataloguing professionals who initiated the founding of the LIASA Interest Group for Bibliographic Standards in 2004. Elected as Communication Officer (2004-2006), I was responsible for the IGBIS newsletter. I had the opportunity to end my career as the IGBIS PRO for the 2018-2021 term of office ... and the IGBIS newsletter, is still alive and well and available on the IGBIS webpage.

LIASA membership provided me with several opportunities and many highlights:

- Attendance of LIASA events and conferences
- Attendance of the 2007 and

2015 IFLA WLIC conferences, in Durban and Cape Town. The Durban conference led to my participation in two international projects, representing LIASA and the National Library of South Africa: – 5th IFLA Meeting of Experts on an International Cataloguing Code (IME ICC5). Co-leader: Serial Workgroup (2007) – IFLA Cataloguing Section. ISBD Review Group: Submission of bibliographic record examples in 11 South African official languages for the ISBD Consolidated ed. (2007-2008)

- Attending international leadership projects, representing LIASA and the University of Pretoria: – Associate: International Librarianship (Mortenson Centre for International Library Programs, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, 2009) – Participant: Libraries linked: Professional Library Immersion Program (University of Alberta Libraries, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada, 2015)

I served in LIASA structures for most of my professional life. At times it was difficult to balance my voluntary LIASA work with the responsibilities of my 'day job' and that of family life. But I always had the support of my LIASA colleagues, and the understanding of my family.

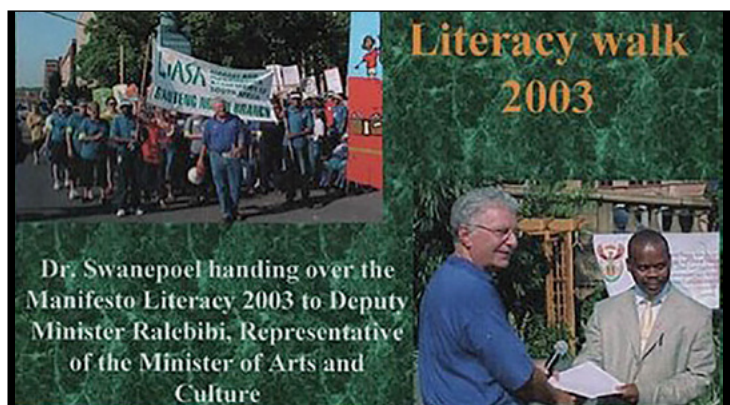
It has been a journey of personal and professional growth. I had the opportunity to meet extraordinary library professionals; to learn from the best in our profession; to network and form beautiful lifelong friendships; to travel and see 'the world of international librarianship.'

My wish is that others may have a similar journey, to the one which I was fortunate to experience as a LIASA member, for the past 25 years!

MARTHA DE WAAL PL(SA)

(SELF-EMPLOYED:

CATALOGUING AND METADATA SPECIALIST)



Cheers to LIASA! Having fun, while hard at work: Martha de Waal, Orgelien Schutte, Kathy Kunneke and Elsabé Nell

ELIZABETH PAMELA MAVUME A professional journey well travelled



manual way of preparing and filing catalogue cards was tedious and time-consuming. Improving my professional standards with passion, enthusiasm, and motivation for new developments is very important. Renewing my membership ensures that I do not miss any training workshops. The Continuing Professional Development (CPD) and Interest Group for Bibliographic Standards (IGBS) are monitored by LIASA for continuous learning for cataloguers to update and improve our technical skills, be more positive about new experiences, roles, and ideas. The zeal, dedication and passion to learn and put into practice new methods also helps to build my self-confidence, to be motivated and personally organised so as to contribute and add value to my library, institution, and profession. I remember the words of the CILIP President "CHANGE YOUR THOUGHTS AND YOU CHANGE THE WORLD".

Participation in LIASA allowed me to embrace support from colleagues in the Association. Networking through annual conferences, training, workshops, and participation in IGBIS is an opportunity of a lifetime whereby I network with library practitioners

in the information world. Coaching, mentoring colleagues, and guiding future librarians and students doing experiential learning added the love to this profession.

Leadership positions

Membership of LIASA for 25 years has also allowed me to be engaged in leadership positions in LIASA Eastern Cape (EC) Branch. I involved myself in preaching and spreading the good news about the new South African library association immediately after its launch in 1997. I recruited and encouraged (I still do) my colleagues (professionals and non-professionals). I was invited to events like SA Library Week, the opening of new libraries both locally and in rural areas, radio talk shows, and UNITRA Department of Library Science Student events to market LIASA. For me, this was a very exciting and motivating phase, informing communities about the birth of a new library association in South Africa. As a result, a number of colleagues positively joined the association.

- For two terms I served in the EC Branch Exco (BEC) as Secretary: 2008-2010 and 2016-2018
- Served as the IGBIS EC Branch Coordinator and Chairperson, for two terms, from 2006-2010.

Awards and Sponsorships received as a LIASA paid-up member

- IFLA Grant to volunteer at the World Library and Information Congress (WLIC), ICC, Cape Town 2015.
- Awarded LIASA Eastern Cape Branch Librarian of the Year in 2013.



I feel so grateful to be part of the celebration of my beloved Association.

As I am also on the first 50 members' list, (membership no.33), it gives me great pleasure to be a library professional and practitioner for the former University of Transkei (UNITRA), now Walter Sisulu University (WSU) Libraries. Being a staunch member of the Library and Information Association of South Africa (LIASA) has not been in vain. As a cataloguing librarian for 25+years, I developed a passion, love, and dedication for information and knowledge organisation, from the manual system to electronic/online cataloguing and online bibliographic tools. Thanks to technology!!! For me this meant the huge task of developing a positive attitude to take charge of my professional growth and development.

As a member of the association, renewing my membership each year gave me the opportunity for growth and a willingness to change and meet technological demands. Membership renewal meant not missing out on the opportunity to sharpen and gain new skills, new experiences, expertise, roles and ideas, and the aspect of meeting other information professionals so as to connect, network and share professional ideas. This assists me with contributing to the organisations and communities I serve within and outside the university.

New and different formats of information are produced, and so are more subjects, terminology, and metadata that need to be described in detail for easy access by library users. The old

- SABINET/LIASA Grant to volunteer in WLIC/IFLA Conference, ICC Durban, 2007.
- IFLA's CPDWL Section Award No. 110 to present at the full Satellite Conference in Milnerton, Cape Town, theme: "Taking Charge of your LIS Career: Personal Strategies, Institutional Programs, Strong Libraries". 12-14 August 2015.

Papers presented

Presented papers at workshops, seminars and conferences, both local and international:

- LIASA Conference: 13 October 2016 – Durban.
- Chartered Institute for Library and Information Professionals (CILIP) Umbrella 2013 Conference. Theme: Bringing the Information World Together, Discover, Connect, Achieve. Manchester University, United Kingdom, 2 July 2013.
- IUG-SA Conference, CSIR, Pretoria 16 November 2007.

Word of appreciation

I would like to thank LIASA for allowing me to connect with colleagues; contribute, empower and develop in my profession and at WSU institution, so as to serve with passion, and diligence and to uplift my professional standards.

ELIZABETH PAMELA MAVUME PL(SA)
SENIOR LIBRARIAN: TECHNICAL SERVICES
WALTER SISULU UNIVERSITY SASOL LIBRARY

PETER G. UNDERWOOD Why I am a member of LIASA



that is surprisingly difficult for those who are inexperienced to navigate. Furthermore, we are sensitive to the need for evaluation of information sources and careful guidance for users as to the origin and value of

information.

So, we require training – but, why should we need a professional association? I believe in the development of a peaceful society where people are encouraged and supported to reach the best of their potential; furthermore, I believe that such a society is forming in South Africa albeit slowly. Our present difficulties are those of a young democracy developing in a time of rapid technological change and experiencing major social and economic challenges. **The purpose of a professional association is to make sure that, as information professionals, we have access to the best training, advice about professional**

education, the collective experience of our profession and, above all, a coherent ethical basis for developing how we make our professional skills available within this developing society. (*My emphasis – Ed.*)

Having now retired, one might ask why do I retain membership? It is because I believe in the values that LIASA seeks to develop and perpetuate in a nation that is sorely in need of properly curated information.

PETER G. UNDERWOOD
MBA, FCLIP, MEMBER OF LIASA
EMERITUS PROFESSOR
UNIVERSITY OF CAPE TOWN
HONORARY PROFESSOR
UNIVERSITY OF KWAZULU-NATAL

We all acknowledge that work with sources of information requires training and experience and that this is exemplified in the collective defined by librarians, knowledge and information managers, data specialists and others whose core function is associated with finding, identifying, storing, and retrieving information for users.

Alongside this are technical problems associated with the legal protection of some types of information and ontological problems engendered by the description of information and its association with the semantic web of information.

What we deal with on a daily basis is a complex "machine"

ERNA MOSTERT

The importance of LIASA membership



It feels as if LIASA is forever part of my life! I cannot imagine how it will be not being a LIASA member ...

I joined LIASA in 1997 (or was it 1998?) and since then renewed my membership year after year after year.

Why?

It broadens my knowledge of the library and information field, because I can attend conferences, seminars, training sessions, etc.

It provides networking opportunities. At conferences, for example, I meet many librarians from various sectors, towns and provinces and learn from their experiences, realising we all share the same problems, challenges, satisfaction, etc. Friendships are formed.

As a LIASA member I can attend all these events at a membership fee, which a non-member doesn't have.

I receive the "LIASA-in-Touch" where I can read about activities, viewpoints, etc from members in other branches (I kept all my issues).

I receive "South African Journal of Libraries and Information Science" where I can read scholarly articles for self-development and be updated on research.

LIASA gave me an opportunity to attend an international conference, i.e., the 2007 IFLA/WLIC conference in Durban.

That broadened my horizon as I experienced the way international conferences are run and

encountered international leaders and workers in my field.

I believe in strength in numbers – the more members LIASA has, the stronger its voice can be. By renewing my membership every year, I want to contribute to this.

I can be recognised as a Professional Librarian by being a LIASA member. As a professional body LIASA awarded me the Professional Librarian designation in 2018.

LIASA gives me the opportunity to develop my leadership, communication, organisation and social skills by being branch chairperson, LiSLIG branch convener and LiSLIG national chairperson, part of the local organising committee for the 2009 LIASA Conference held in Bloemfontein, as well as by serving on various LIASA committees. These also resulted in me becoming a mentor for new and younger members.

I was chosen as Free State (FS) Branch Librarian of the Year in 2007 and 2014 for which I was very grateful. This also boosted my self-confidence.

Through LIASA I had the opportunity to take part in community outreach programmes, like at Bainsvlei Combined School in Bloemfontein. The FS Branch "adopted" this school. As part of our SALW projects in 2018, we started a vegetable garden at the school and established a library at the school hostel in 2019.

My participation in committees on branch level:

- 1998-2000: Treasurer FS Branch
- 2000-2002: Treasurer FS Branch
- 2002-2004: Secretary FS Branch
- 2004-2006: Secretary FS Branch
- 2006-2008: Treasurer FS Branch
- 2008-2010: Treasurer FS Branch
- 2010-2012: Chair FS Branch
- 2012-2014: Chair FS Branch
- 2014-2016: Secretary FS Branch
- 2016-2018: Secretary FS Branch
- 2018-2021: Membership Secretary FS Branch
- 2021-2023: Secretary FS Branch

ERNEST BAMPOE

Best wishes to LIASA from a long-standing member

I am currently a Cataloguer at the North West Provincial Library Services in Mahikeng.

I joined LIASA in 2000 when I had been in South Africa for only eight years.

Ever since I joined the Association, I have been to almost every conference that it has organised. I must say that I have learnt a lot from attending these conferences all around the country and I would like to say a big thank you to the organisers of every LIASA conference. This is because at every conference, I got to meet various delegates and listen to various speakers from around the world which increased my knowledge about the profession. I was particularly excited when the various branches were given the opportunity to host annual conferences in the provinces, which to me enabled us members of the Association to grow in terms of organising large gatherings and in the process learning a lot about LIASA. I also enjoyed working with various professionals and para-professionals and see them grow to like the profession more and more.

Since LIASA wanted to reach everybody in the library profession, there were branches which were administered in the various provinces to reach almost everyone who wanted to join

LIASA. I am privileged to say that I have occupied various positions at branch level, from Secretary to Chairperson, and this has added to my knowledge of holding positions in a well-recognised association like LIASA.

LIASA has indeed made me who I am as far as the library profession is concerned.

Being a member of LIASA has also given me the opportunity to attend IFLA conferences which has taught me a lot more about the profession and enabled me to meet a wide variety of learned professionals in the field of librarianship. I will not hesitate to say that " if you are in the information field and have not joined LIASA, then you are missing a lot". LIASA is one of the engines needed to make one a good librarian.

LIASA has over the last few years undergone a transformation to make it relevant in our current times and to accommodate every professional or para-professional in the field as far as membership fees are concerned, and I am hopeful that very soon all professionals will become members of the Association.

BRAVO TO LIASA AND MAY IT GROW FROM STRENGTH TO STRENGTH.

ERNEST BAMPOE #764

The LiSLIG Free State Branch was formed in 2003 after I called a meeting of special librarians in the Free State.

For LiSLIG Free State I served in the following capacities:

- 2003-2004: Co-ordinator FS Branch
- 2004-2006: Chair FS Branch
- 2006-2008: Chair FS Branch
- 2008-2010: Vice-Chair FS Branch
- 2010-2012: Chair FS Branch
- 2012-2014: Chair FS Branch
- 2014-2016: Chair-Elect FS Branch
- 2016-2018: Chair FS Branch

- 2021-2023: Secretary FS Branch

On national level I served as member of the National Representative Council (2008-2016).

- For LiSLIG on national level:
- 2006-2008: National Secretary
- 2008-2010: National Chair
- 2010-2014: National Vice-Chair
- 2014-2016: National Chair
- 2016-2018: National Secretary.

ERNA MOSTERT PL(SA)

MEMBER #855

PRINCIPAL LIBRARIAN

EDUCATION LIBRARY

FS DEPT OF EDUCATION



LiSLIG National BEC 2010-2012: Erna Mostert, Ann Torlesse, Eulanda Thantsa



FS Branch LoY 2007, (received trophy from Dora Ackerman (Branch Chair))

RENÉ SCHOOMBEE

25 Years of striving towards Excellence

I started my career as a Library Assistant at Rustenburg Public Library during 1991.

Through studying part time, I obtained my degree and later on my Masters, all part of me wanting to be the best librarian I could be. During this time, I witnessed the establishment of LIASA in 1997 and was part of the formation of the North West Branch. I served on branch level as PRO, Secretary and Chairperson. I also served as National PRO and Advertisement Editor for the *LIASA-In-Touch*.

LIASA contributed tremendously towards my growth as a librarian. I evolved from a young 18-year-old library assistant to a mature Principal Librarian, and my professional development was mainly due to the opportunities LIASA provided. Through being a LIASA member I had the opportunity to participate in the South African Library Leadership Programme (SALLP) and was also awarded Librarian of the Year in 2007. I was a SALI Trust grantee which enabled me to do my research for my Master's degree.

One of the questions I was asked during the award interview was: **As the prestigious award winner, what would the projects/issues be that you would like to see addressed in the LIS sector?** I then answered: *"I have been a Children and Youth Services' Librarian for the past 15 years and have recently changed positions. I am now a Teacher Librarian at a Primary School. If I receive the award, I would like to address the issue of teacher librarianship and the role they play in teaching information literacy in schools. Being part of the school system made me realise that there is a terrible neglect regarding educating children about the correct use of information".*

I was privileged to receive the award in 2007 (during the IFLA/WLIC Conference in Durban) and I used the prize money to attend the American Library Association's (ALA) conference in Anaheim, California during June 2008. The sunny California skies and the dazzle of Disneyland greeted some 22,000 librarians and library



lovers from all over the world. I spent five days engaging with librarians, attending school library sessions and visiting schools in Anaheim. I also met fellow South Africans there including our now National Librarian, Mr Kepi Madumo, then the Director of the NW Library Services. And yes, I did spend a day in Disneyland and Hollywood as well! This experience opened my mind and I am proud to say that I have developed a reading awareness programme for primary school learners that is now implemented by several schools throughout the country. I therefore definitely kept my promise made to the judges during my interview.

During the period I served LIASA as National PRO and heading a membership campaign, I was often asked "What can LIASA do for me?" Being on the receiving end of all that LIASA can offer, it was an easy question to answer. But with this, I always retorted and asked the person: "What can you do for LIASA?" This question derived from the realisation that when I served LIASA, I stepped into a leadership position. It gave me the courage to apply for grants, awards and leadership programmes. People so often don't apply for opportunities because they don't believe that they will be successful. How wrong can you be? The more opportunities you grab, the more visible you become and soon people will see you for what you are: A successful, passionate librarian! LIASA gives its members these opportunities.

LIASA is celebrating 25 years of making a difference in the library sector. I now challenge YOU to help LIASA towards another 25 years of creating new opportunities for our young emerging library professionals. We are looking forward to branch meetings, conferences and much more – LIASA is known for creating networking opportunities that make a difference!

RENÉ SCHOOMBEE PL(SA)
PRINCIPAL LIBRARIAN

DURBANVILLE LIBRARY, CITY OF CAPE TOWN



JOHN VAN NIEKERK

25 years with LIASA

Just as the country had a chance for a new beginning in the 1990s from a divided past, so too did the library profession and I wanted to be part of the change.

Joining LIASA as one of the early members was an easy decision for me. We now know that LIASA has developed into a respected national body for librarians and information people but at the time it seemed to some extent like a move into the unknown. What gave me confidence though were the people involved and those at the forefront. Many good leaders across the various structures have continued to guide LIASA through ever-quickenning changes. The world is not getting any easier.

You could, I suppose, do your job well enough in your institution and immediate occupational circle but there is such a greater, challenging and professionally stimulating environment out there as well as an enormous need for the development of reading, information access and libraries. An association such as LIASA provides a gateway to this world and the many people who can assist, guide, train, develop, challenge and make the professional journey far more interesting, useful and satisfying. It is not just in receiving that you derive satisfaction but perhaps even more so in contributing. I think that is essentially why I have been with LIASA for the past 25 years and continue the journey deep into retirement. Along the way, I became involved from time to time at branch level and nationally, mostly helping with financial aspects.

Then I was nominated to the Board of the S.A. Library and Information (SALI) Trust. LIASA and the SALI Trust had related beginnings and the bond has been maintained and strengthened over the years. The SALI Trust was started in 1998 as an independent trust shortly after the establishment of LIASA following the dissolution of SAILIS and other library associations. LIASA received some SAILIS funding, and the remainder went to the Trust whose overall objective was "... developing librarianship and information studies in order that library and information services of a high standard may be rendered by all persons active in the library and information sector in South Africa". Judicious investment and reinvestment have enabled a steady income that is ploughed back into the profession in the form of grants for library development and research



projects. Well over R1million has been disbursed in this way. Many postgraduate students have been assisted with research costs and support has been given to libraries to improve resources and services and NGOs working in the library and literacy field. School libraries in disadvantaged areas have been notable beneficiaries.

Clare Walker and John Willemse were among the first trustees instrumental in the formation and growth of the Trust with John Willemse going on to administer the Trust for many years. LIASA has been very supportive of the Trust with either the President or President-Elect serving on the Board. The link was formalised in 2016 with the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to jointly present a Lifetime Achievement Award at the Gala Dinner during the LIASA Conference. The LIASA website hosts a page on the SALI Trust and LIASOnline and *LIASA-In-Touch* frequently carry items about Trust activities and projects.

There are thus close links between LIASA and the SALI Trust and LIASA support is very important for the work of the Trust. LIASA's collaboration is one of many examples of the supportive role it plays for libraries, literacy, reading, information access and related fields as well as the people who work in these spaces. In so doing, LIASA is an important contributor to the development of the country. LIASA and the profession face many challenges but there are also opportunities, and it is up to us to take them on, just as the members did all those years ago when facing an uncertain future.

JOHN VAN NIEKERK
ADMINISTRATOR, SALI TRUST
(A LIASA MEMBER FROM THE BEGINNING)



FATIMA DARRIES Librarian of the year 2006

In 2006 I won the award for Librarian of the Year. I am honoured to have in my cohort Ms Joyce Myeza, from KZN and Ms Tienie de Klerk, from Gauteng North.

At the time that I won the award, I was the Western Cape Branch Chair. And I recall very well, flying up to Jo'burg, and then the trip to Centurion, for the interview. The Librarian of the Year is awarded at the gala dinner held during the LIASA Annual Conference. In 2006 it was a glamorous occasion held at the St George's Conference Centre. The moment was special to me personally and deeply affirming of my contribution to LIS, and still seems surreal to me.

I used the prize money to fund my visit to the President Thabo Mbeki initiated South African Timbuktu Manuscripts Project, in Mali. The Timbuktu manuscripts at the Ahmad Baba Centre were being cleaned and boxed for preservation. I managed to arrange my trip to coincide with a visit by South African conservationists from the South African National Archives and the South African National



Naomi Haasbroek, Fatima Darries and Tommy Matthee

Library, Mr Alexio Motsi, Ms Mary Manicka and the late Mr Ossie Cupido. I was able to have a look at their work with the local Timbuktu conservation recruits, who were trained to clean and prepare customised boxes for the manuscripts. More on the full Mali and Timbuktu experience can be found in the *LIASA-in-Touch*, March 2007.

As in all things in life, what you put in, is what you get out. By the time that I won the award, I had already served in Branch

and Interest Group portfolios. I started in 2000, when I first served on the Western Cape Branch Executive Committee. Serving on LIASA structures gave me the opportunity to make a positive impact on LIS in South Africa. The experience in the various portfolios gave me the confidence to also serve on international LIS and higher education bodies. It also gave me the courage to "buy the ticket so I could take the ride". I had to make myself available to be seen, to canvas

colleagues and line managers to complete the motivation and nominations, and to compete for THE national LIS award, the prestigious Librarian of the Year.

Winning the first national LIASA Award for Librarian of the Year put my home institution on the map. It became an employer of choice for professionals in the industry. Personally, the visit to the Timbuktu Manuscripts Project sparked my interest in national libraries and archives. From 2007, I served on the Board of the South African National Library for two terms of office until 2012.

Currently, I am the Deputy Director at Unisa Library responsible for cataloguing and description, research data curation and digitisation, and preparing for digital preservation. I continue to serve as the South African country editor for E-LIS, the oldest international repository for LIS and I have recently been appointed to the Management and Governance Subcommittee of the Digital Preservation Coalition Board.

FATIMA DARRIES
DEPUTY DIRECTOR, UNISA LIBRARY

JULIA PARIS Librarian of the year 2011

I wish to extend my heartfelt congratulations to the current LIASA President and Executive Committee, and all the past presidents and their executive committees on 25 years of outstanding professional standing and growth of the LIS profession in South Africa.

I feel blessed, and immensely privileged, to be included in this milestone celebration. Thank you for the invitation to contribute to this celebratory edition of the *LIASA-In-Touch*. May this article inspire many young LIS colleagues. My dominant aspiration was always to serve. LIS and LIASA afforded me the fulfilment of my aspiration when I became a librarian. Now I mentor, coach and facilitate personal growth. LIASA and the LIS domain was my safe growth container to transform from discriminatory mediocrity into glorious greatness.

Winning the LOY 2011 was a Cinderella (the shoe fits) moment for me. I did not expect to go to the ball. The Award opened up many doors for me and ignited unprecedented visibility that catapulted me into a vast range of projects which benefited both the beneficiaries and myself. I used the award money to



attend the IFLA 78th Congress held in Helsinki. I presented a paper: "Develop @ Your Library: Meaningful Partnerships Through Information Literacy in LIASA Gauteng South Branch and the City of Johannesburg Public Libraries". This paper was published in the IFLA Publications 157 Compilation.

I loved every moment of my new celebrity status. One month after winning the LOY 2011, I was invited to give various keynote addresses and presentations. One such was a presentation on Information Literacy to the City of Johannesburg Community Development: Library and Information Services. The presentation led to a long and beautiful partnership.

Other activities in 2012 and

beyond:

- Keynote to the Serrie Award Choir Champions of the University of Johannesburg entitled "Owning your Excellence"
- Keynote to 150 Women graduates of UJ entitled "Removing the Mask" preparing them for the world of work.
- A presentation to the City of Johannesburg Libraries on strategies for a Literacy Blueprint.
- Keynote to the UWC Librarians Award for Achiever Librarians who showed continuous success over 5 years in a row entitled: "Celebrating Yourself as a Librarian".
- A motivational address to the LIASA Gauteng North Branch entitled: "The WoW Factor in Libraries". I repeated this motivational presentation during SALW at the Johannesburg Public Library.
- A motivational address for the National Treasury at the opening of their annual Strategic Planning Indaba.
- From May to July 2012, I planned and hosted High Teas with a purpose to cultivate a love for reading with children. I was assisted by a diverse

group of professional women. I collected and donated children's literature to various charity organisations, and developed pre-school and community libraries for inner city school children. Books were donated to the Mandela Day 67 minutes projects, Inner City Community Library Projects and a community library for an after-care facility in Soweto.

- Presented at a HELIG meeting on E-strategy for Libraries.
- Presented at LIASA Gauteng North Branch to motivate members regarding a Career Portfolio for Librarians as a way to track your career progress.
- Initiated discussions on restoration of the burnt down Ratanda Public Library between the Lesedi Municipal librarians and the Municipal Management. I put a call out for help on LIASOnline. ASM Books responded with a book donation as did Ms. Naomi Haasbroek, Dr Peter Lor, and Ms. Rebecca Senyolo. Books were donated by Unisa. The books were handed over at a formal celebration by the then MEC for Education, Barbara Creecy, to the Mayor of the Lesedi Municipality.

DENISE NICHOLSON Librarian of the year 2010



Open Access Conference in Copenhagen in December 2010. These were very informative and encouraged me to continue working to promote open access and better copyright laws. Whilst in Copenhagen, I met my friend whom I had met at my first IFLA Conference in Glasgow in 2002. We spent the day walking in the snow and enjoyed an opera in the evening. I was also invited by the African Union to attend a meeting at WIPO in Geneva in November 2010, and to attend the IFLA Presidential Meeting and IFLA CLM mid-term meeting, both in The Hague in April 2011, but unfortunately, I was not able to attend.

My award prize money was R30,000 which had to be spent on a conference, an educational tour or for further studies. I decided to use the money to attend the M-Libraries Conference which was held in Brisbane, Australia, from 11-13 May 2011. I was invited to chair a session on 'Emerging Technologies' on 12 May 2011 and presented on "Mobile Technologies: Information on the Move ... or Stuck in a Groove: A

South African Perspective" on 13 May 2011.

I was fascinated by how different libraries around the world were engaging in mobile technologies and how advanced the Australian institutions and libraries seemed to be in the use of mobile devices in their teaching and library services. At that time South African libraries were discussing the use of mobile technologies but had not yet introduced them widely. I came to realise that libraries around the world experience similar challenges, whether they are in developed or developing countries. One of the pre-workshops I attended was organised by Apple, who demonstrated how to use iPad applications. Throughout the session, they had technical and bandwidth problems, which was a relief to know that this did not only occur in developing countries.

It was the first time that I had travelled to Australia, so I took the opportunity to visit my cousin in Upper Coomera on the Gold Coast and then travel to Auckland to visit my sister. I enjoyed

wonderful sightseeing and family visits, which I really treasured. Whilst in Auckland, I attended my first online international conference organised by the Catholic Bishop's Council in Australia. The conference was well organised with excellent timekeeping and expert speakers from around the world. This mode of conferencing fascinated me as so many people around the world were all listening and adding their voices on the topic. It also accommodated people who would not have been able to attend a face-to-face conference. Little did I know that nine years later, we would be engaging in online conferences in South Africa, due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

I am very grateful to LIASA and UKS Publishing for giving me the opportunity to travel to Australia to attend a very interesting conference, and to briefly visit my family.

LIASA, as my professional body, has always acknowledged and encouraged me in my career. It was LIASA that set me on my international copyright path by nominating me for membership of IFLA CLM in 2002. I am very grateful for LIASA's support and for its recognition of my professional contribution to library and information services in South Africa, Africa, and internationally.

DENISE ROSEMARY NICHOLSON PL(SA)
SCHOLARLY HORIZONS (OWN CONSULTANCY)

My professional library career commenced on 1 March 1983 at the University of the Witwatersrand (Wits) Library, where I worked in various specialist posts.

In November 1996 I was appointed in a new library post as Publishing Liaison Officer for the University. My main responsibilities were to advise on copyright issues and to clear copyright for course-material for students. As I took on more and varied responsibilities, I was promoted to Copyright Services Librarian and then Scholarly Communications Librarian. My work involved copyright clearances, and providing advice, training and workshops for staff and students on copyright, open access, scholarly communication and predatory publishing. I also worked in many community outreach projects outside Wits and was a member of various copyright committees internationally and in South Africa. I became very passionate about access to knowledge and advocating for fair and balanced copyright laws.

In 2010, Rachel More, President of LIASA, presented me with the LIASA/UKS Publishing Librarian of the Year Award at a gala ceremony at the LIASA Conference in Gauteng. I was humbled but also excited to be acknowledged by my professional body for my work in the field of copyright, open access and related matters. I had received the LIASA Academic Librarian of the Year Award in 2001, so this award was a real motivation for me to continue making a difference in my profession.

After receiving the award, I was invited to present at the UNESCO/ASSAf/EIFL Open Access Conference in Pretoria in November 2010, and at the UNESCO Danish Commission's

- Participated in the British Library Development Studies Research Information Network workshop to develop a Monitoring and Development Toolkit for librarians to measure their information literacy impact. I still have a copy of this amazing document.
- Participated in the African and international librarians and researchers Chat Literacy E – Discussion on Information Literacy.
- I developed a book review writing skills course with home schooling parents and home-schoolers to cultivate a love of reading and retention.

- I was one of 50 IMBALIE BEAUTY Exceptional Women Winners for my positive personal and professional impact.
- Established a school library at Laerskool Venterspost with a donation of English books to assist learners with English reading books.
- In 2012 I was invited to chaperone teenage learners to Spain, Italy, and France. That same year I attended IFLA in Finland

I took early retirement in 2014 to pursue a Master's degree in Personal and Professional Leadership. I obtained the

degree and having obtained a Coaching certificate in 2008, I followed my calling. I maintained my relationships with all my LIS colleagues and still serviced the profession in various ways. I always loved inspiring our librarians and I still am an activist for mindful librarianship. I still empower people with practical tools to access their own inner wisdom. I write spiritual poetry, practice intentional art, and read every day. I have a beautiful personal library where I can relax and engage with my books daily.

LOY 2011 continues to inspire my personal growth and my contribution to the larger

world. I will always be grateful to Nondumiso Senyeneko-Sayo and LIASA who believed in me. I invite our young LIS professionals to 'grow' themselves personally and professionally, and to find their place and contribution in the LIS world and GO for it. Now is the time to leap from the edge. If you made it to the other side, ask: "how may I serve", then listen for Inner guidance. Now is all we have, so use your time and talent wisely!

Blessings, Julia

THERESA DENTON Librarian of the year 2012



Winning Librarian of the Year will always be one of the defining moments in my professional career.

As I reflect on my journey towards that award, some crucial salient realisations come to the fore. My only reason for choosing this career was to impact the lives of others (although my second reason was to flip through all those yellow cards looking for names of patrons). So, my focus was always to build up society and to make this world a better place to live in.

The role that LIASA has played is so significant. I would have missed out on so many opportunities. I would have been cut off from the global world, functioning in isolation with no networks. I joined LIASA in 1998 and I have since experienced and learnt so much. Joining and being actively involved in LIASA opened up a new world for me. Although I was already involved on a community level, LIASA connected me to other libraries on the continent, and the world.

I was announced the national winner at an award ceremony in Durban in October 2012. I was selected amongst representatives from academic and special libraries countrywide as one "whose contributions make a lasting impact on the (library) sector". That automatically made me a contender for the national Librarian of the Year Award, for which the top prize was R30 000 towards educational activities e.g., visits to relevant institutions locally or internationally, attending appropriate conferences or signing up for further studies.

On 17 July 2013 I boarded a plane to Italy, via Schiphol, Amsterdam. I spent three days in Florence, the City of Flowers, visiting the *Biblioteca Comunale* in Tuscany and the National Library in Florence. Unfortunately, a major flood of the Arno River in 1966 damaged nearly one-third of the library's holdings. I took a cruise on a barchetto on the Arno River listening in awe to the historical facts from the tour guide. I walked bare feet in the rain through the streets of Florence in the Palazzo Vecchio among the sculptures of Michelangelo.

I took the train from Firenze, Santa Maria, to Rome where I spent seven days visiting different cathedrals, basilicas and historical sites. After visiting these sites, I went to the second largest library in Rome, named the 'Biblioteca Angelica' in the Piazza Agostino. The library was established in 1604 by Angela Rocca. I frequented

several breath-taking cathedrals, the Colosseum as well as the ruins in Rome. After creating beautiful memories in Italy, I flew to France where I stayed in Malakoff, a small town, 30 minutes out of Paris next to a public library. I visited the Eiffel Tower, Disneyland and the Louvre Museum that holds the Mona Lisa. My real reason for visiting the Louvre originated from the book written by Dan Brown: 'The Da Vinci Code.' I boarded a train to Amsterdam where I stayed in Zeist, a beautiful forest town. I enrolled at the University of Utrecht where I studied 'Statistics' and where I met students from all over the world. After that I explored the very impressive Amsterdam Centraal library in Amsterdam, the largest library in Europe.

Using a ferry to go to Athens, Greece, I visited the National Library, their beautiful beaches, the city of Corinth, Patras, the Parthenon Temple in Athens and the magnificent Acropolis, called 'The Sacred Rock'.

Reflecting on my travels and what I did with my award money I realised that it propelled me to really understand our role in society with regard to knowledge-sharing and best practices. Rick Pitino states that "Excellence is the unlimited ability to improve the quality of what you have to offer."

I won a ministerial award in 2013 for my leadership in empowering women.

- Obtained a Masters in Library and Information Services and I am currently busy with my PHD
- Presented a paper, 'Partnerships: a successful strategy for libraries' at the IFLA World Library and Information Congress: 81st IFLA General Conference and Assembly
- I am currently an Area Head in the Library and Information Services Department in the City of Cape Town
- I wrote a workbook and training manual for Children and Youth Literature and has so far trained more than 200 library staff

THERESA DE YOUNG Librarian of the year 2013



2013. It was the first year that LOY candidates were interviewed in person.

It was 16h30 already and I was nervous. I was last on the list. I thought to myself: "they must be very tired". I stood outside the interview room with my poster clutched in my hand – Naomi Haasbroek passed by and gave me some words of encouragement. I knew that some of the most respected LIASA leaders were in that room together with sponsors who were influential and leaders in their field. As the door opened, I took a deep breath and put on my "extrovert" face ... I did not know that I would have the honour of being awarded the accolade three days later.

Yes, LIASA has awarded me with this prestigious accolade, but when I think about it, I had actually made it possible for myself, because, by being an active member in LIASA, I had been able to grow my career within a few years to the point where I could be nominated, by Elmarie Waltman, for the award. Prior to the award I had been really active in the Western Cape Branch as well as the School Library and Youth Services Interest Group (SLYSIG). What LIASA has done for me ... is the same as what I did for LIASA, the two are intertwined.

I received R30,000 in prize money which I used to attend the International Association of School Librarian's Conference in Moscow, Russia in August 2014 as I was working for the Western Education Department Education Library and Information Service (EDULIS) at the time. This experience of interacting within the specialised school library and information sector on a global level prepared me for the small international specialist astronomical library and information network that I was to collaborate with a few years later.

I remained on the LIASA structures (Representative

I always remind staff that branding yourself as a product is extremely important. Are you branded as a hard worker, ethical and dedicated? How do people see you? Do you have a memorable professional identity that others will easily remember you by?

I remain optimistic about the role LIASA is playing in addressing the challenges libraries face. I trust that library professionals would step up and not ask what LIASA is doing for them, but what they can do for LIASA.

THERESA DENTON

Council, SLYSIG and the Western Cape Branch committees) in the years following the award. I believe that the award contributed to my being nominated and serving on other library and information service structures too: National Council for Library and Information Services (NCLIS), The Bookery Project Trust Board as well as the LIASA Professional Body Advisory Board. I was also very delighted to be invited to chair a session for the LIASA Annual Conference 2021 (virtually)- no doubt this added a bit of padding to my CV.

In 2015 I realised that I needed to seek different employment - my child was starting school and my job at EDULIS had become very demanding with lots of traveling across the Western Cape and visiting schools. I knew nothing about astrophysics but because I had networked strongly within the LIASA structures, I heard about the librarian post being available at the South African Astronomical Observatory, in a specialist environment. I believed that the library management and leadership experience I had gained throughout my career and at LIASA made me a strong candidate for the post and I applied and was successful. And so began my career of delivering a LIS to one of the most fascinating research facilities in South Africa. I believe I got the job because I was deeply rooted in LIS through LIASA, I was trainable, and I had an understanding of all library sectors so I was able to transition easily from one to another as I had done on a previous occasion in my career. And, of course, the LOY award gave my application a little more edge.

I look forward to growing my career in the special libraries research environment. Working in a research institution has motivated me to start and complete my MPhil. Even in choosing a university and supervisor for my dissertation, LIASA had influence purely through its networking offerings. I knew where, how, what and who

Dr LEFOSE MAKGAHLELA Librarian Of The Year 2019



recognised and appreciated. It's a great feeling to be rewarded for working hard. A day later I started receiving calls from Radio Stations asking for interviews. The first interview was on Moutse FM (a community radio station in Sekhukhune District Municipality in Limpopo) on 7 October 2019. This was followed by interviews on 8 October on Energy FM and Choice FM (community radio stations in Capricorn District Municipality, Limpopo). On 9 October I was interviewed on Thobela FM and North West FM.

My plan was to use the prize money to continue with the work I had started long before I received the award. I would travel around the rural areas of the province to start more book clubs in order to promote a culture of reading in the province. I also intended to use part of the money to sponsor the Best Student Research at

the LIASA conference. I was also planning to visit a few African countries like Lesotho, Swaziland, Mozambique and Zimbabwe to donate books. All these plans could not materialise due to the COVID 19 pandemic. I am hoping to continue with all these plans once the pandemic ends.

I delivered groceries to the value of R3,000 to Hlahlaganya Drop-in Centre, donated books to an orphanage called Mponegele ke Itirele Orphan Centre and on the same day travelled to Helen Franz Hospital in Bochum to donate books to the Children's Ward. A few months after taking home the LOY award, I was presented with an award for being the Best-Established Community Engagement Scholar at the University of Limpopo. While this award was for the work I had been doing as part of my Community Engagement at the University, I feel that receiving the LIASA Librarian of the Year Award also contributed as through it I was recognised by my employer. There was a pivotal moment, about halfway through the award period, that I submitted my PhD thesis for external examination. I completed my studies in late 2020 and graduated early in 2021. I believe that the LOY award gave me more strength and energy to complete my studies.

At the time of winning the award, I had been part of LIASA

Limpopo Branch Executive Committee since 2011 as an additional member, and RETIG and HELIG Chairperson in Limpopo Province. At various times I served RETIG National as Secretary, Chairperson and later as Treasurer. I have also presented many papers at LIASA Conferences and others such as Prolissa, South African Society for Archivists, UNIZULU IS Conference and many other events. Being Librarian of the Year 2019 also gave me an opportunity to travel around the country as a guest speaker at various functions and events.

The Award contributed to my professional development and I want to take this opportunity to thank LIASA EXCO and the sponsors. Let me tell you that it is not just my individual effort that has brought me here. I would like to make special mention of my family (my wife, Louisa, and my two children, Ramahloa and Katlego), my colleagues as well as current and former students in the Programme of Information Studies at the University of Limpopo, and all members of LIASA. This has been a fruitful journey indeed!

DR LEFOSE MAKGAHLELA
SENIOR LECTURER: UNIVERSITY OF LIMPOPO
PROGRAMME OF INFORMATION STUDIES

I was deeply pleased and honoured to receive this prestigious award.

To be recognised by my peers for work on something as important as promoting a culture of reading and promoting the profession, is very special. But most importantly, I was extremely honoured to receive this recognition from those who have contributed so much support and encouragement to my experience as a Senior Lecturer and Librarian. I sincerely want to take the opportunity to thank LIASA Limpopo Branch for nominating me as the Limpopo Branch LOY and also allowing me to represent the branch at the national level. I'd like to express my sincere thanks to all the LIASA members of the branch and other provinces for their support. It was a great pleasure seeing all the members of the branch celebrating with me. While this was an award given to me, I feel the award belongs to the branch as a whole. So, this award is not about me, but about each and every member of LIASA in Limpopo Province and all the librarians in South Africa.

My journey as Librarian of the Year started on 3 October 2019 when it was announced that the winner came from Limpopo Province. The Award means a lot for me and my career because it means my work has been

was out there and I could make my choices wisely.

Being active in LIASA and being awarded the 2013 LOY award has contributed to my personal growth in such a way that it has enabled me to know myself better. I was made very much aware of my strengths and capabilities but it also showed me how to draw boundaries and this made it easier for me to make very important decisions about my career at strategic times in my life.

Ironically, in receiving the 2013 LOY Award I realised that there is nothing to prove; we are all life-long learners and we are all worthy of accolades and awards. An important life realisation that I came to was that despite the prestige that comes with awards, I am already good enough and that my life and career (and LIASA) is as good as what I put into it.

However, one thing is certain - the LIASA LOY 2013 Award definitely boosts my credibility within the LIS sector.

THERESA DE YOUNG PL (SA)

LIBRARIAN

NATIONAL RESEARCH FOUNDATION: SOUTH
AFRICAN ASTRONOMICAL OBSERVATORY

ALECIA STEENKAMP

The person behind the South African Library Week 2022 Poster

Every year when it is time to call for proposals for designs for the SALW poster, the organisers are a bit on edge - will the designers understand the brief.

This year, Alecia Steenkamp was the winning designer. She has an advantage in that she has a foot in both worlds - the library world as well as the art and design world. LIASA-in-Touch asked her a few questions to get to know her better.

Alecia is employed at the KwaZulu-Natal Department of Sport, Arts and Culture: Library Services and is based at the head office in Pietermaritzburg where she is the Assistant Director: Planning and Research. She first designed a SALW poster in 2017. At that time, she was still new to computer-based graphic design, and that was where the thought to combine her two passions, art and library science, started. Since then, Alecia has also designed the 2019 and now the 2022 posters.

Not only did she inherit her artistic talent from her mother, she also followed in her footsteps career wise. It was only after her



mother's passing when Alecia was 10, that she discovered this great talent. When it was time to choose a career in high school, her dad told her she couldn't make a career out of art. Alecia said: "The word starvation was mentioned a few times in that conversation." Her mother worked in the library at the old Transvaal Education Department in Pretoria and one of her fondest memories is of going to work with her mother. The smell and the vast number of books stayed with her and welcomed her when she stepped into her very first job.

Alecia studied library science

at the University of Pretoria, then moved to Pietermaritzburg for her first job in 1997. Over the years she has occupied different positions within the KZN Library Service, both at the Midlands Depot and the head office. Together with LIASA, she is celebrating her 25th anniversary this year.

"Librarians are some of the most creative people out there. The creativity to do displays and do library programmes with little to no resources amazes me every day", says Alecia. She is currently the acting Assistant Director for the Promotions Section and has been involved in the conceptualisation of posters and other promotional material. Her art can be seen on her Facebook page, Alecia's Art, on the walls of her and others' homes. When circumstances permit, she exhibits her work once or twice a year and has been participating in the Hilton Art Festival since 2013. Being a landscape artist, she finds inspiration all around her and in our beautiful country.

(continued on page 46)

LIASA - SCECSAL Conference 2022

Theme:
**Against all odds:
Resilience of libraries in a
post-truth world**

Radisson Hotel & Convention Centre,
OR Tambo

04 - 07 October 2022

[https://www.liasa.org.za/
page/conf2022](https://www.liasa.org.za/page/conf2022)
conference@liasa.org.za





The *South African Journal of Libraries and Information Science* is in its 88th year of existence. The journal was formerly called *South African Journal of Library and Information Science* (SAJLIS) until 2002 when I was appointed to be its new editor-in-chief.

With the launch of Volume 68, the name was changed to its present form. The nature of publications in SAJLIS has changed from what this author (Ocholla, 2007:3) reported. At the time of the cited report, publication in SAJLIS was leading among Library and Information Science (LIS) journals in the country.

A study on journal performance for the Academy of Science of South Africa (ASSAf), in partnership with the Department of Science and Technology (DST) and the Department of Education (DoE), referred to as the 'Strategic Management of South African Journals Project', in which editors of South African research journals were asked to respond to a lengthy (over 100 questions) survey questionnaire

1. <http://www.casa-kvsa.org.za/legacy/ScholiaUpdate/Admin/ASSAFQuestionnaire.pdf>

2. <https://www.assaf.org.za/wp-content/uploads/2014/06/2466-ASSAF-Strategic-approach-to-research-publishing-2.pdf>

about their journals^{1,2} and produced interesting revelations based on this authors analysis of the questionnaire he completed. Firstly, between 2002 (vol. 68) to 2005 (vol. 71), SAJLIS published 93 articles of which 64 (68.8%) were single-authored and 29 (31.2%) co-authored. Secondly, SAJLIS published the leading number of articles by South Africans residing in South Africa (which was expected) followed by non-South Africans from South Africa (15-20%). Articles by non-South Africans from other (foreign) countries ranged from 10% for single-authored papers to 38% for co-authored, while those by South Africans residing outside of South Africa were non-existent. Furthermore, 65.5 % (19) of the co-authored articles (29) were initially authored by South Africans from South Africa. Thirdly, it was noted that SAJLIS publishes an average of seven research articles in each issue, and half of the authors are between 41-50 years of age.

When it came to the distribution of authors by population group, a very critical indicator in South Africa for purposes of equity, most authors were white (54%), followed by black/African (37%), Indian (6%), and Coloured (3%). Some of the indicators above have changed since the last decade. For example, SAJLIS no longer leads in the number of publications in LIS in the country; the average number of papers published per issue have declined; the number of co-authored papers

exceed single-authored papers and most papers are published by black/Africans particularly emerging young scholars. A study by Raju et al (2019) on the discoverability and accessibility of SAJLIS provides a valuable history of the journal and its recent achievements. For example, SAJLIS became an online open access journal, became licensed under creative commons attribution –share-A like 4.0, introduced Digital Object Identifier (DOI), introduced Article Processing Charges (APA) for cost effectiveness and ORCIDIS for author search, and the journal evaluation between 2015 and 2017 by Academic of Sciences of South Africa (ASSAf) retained the journal among DHET accredited journals and invited it to join SciELO South Africa.

With 88 years of publication, the journal is unique in that it is the oldest existing LIS research journal in Africa. Furthermore, it benefits from goodwill, attracts good authors, and, more importantly, is accredited by the government (DHET) for research output subsidy. While the journal has made notable progress and achievements, it should be indexed by WoS, SCOPUS and DOAR to benefit more from international visibility and increase its accessibility and discoverability.

SAJLIS refereeing processes that involve nine steps as reported by Ocholla (2007: 18) since 2002 has changed; but essentially retained the traditional quality control processes such as the rigorous double blind peer

review process, and a competent journal Editor and Editorial Advisory Board. Also, it is SAJLIS policy to encourage and support LIS authors, particularly emerging young researchers. However, in order to improve the quality of publications, manuscripts that are unanimously recommended by at least two reviewers for substantive revision or rejection may not be published.

Lastly, I wish to recognise and appreciate the contributions of the following SAJLIS editors since 2009 when my term as editor ended. Among them are: Prof. Jaya Raju (UCT), Prof. Patrick Ngulube (UNISA), the late Prof. Rocky Ralebipi-Simela former Executive Director, National Library of South Africa, and Prof. Mpho Ngoepe (UNISA). LIASA's support and management of the journal is highly commended.

Enjoy the anniversary!

For more information about the journal, please read the following two open access articles:

Ocholla, Dennis N. (2007)

Common errors and challenges of publishing in a peer refereed Library and Information Journal. *South African Journal of Libraries and Information Science* Vol.73(1),

Raju J, Mfengu A, Kahn M, Raju R (2019) Transition to open: A metrics analysis of discoverability and accessibility of LIS scholarship. *S Afr J Sci*. 115(7/8), Art. #5867, 8 pages. <https://doi.org/10.17159/sajs.2019/5867>

PROF. DENNIS OCHOLLA
FORMER SAJLIS EDITOR (2002-2009)

HELIG activities

HELIG holds monthly informal get togethers to have conversations about a variety of topics where members can share, discuss and debate issues. Three Coffee Talks were held in February through to April.

The February topic looked at the dissemination of research and selecting the right journal to publish in and was facilitated by Zanele Magoba-Nomvete of WWIS, and Linda Mbonambi, of UP. The session covered a close look at *Web of Science* and *Incites* and how these can be used in making a selection.

"Re-imagining academic libraries through AI integration into support services" was the subject of the March HELIG Coffee Talk. Technological advancement provides academics the opportunity to facilitate innovative problem-based learning. Artificial Intelligence (AI), ranked the most popular of the "Top 10 Technologies to learn in 2021", has the potential to complement Teaching and

Learning activities, and support research at higher education institutions. Hence it calls for university libraries to re-imagine the learning experience through AI integration into support services. There were 62 registrations for this session.

Following on from this, the April HELIG Coffee Talk explored "4IR: Is it a threat or opportunity?", led by Sean Kruger of UP. He started by saying if people don't understand something, then they are usually afraid of it. Library staff should not fear these technologies but embrace them to perform certain tasks. The main concern was that 4IR or robotics would take away 'our' jobs and then we would join the statistics of the unemployed. However, the truth is that 4IR must be a partner, a bridge taking us to another level. Library staff should take opportunities presented by 4IR and move with them. They should use 4IR to lessen their workload, and to effectively improve their service delivery

to the users. For example, services such as client services, research support, shelving and shelf reading etc. can be made easy because most library users have smartphones. 4IR can also be used to create more job opportunities. But he warned that librarians should be ready to fail when trying out these new technologies as it was a learning process. Top Management of institutions should also be willing and available to provide the support and infrastructure for the implementation of 4IR, investing in these technologies and staff should be skilled and reskilled to converse with these technologies.

Sean observed that there are so many challenges brought or which affect implementation of 4IR like loadshedding, but people must work through the challenges. Also, the painful truth is that if library staff are not willing to learn or adapt, then they will be kicked out by these technologies and rendered useless. Ironically, COVID-19 can

be thanked for pushing so many institutions to start looking at opportunities presented by 4IR for service improvements.

The HELIG Reading Club also met in February. This is where a facilitator selects an article, or chapter in a book, or a short report accompanied by a list of questions to guide the discussion. The article selected this time around, by Mpumalanga HELIG Convenor, Khulelaphi Sibongile Mtsweni, was "DENNIE, Danielle and BREIER, Susie. 'Babe... you're a bit of a know it all': Student love and breakup letters to a library research skills tutorial. *Journal of Information Literacy*, [S.l.], v. 15, n. 3, p. 41-55, dec. 2021." <https://ojs.lboro.ac.uk/JIL/article/view/PRA-V15-I3-3>.

Watch your email and the LIASA Calendar of Events for future sessions.

INGRID THOMSON PL(SA)
NATIONAL HELIG PRO
WITH ADDITIONAL REPORTING BY
MAROPENE RAMABINA PL(SA)
NATIONAL HELIG TREASURER



Annamarie receives certificate

LIASA Professional Body
1490 Certificate

SALW 2016
in the media



The Library and Information Association of South Africa (LIASA)

A Professional Body for library and information practitioners in South Africa

LIASA has walked the Professional Body road for a while now.

It started in 2012 when the South African Qualifications Authority (SAQA) did a presentation at the LIASA Conference, followed by discussions and consultations up to the next annual conference. At the 2013 AGM a motion to apply for Professional Body status was carried. The application was submitted, policies and guidelines were drafted and approved, and on 25 July 2014, SAQA invited comments from the sector and the general public in Government Gazette number 37866, Issue 589, on LIASA being a Professional Body. Then, officially in November 2014, LIASA received the good news that LIASA has been recognised as the Professional Body for the LIS and related fields. With Professional Body recognition being awarded for a period of five years, it was renewed in November 2019 for a further five years.

What is a Professional Body?

A Professional Body is a legal structure as per the NQF Act 67 of 2008 and the NQF Amendment Act 12 of 2019. The Act defines a Professional Body as: "A body of expert practitioners in an occupational field that includes an occupational body."

What is the purpose of a Professional Body?

The purpose of a Professional Body is to allow LIASA and all the Library and/or Information Services stakeholders to: *Strive for excellence in practice and high professional standard that define librarianship as a profession.*

What are the core functions of a Professional Body?

Functions that the Professional Body is mandated to perform

through their SAQA recognition as mandated by the NQF Act include, but is not limited to:

- Regulate qualifications by endorsing new qualifications as part of the SAQA process,
- Set standards of ethical practice,
- Implement and monitor Continuing Professional Development (CPD),
- Relating to that, endorse service providers for CPD to ensure that the quality provision of training and development interventions,
- And, award a professional designation to its members who meet the requirements.

What is a Professional Designation?

Obviously, a Professional Designation goes hand in hand with a Professional Body. A Professional Designation is defined in the NQF Act as: "A status conferred by a professional body in recognition of a person's expertise and right to practice in an occupational field."

Please note that a designation is neither a job title, nor a qualification. Your job title is set by your employer and has no bearing on whether you would qualify to be awarded a designation. Your qualification level, however, has bearing on which designation you would qualify for.

How do I apply for a designation?

Currently LIASA has one designation – Professional Librarian PL(SA) – and it is aiming to have more designations soon to ensure that all levels of employment in the LIS sector are covered.

To apply for the designation Professional Librarian, you need to have the following as a minimum:

- Bachelor of Library and/or

Information Science/Studies degree on NQF7 or higher or Post graduate diploma in Library and/or Information Science.

- One year's practical experience in the relevant field.

To apply for your designation, if you meet the criteria mentioned above, email the following documents to profbody@liasa.org.za or submit it online at https://www.liasa.org.za/page/apply_pl:

- Your LIASA Individual Membership certificate
- Certified copies, not older than 3 months, of your:
 - ID
 - LIS related qualifications
 - Confirmation of employment from your HR Department on one of the templates at https://www.liasa.org.za/page/template_pb.

I've been awarded my designation, now what?

A big part of being awarded the designation is that a designation holder is required to engage in Continuous Professional Development (CPD). SAQA requires LIASA to introduce and implement a formal CPD system for continued practice as a registered Professional Librarian. CPD ensures that designation holders retain and continuously development their:

- Professional knowledge;
- Professional skills;
- Professional values, ethics and attitudes; and,
- Competence they achieved during their years of formal study.

Engaging in CPD has benefits for the individual designation holder, the employer, the profession as well as for the general public.

Some of the benefits for the individual designation holder is to:

- Improve the capacity to develop their technical and professional knowledge;
- Improve their personal and ethical competencies, skills, attitudes, and values of professionalism; and
- Improve career prospects and support career progression with current and future employers.

The employer will benefit by:

- Ensuring that staff fulfil their responsibilities and tasks or duties competently;
 - Encouraging staff to improve or continue to perform competently within their professional environment and chosen roles;
 - Creating the environment for new roles and to encourage staff to take on new roles in this ever-changing environment
- The profession will benefit as it will have:

- A well-regulated and competent workforce; and
- The practice of librarianship will be professionalised.

And lastly, the general public and library and information services users will benefit as they will have access to qualified, competent and knowledgeable librarians who practice according to ethical guidelines and international standards for the public good.

Therefore, the designation holder must commit to a positive attitude to lifelong learning to develop, enhance and maintain professional competence and also take responsibility for identifying and undertaking relevant CPD activities for their current and future roles and ensure that their CPD activities are recorded.

The names of all the LIASA members who have been awarded the Professional Librarian designation has been listed on adjacent page (p21).

MyLIASA Training

The LIASA National Office (LNO) started with MyLIASA training in early February 2022 for Branch and Interest Group Executive Committees.

MyLIASA is the Association Management System we use and the compulsory training, under the umbrella of the 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.

The first round of training took place between January and February and we have just recently finalised round two in April and are busy with

preparations to open registrations for the third and final round for those members who were unavailable in the first two rounds. The training is split into two sessions where session one is a "show and tell" of the LIASA Website and what an individual member can do on the website. Session two focuses on what the executive committee members from different groups can do for their respective group members. A lot of work is done in session two – a practical session where we create web pages, send out communication from the system and build a repository where important information and documents can be stored.

The purpose of this training is to enhance good governance

of LIASA branches and interest groups and have a uniform way of operating across the different groups; also, to increase interaction and communication between the LIASA members and executive committee members on branch and interest group level.

Monthly Events Email

At the beginning of 2022, LIASA started an initiative where we compile a list of events that we send to our members informing them about the upcoming events for the following month. The purpose of these monthly emails is to create awareness of what is happening in the sector, give members ample time to plan their diaries, and provide easy access to Continuing Professional

Development opportunities. The monthly email is sent out on the last day of every month, or the last Friday should the last day of the month fall on a weekend or public holiday. It lists the next month's events, meetings, training, and webinars.

Please look out for these emails, register for events that interest you and score CPD points towards your professional designation.

KAGISO LEDWABA, PL(SA)
LIASA TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT
COORDINATOR

A list of names of all the LIASA members who have been awarded the Professional Librarian Designation

Ms Dora Ackerman
Ms Roldah Adams
Mr Anwa Adriaanse
Ms Tirzah Arendse
Mr Siviwe Bangani
Ms Susan Battison
Mr Jaco Behrens
Mr Sihle Bekwa
Ms Jane Bentley
Ms Marike Beyers
Ms Shanitha Bhim
Ms Shela Bopape
Ms Dineo Boutlwanye
Mr Nizam Bray
Ms Dilshaad Brey
Mrs Magde Britz
Mrs Roelda Brown
Dr Nora Buchanan
Miss Lynne Burger
Ms Chrisna Calitz
Mrs Molly Chikafa
Mrs Sindy Cingo-Mapisa
Mr Tim Cloete
Ms Elisca Coetsee
Mrs Tina Coetzer
Ms Karen Cook
Ms Tienie De Klerk
Ms Talita De Klerk
Mrs Beatrice De La Porte
Mr Patrick de Stadler
Ms Martha De Waal
Ms Theresa de Young
Ms Caroline Dean
Ms Sithembile Dimba
Ms Sbo Doncabe
Ms Soretha Du Plessis
Ms Thandi Dyantyi
Ms Betsy Eister
Ms Bronwen Erasmus
Mrs Akeela Gaibie
Ms Catherine Giesekke
Ms Annamarie Goosen
Ms Juanita Greeff
Ms Sue Hardy
Mr Nazeem Hardy
Ms Terry Harris
Ms Lise-Marie Hattingh
Ms Yvette Herbst
Ms Sindy Hlabangwane
Ms Elmarie Horn
Mrs Manda Hough

Ms Nosiphokazi Jadi
Ms Estelle Jakobsen
Ms Suzette Jansen van Rensburg
Mrs Roselle Jansen van Vuuren
Mr Surendra Jugdav
Ms Stella Kekana
Mrs Claudette Kercival
Ms Jane Kgoele
Mrs Juliette Kilian
Dr Lynn Kleinveldt
Mr Mel Kortje
Ms Annelize Kruger
Ms Annette le Roux
Mr Kagiso Ledwaba
Ms Mary Lister
Ms Janine Lockhart
Mr Gerald Louw
Mr Sizwe Mabena
Mr Ngwako Machethe
Mr Aubrey Madiba
Ms Mayezana Madida
Mr Kepi Madumo
Mr Khehla Mahlangu
Dr Patricia Mahwasane
Ms Uyanda Majavu
Ms Noni Makhathini
Mr Edwin Makhuba
Ms Madira Makhubela
Mr Nnduvheni Malabi
Mr Danie Malan
Ms Malosha Malebati
Ms Given Malema
Mrs Natasja Malherbe
Mr Joseph Mangadi
Ms Winnie Mangotlo
Dr Hester Marais
Ms Lebo Masalesa
Mr Joe Masenya
Mr Nare Mashiane
Ms Boitumelo Masilo
Mr Sihle Mathibela
Ms Chareen Mathope-Da Silva
Dr Tsedzeni Matodzi
Ms Moyahabo Matsapola
Mrs Elizabeth Mavume
Ms Linda Mbonambi
Ms Anke McCallum
Mrs Anelisa Mente-Mpako
Ms Vuyelwa Thandiwe Menze
Mr Ockert Meyer

Mr Siyabonga Mfeya
Dr Rhandzu Mhinga
Mr Sidima Mnengi
Mr Sakhile Mngomezulu
Ms Nohra Moerat
Ms Theresa Mofana
Mrs Shehaamah Mohamed
Mrs Segametsi Molawa
Mr Neo Molemela
Mr Charlie Molepo
Dr Mike Moll
Ms Jeannet Molopyane
Mr Teboho Morajane
Mrs Rachel More
Mr Jons Moretedi
Ms Gill Morgan
Ms Mahlodi Moroamodishi
Mrs Erna Mostert
Mrs Sarah Mtshali
Mrs Mushoni Mulaudzi
Ms Nyambeni Mulaudzi
Ms Joyce Munyai
Ms Constance Mutsila
Dr Grace Mutsunguma
Mr Ishe Muzvondiwa
Ms Zuthobeke Mvakade
Ms Bernice Nagel
Mr Larshan Naicker
Ms Moxey Naidoo
Mr Alugumi Ndou
Dr Shirlene Neerputh
Ms Carmen Nel
Mrs Elsabe Nell
Mrs Jean Nell
Ms Linda Ngaleka
Ms Clara Ngobeni
Ms Lindile Nhlapo
Mrs Denise Nicholson
Mr Harry Nkadimeng
Ms Dudu Nkosi
Mrs Shumani Nndwakhulu
Mr Samson Nobela
Mr Martins Nokoane
Mrs Susanne Noll
Mr Alfred Nqotole
Ms Linda Ntaka
Mr Moses Nthoroane
Ms Suzy Nyakale
Mr Ugo Okoli
Mrs Elsabe Olivier
Mrs Karin Oxley

Ms Pranisha Parag
Ms Audrey Patrick
Ms Barbara Peacock
Ms Barenise Peffer
Ms Gwyneth Perry
Ms Kego Phuthi
Ms Salome Potgieter
Ms Carmelita Prins
Mr Benny Rabatseta
Mr Jabu Radebe
Mr Maropene Ramabina
Mr Monyatsi Ramela
Ms QC Rangane
Mr Makabala Raphasha
Ms Marietjie Reinecke
Ms Claudia Reynolds
Mrs Sunitha Richard
Ms Susan Roos
Ms Kholo Saiya
Ms Ujala Satgoor
Ms Cornelle Scheltema-Van Wyk
Mrs Theresa Schoeman
Mr Deon Schutte
Mr Gift Seemela
Ms Rebecca Senyolo
Mr Malesela Shika
Ms Kizzy Shipalana
Ms Mashia Shokane
Ms Abigail Shoroma
Ms Grace Siaga
Ms Joyce Smith
Ms Helena Snyman
Ms Dorette Snyman
Ms Nomgobobo Spondo
Ms Ninnie Steyn
Ms Joan Stuurman
Mrs Ingrid Thomson
Ms Tintswalo Tlakula
Ms Veli Tshetsha
Ms Marieta Van der Merwe
Ms Marita Van der Merwe
Mr Flippie Van der Walt
Ms Hesma van Tonder
Mr Chris Van Wyk
Ms Pelisa Vanda
Mr Rudi Wicomb
Ms Rachel Williams
Mrs Lindi Wiltz
Ms Yolanda Yakhe
Ms Isabella Young

(As on 30 April 2022)

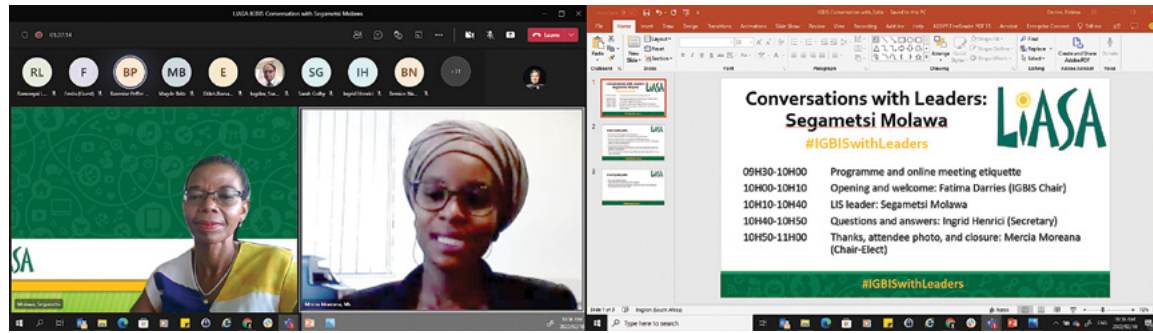
IGBIS in conversation with Leaders

On 10 February 2022, the IGBIS committee kicked off the first conversation with leaders with great excitement.

The conversation with Segametsi Molawa is the first in a series of conversations with LIS professionals and leaders.

With the series, IGBIS hopes to engage, inspire, and embolden professionals to bravely take up leadership positions in LIASA and in the broader library and information communities. The 2021 LIASA elections showed us that our young, bright LIS professionals need some motivation and inspiration to take up portfolios in LIASA leadership structures. We believe that this series will make a difference.

In the series #IGBISwithLeaders conversations, well known LIASA personalities share their key “aha” moments and inspirations that motivated them along the way. In conversation, leaders share their LIS and LIASA journey,



so we can learn from their career progression. We have the privilege of conversations with LIASA presidents in 2022, in celebration of 25 years of LIASA.

In the first session we heard from Ms Segametsi Molawa who was LIASA president during 2014-2016. She is currently Director of Information Resources Distribution at Unisa and is studying towards a PhD.

My insights from the conversation with Segametsi:

- Courage to change direction - she was initially going to study medicine
- Motivated to make a difference – she wanted to make a positive impact with her career choice in LIS

- Be bold - this is the counsel from Segametsi to a question on participating
- Leaders learn life-long: Segametsi is working toward a PhD.

Lessons shared by Segametsi herself:

- Do the PhD before stepping into Senior Management
- Be intentional about taking care of yourself, physically, emotionally, spiritually and mentally
- Strive to leave a legacy in the LIS sector
- Remain passionate and actively involved in LIASA
- Make an impact in people’s lives

- Be proud as a librarian
- Mentor a young professional.

The conversation was open and free for all to attend virtually on Teams and IGBIS received 70 registrations. There were many positive comments on the Teams chat and IGBIS social media postings for this conversation.

Use the hashtag #IGBISwithLeaders on the IGBIS Facebook group at <https://www.facebook.com/Liasalgbis> and on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/Liasalgbis>. If you missed the conversation, you can watch it on the LIASANews YouTube channel at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JKjKCy-vhTU&t=187s>



#IGBISwithLeaders talk by Naomi Haasbroek on 24 March 2022

IGBIS held its second of a series of hour-long conversations with leadership in the Library and Information Services sector to motivate and encourage LIS IGBIS members to take up leadership positions in IGBIS, LIASA and in the broader profession.

Ms Haasbroek, a past LIASA President (2010-2012) gave a passionate motivational talk on 24 March 2022.

During her 31 years at iThemba Labs, a specialised library, she got involved with

organising scientific conferences. The experience thus gained led to her launching her post-career opportunity of a project and events management company called Project Space. According to Ms Haasbroek, it is important to have role models and to lead by example. She herself is passionate about mentoring and coaching the younger generation which she did by being a part-time lecturer at Cape Peninsula University of Technology (CPUT).

During Ms Haasbroek’s LIASA

career she was a founding member of the Western Cape branch in 1997. Under her chairmanship she signed the Berlin Declaration on Open Access on behalf of LIASA. She has been very involved with the association ever since, including being the chair of the IFLA Africa Section from 2009 through 2011. She was also involved with the bid process to get IFLA to Cape Town in 2015. LIASA thus gave her opportunities to travel and meet people and experience good

camaraderie between people.

Ms Haasbroek motivated attendees to become involved with LIASA to experience personal growth and learn new skills. It may open up opportunities for career advancement. It is good to master personal leadership, integrity, professionalism and excellence. She closed off by saying that being involved also shows your passion for what you do.

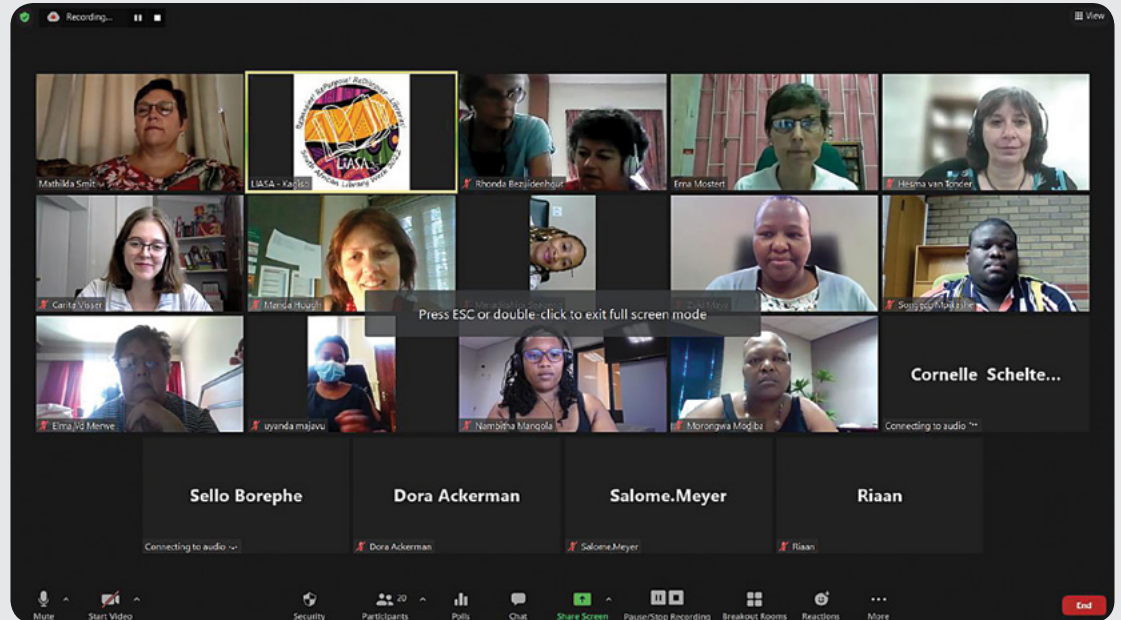
INGRID HENRICI
IGBIS SECRETARY

How does the Protection of Personal Information Act (POPI Act) influence my work as a librarian?

It is a librarian's responsibility to ensure that library users' information is handled correctly.

Some of the important issues in POPIA deal with the time period that a librarian can keep library member information and how to discard this information. When a library user supplies you with information, is he/she aware of what this information will be used for? Use a library user's information only if it was supplied by him/herself, as this is the most accurate data. Libraries that run holiday programmes should remember that children's information can only be gathered with the consent of their parents or legal guardians. POPIA deals with the right to privacy of personal information in the information age.

A POPI policy must be implemented and an information officer needs to be appointed in line with POPIA requirements. A risk assessment needs to be done; agreements with all product suppliers, insurers, and third-party service providers need to be checked and the contract of employment must be updated. Legislation requires a policy for when personal information is operationally required



Attendees of a workshop on the influence of the POPI Act on librarians

(‘reasonably required for your functions or activities’); a contract requires it, or the library or institution has consent to retain it.

It is important that a risk assessment be completed with regard to the following: Physical and Digital Security, Clean Desk Policy (when in a Zoom meeting, make sure there is no information

lying around that can be seen by other people), Personal cell phones or work cell phones, taking work home (who can see the information that you are taking home), social media.

The POPI Act came into effect on 1 July 2020 and we, as librarians, need to ensure that our institutions align with its rules and

regulations.

The talk was presented by Ms Carita Visser, an LLM student who specializes in POPIA issues. Her contact details can be supplied on request.

MS MATHILDA SMIT
LISLIG CONVENOR, LIBRARIAN
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THE OFFICIAL LAUNCH OF SOUTH AFRICAN LIBRARY WEEK (SALW)

South African Library Week (SALW) was once again launched online this year on 15 March 2022 with the theme ReImagine! RePurpose! ReDiscover...Libraries! It also marked the 20th year since SALW was first celebrated in 2002.

The theme for SALW 2022 attempted to explore and interrogate the ways in which libraries are having to:

- Reimagine their services and their ability to render those services,
- Repurpose both their spaces and their services to continue being effective in the communities that they serve, and in this way allowing users to
- Rediscover the library and the ways in which it benefits them.

The theme for 2022 was conceptualised to build on the 2021 theme of "Libraries Matter!" by moving the narrative forward from one of confirming relevance to one of demonstrating how libraries continue to be relevant in society.

The launch therefore focused on what was working in order to

repurpose what is not working. Often when we are faced with challenges, we tend to forget what we are doing right and our mind-set focuses on what is wrong. Very often in African culture, praises are sung by means of poetry. The launch event thus relied on poets and poetry as a way to remind LIS professionals of the successes we have had during the pandemic, and new ways of carrying out our services. The programme therefore included different poems recited by various stakeholders, authors and poets reading from their work as well as featuring videos from identified librarians praising their libraries. It was heart-warming to hear poems written about the importance of libraries and recited by LIS professionals and communities during this year's launch. The entire programme can be viewed at https://cdn.ymaws.com/www.liasa.org.za/resource/resmgr/salw/salw_2022/salw_2022_launch_prog_v7.pdf

A team of EXCO and Representative Council members were tasked with planning the

event, including Charlie Molepo (LIASA President-Elect), Shanitha Bhim (PACLIG Chair), Annamarie Goosen (LIASA Manager) Kagiso Ledwaba (LIASA Training and Development Coordinator), Mokgadi Senyolo (Secretary) Ugo Okoli, (EDUVOS- Potchefstroom), Danie Malan (Treasurer) and Linda Ntaka (PRO).

The SALW celebrations included a successful marketing campaign with newspaper adverts, radio adverts, radio reads and social media. Social media included a video that was boosted on Facebook and reached 7.8K views. The decision to include radio reads was to reach areas of South Africa where people have challenges accessing the internet and to encourage them to use libraries. A Tik-Tok video was also created to reach a broader audience. To ensure a greater presence on online platforms, a digital magazine was published, a continuation of an innovation from last year. The Digimag can be viewed at https://issuu.com/independentnewspapers/docs/liasa_digimag_2022. There was

an article on IOL which can be viewed at: <https://bit.ly/3wa35mg>. This was in addition to our usual newspaper adverts.

As with last year, the 2022 SALW theme will echo throughout the year, as LIASA celebrates 25 years of being the Association for library and information practitioners in South Africa. This will be celebrated through the publication of an anthology of poetry. The Call for Poems was launched during the event and some of the accepted poems will be read during the S A Librarians' Day celebrations. The anthology itself is scheduled to be available at the annual LIASA Conference.

In my opinion, the use of an online platform instead of a face-to-face gathering to launch SALW is the way to go in future. LIASA has successfully done this for the past two years and it saves time, allows for more members to attend and is easily accessible.

LINDA NTAKA PL (SA)
LIASA PRO
#BEVISIBLE!

ReImagine RePurpose ReDiscover

by Cathleen Advenus Dixon
(DURBANVILLE LIBRARY)

ReImagine, Repurpose, ReDiscover!
Libraries ReBirthed, ReStored, ReClaimed
Librarians on the move
Movers and shakers in unison
A new revolution

Libraries, Your Treasure Island
ReImagine, Robben Island to Leisure Island!
Platinum, silver and gold
Ancient stories retold

Treasure collections explored
21st Century Information Literacy Revolution
A reading and learning explosion
Libraries ReDefined, ReKindled ReFreshed
Your library RePurposed

Mind-blowing, Mesmerised, Appetized
Fledgling, learner scholar, white-collar
Your social hub down the lane
People meet and read

Food for the brain, food for the soul
Broken-hearted made whole
Embrace multiculturalism
Reading culture Re-Energised
Stewardship and Ownership
Your library ReDiscovered

Changing libraries – changing lives

Re-Imagine! RePurpose! ReDiscover Your Library.

This is the theme of the 2022 library week which started across the city last week.

Mitchell's Plain Town Centre Library took this theme and created a unique environment no one would expect.

Usually a place of silence, on Wednesday 16 March, the library was transformed into a mini-concert hall with jazzy music, cover ballads, author interactions and comedy.

Librarian Hadjira Sydow says aside from the amnesty period for overdue books, the library had planned a host of activities.

On Thursday 17 March, the library hosted an outdoor



Saxophonist Mr Luke played two original songs

(Photo: Samantha Lee-Jacobs)

poetry jam, with local artists performing, an eating contest and other activities to re-imagine what the libraries are and how they are used.

"Did you ever think you would come to the library and see a concert?" she jokingly asked those in the audience on Wednesday.

Sydow says the main aim of this campaign is to change the way locals interact and use the libraries in their area.

South African Library Week is observed annually by City libraries, with the 2022 instalment observed between Monday 14 and Sunday 20 March.

People's Post



Launch of SALW @ LIASA Western Cape Branch

On 12 March Aunty Tee, the Library Lady, and LiBee, the Library Mascot, were invited by LIASA Western Cape chairperson, Bronwen Erasmus, to the launch of SALW at North Close Park in Lotus River.

The morning included a motivational talk by LIASA president Nazeem Hardy, a storytelling session by Aunty Tee and a surprise guest appearance by LiBee the Library Mascot. The children and adults

enjoyed meeting the friendly bee who told the children that her favourite hobbies are dancing and of course, reading.

Author Julie Daniels also shared some of her beautiful poetry and spoke about the

upcoming launch of her section poetry book. The children then got to have some quiet reading time in the serenity of the beautiful garden setting.



Library staff Jason Fortune, Theresa de Young, Zuthobeke Mvakade and Theresa Ilonze



Visiting Astronomer and Telescope operator happy with their goodie bags in Sutherland

The South African Astronomical Observatory (SAAO) celebrating SALW 2022

In the five months leading up to SA Library Week (SALW), the SAAO Library had embarked on a Library Shape-up Project in preparation for introducing the new GeniePlus library management system to its users.

The 'shape-up' needed to happen as a result of years of shifting library materials to various locations around the observatory to accommodate more staff, students and the African Intelligent Observatory's remote observing room. The physical locations of over 12,000 items were identified, checked and changed where necessary, and items not yet in the system were catalogued. All of this was done to ensure that material is searchable and findable to users



Goodie bags and contents given to staff @ SAAO

of the library, be it through physically visiting the library or accessing it electronically. This 'shape-up' paved the way for a marketing campaign during SALW when SAAO staff were encouraged to ReDiscover the library. They were also reminded about the services currently on offer.

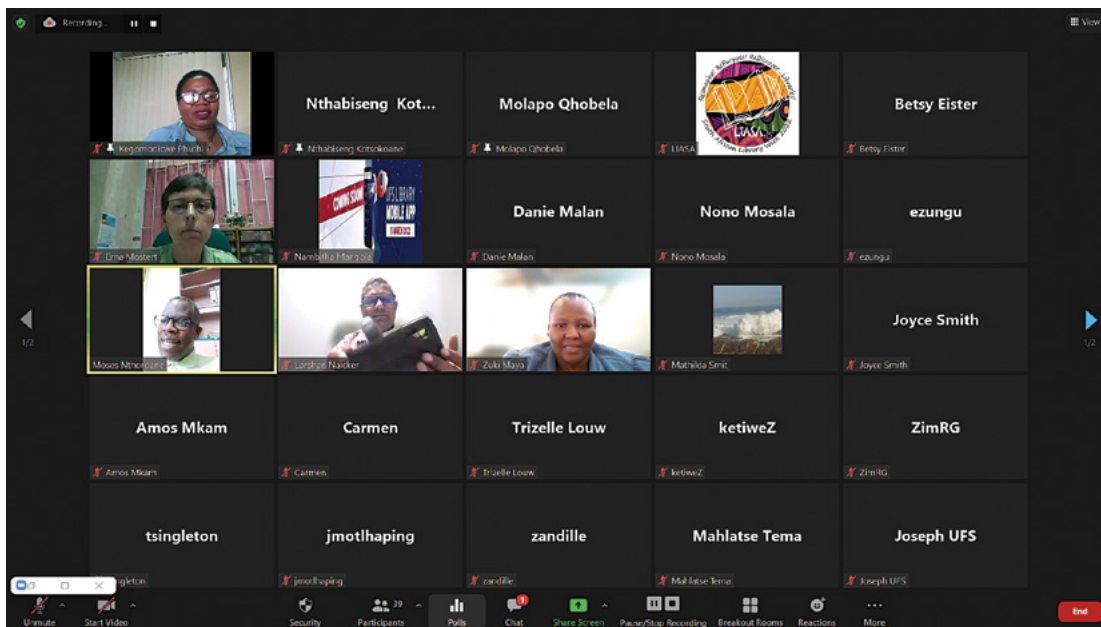
The new library system, GeniePlus, was introduced to staff and they were encouraged to visit the library portal. They also received a warmly welcomed chocolate brownie to have with their tea while they attempted to find the Nyansapo (West African symbol for wisdom and knowledge) in the new library

portal as part of the SAAO's S A Library Week competition. The lucky winners received Takealot vouchers.

Library staff wearing special library T-shirts dished out "goodie bags" to staff at both the Sutherland and Cape Town sites, thanks to the generosity of the Western Cape Provincial Library Services. Whilst interacting with SAAO staff, the librarians were also collecting ideas as to what other services (ReImagining and RePurposing) users would like to see coming from the library.

To end off the week of celebrations, the library provided cupcakes for Friday morning tea that was enjoyed by all.

THERESA DE YOUNG (PL)SA



Guest speaker Dr Molapo Qhobela Vice-Rector: Institutional Change, Strategic Partnerships and Societal Impact

Free State Branch members attending library week celebration online

LIASA Free State Branch celebrates South African Library Week

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) were the subject of the South African Library Week celebrations at the Free State Branch in line with the theme “ReImagine! RePurpose! ReDiscover...Libraries!”

Ms Nthabiseng Kotsokoane facilitated the session. She gave the background to the stance of IFLA on the SDGs and briefly shared IFLA’s storytelling manual titled “Libraries and the Sustainable Development Goals a storytelling manual” which

explores how libraries contribute. “Hopefully these will inspire you and help you to identify the many activities, projects and programmes in your library that help deliver on the issues that decision-makers care about.”

The guest speaker was Dr Molapo Qhobela Vice-Rector: Institutional Change, Strategic Partnerships and Societal Impact. His presentation was “Making the UN SDGs a Reality” and he highlighted the importance of libraries being visible and making

a societal impact by being at the forefront of making the SDGs a reality. He highlighted the report that discusses the role of higher education institutions in contributing to the 2030 Agenda, through a focus on three interrelated themes:

1. The need to move towards inter- and transdisciplinary modes of producing and circulating knowledge;
2. The imperative of becoming open institutions, fostering epistemic dialogue and integrating diverse ways of knowing; and
3. The demand for a stronger presence in society through proactive engagement and partnering with other societal actors.

Libraries are key in achieving these objectives.

In order to highlight SA Library Week, Free State Branch Chairperson Ms Kegomodicwe Phuthi did an interview with national radio station Lesedi FM. The interview was held in Sesotho/Setswana and posed the following questions:

LFM: How have libraries been affected by COVID-19?

KP: For a period of time, libraries were unable to function, and they were compelled to devise methods to meet their clients halfway, which is how we came to completely adopt the digital environment. COVID-19 highlighted service gaps in libraries, forcing libraries to be more innovative and creative. Yes, COVID had a negative impact on us, however, there were some positive outcomes, such as an increase in the purchase of electronic books, storytelling through podcasts, social media presence, as well as apps.

LFM: According to this year’s theme, how are libraries being used to benefit communities?

KP: Previously libraries were known to be just a place for books and studying, but the libraries have evolved with time. The services are relevant and address community needs in many ways. Before I get to the theme I will give a brief background of South African Library week, initiated by LIASA in 2001. LIASA is the SAQA recognised Professional Body for the Library and Information Services sector and a voluntary association which represents persons engaged or interested in library and information service (LIS) and millions of users and potential users of libraries in South Africa. LIASA had the first SA library week celebration in 2002 and now marks 20 years.

LFM: In this digital age, why should we still use libraries?

KP: Libraries are more important than ever now; they are the heart of the communities, not just a heart but they provide relevant information while empowering the communities. Libraries are a safe space for children; providing a space to study, work, network and collaborate; creating opportunities to learn; supports education and training; acts as a recreational space; fosters a culture of reading; and acts as a catalyst to build a reading culture. (e.g., basic computer classes, sewing classes, gardening seminars and after school programmes, reading clubs). Libraries also commemorate different national calendar days with its communities e.g., encourage the recognition of mother tongue language. They provide the latest technology

(continued on next page)



Website banner

UFS Library launches mobile app

In line with the 2022 South African Library Week theme, ReImagine! RePurpose! ReDiscover...Libraries!, the UFS Library and Information Services launched their mobile app on 15 March 2022.

The implementation of information services through the mobile app was an innovative plan to provide effective services and disseminate information to our library patrons conveniently. With the library in the palm of their hands, patrons are now able to access our UFS library resources anytime, anywhere.

The mobile app allows users to access the IKovsiecat catalogue, electronic resources, manage their library accounts, scan ISBN barcodes, and much more.

TSHOLOFELO MALEHO
DIGITAL LIBRARY MANAGER, UFS



Promotional poster



SALW 2022 @ UFS Neville Alexander Library

Reimagining, Repurposing, and Rediscovering it for the LGBTQIA+ community!

The UFS Neville Alexander Library has been bitten by the changes in its environment in line with the 2022 South African Library Week's theme.

This has been an opportunity to re-evaluate the services and collections in enhancing their inclusiveness to support the LGBTQIA+ community. This is one of the user communities still facing disparities years after democracy and the legalization of same-sex marriages in South Africa. Libraries as safe spaces ought to be conducive and adaptable to meeting the information needs of diverse communities.

Through collaboration with the University of the Free State's (UFS) Gender Equality and Anti-Discrimination Office (GEADO), the UFS Library and Information Services (LIS) was able to erect displays in all its branch and campus libraries

during SALW 14-20 March 2022, to raise awareness of gender and LGBTQIA+ issues. These displays started conversations and got engagements from the social media postings as both staff and students alike witnessed the strides made by the UFS LIS in advocating for marginalized communities.

As a result, the UFS Neville Alexander Library hosted a panel discussion on 22 April 2022 in collaboration with GEADO to further dissect and engage on gender and the LGBTQIA+ issues, where Ms. Dina Mashiyane (campus librarian) represented the UFS LIS as a panel member to reflect on the role of the LIS sector in advocating, developing the library collections and creating conducive spaces for homosexual staff and students. The Kovsky Pride Society executive committee and its members also formed part of the panel

to elaborate on issues faced by students and the strides made by their society in mitigating these. During the discussion, it was also highlighted that the fundamental principle of Ubuntu should guide the development of policies and guidelines that are equitable in fostering inclusion.

The participation and engagements from the audience were positive, and the library has been able to embed itself in a programme that fostered and encouraged diversity and inclusion within the university's populace. It is therefore imperative for libraries as knowledge-bridging institutions to ensure that information regarding gender identity, homosexuality, and inclusive spaces and facilities are available to everyone.

DINA MASHIYANE
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR (CAMPUS LIBRARIAN)
NEVILLE ALEXANDER LIBRARY, UFS



“The early bird catches the fattest worm” @ UFS Neville Alexander Library

South African Library Week was held from 14 to 20 March 2022, with the theme ReImagine! RePurpose! ReDiscover... Libraries!

The Neville Alexander Library (UFS South Campus) had a fun activity and prepared its cameras for all library visitors who are selfie enthusiasts, based on the adage “An early bird catches the fattest worm,” which means that being the first increases your chances of success. All users that arrived early and engaged in this activity with library personnel received gift bags containing exam pads,

pencils, water, and snacks. Later, the images were shared on the UFS LIS's social media platforms. All they had to do was smile warmly at the cameras. As a measure of ensuring privacy, the library adhered to the Protection of Personal Information Act (POPIA), and all of our early students who participated in the activity granted permission. As an inclusive library, the staff members also provided individuals who are camera shy yet early birds a voice by asking them to write what they appreciated about the library through email.

Libraries are increasingly required to promote themselves, their collections, and their services. This was done to increase the library's exposure and awareness among the local community and to convey gratitude to the library's regular early users. The students' enthusiasm was palpable. The

Neville Alexander Library Reimagined, Repurposed, and Rediscovered a novel method for being visible while at the same time raising awareness of South African Library Week with its users.

TEBOGO MAKHURUPETSI
LIBRARIAN INTERN
NEVILLE ALEXANDER
LIBRARY
UNIVERSITY OF THE FREE
STATE



without payment (e.g., zero-rated website); libraries in your pocket. That is why the library will always be there because it embraces change and diversity.

KEGOMODICWE PHUTHI PL(SA)
FACULTY LIBRARIAN
UNIVERSITY OF THE FREE STATE



South African Library Week @ Ray Nkonyeni Libraries

All the libraries in the Ray Nkonyeni Municipality used the LIASA SA Library Week theme as the basis for their activities.

Merlewood Library is the smallest library in our Municipality. This library does not have an activities room, therefore not many children can be accommodated at a time. SALW was used to provide awareness of the services and facilities of the Ray Nkonyeni Municipal libraries. Library orientation was offered as well as the promotion of a culture of reading through various activities including storytelling, word search puzzles, and colouring in. The learners were very excited to participate in these activities and to receive promotional items at the end.

Albersville Library focused on the promotion of reading and reading confidence. The Librarian hosted a story reading session for the learners who were waiting for their public transport. They enjoyed the story time and were excited to have their photos taken in the S A Library Week frame that was created by the librarian. They also received promotional items.



Port Shepstone Library staff were invited by the Regional Education department (Mr S Mbhele – ELITS) to celebrate SA Library Week at Enxolobeni Primary School on 18 March 2022.

This programme was intended for Grades 1 to 7 learners to promote a culture of reading, encourage the use of libraries and

where the librarians could do a membership drive.

Staff from the South Coast Regional depot (KZN) also attended this programme. Learners from the different grades had an opportunity to read to the other learners. Grade 7 learners did a book review and had a reading competition.



The mobile bus was also used to promote library services and this was thoroughly enjoyed by the learners. Promotional material was given to all the learners at the end of a very successful day.

SUSAN ROOS PL(SA)

Oh Boy! They are back! UFS LIS welcomes back the 2022 cohort



The 2022 cohort taken through their paces at the SASOL Library

The adage: “absence makes the heart grow fonder” sustained the relationship between the UFS LIS and library patrons who, over the past two years, relied mostly on remote tools due to COVID-19 protocols that made it difficult to have a normal face-to-face interaction.

However, the relaxation of the lockdown rules has brought everyone back to reality and the opening of all campus libraries’ doors, across all campuses, confirmed that UFS is still a residential university!

The atmosphere in the library corridors is changing from being



Mathapelo Modise (left) lends a hand to a new library patron

quieter than usual to a hive of activity with many new library patrons familiarizing themselves with the newly found and inviting learning spaces. The inclement weather brought by the La Niña weather phenomenon this summer has also made it difficult for students to stay outdoors and



Mashia Shokane assisting the new library patron

the UFS LIS spaces offer them safe learning and collaborative spaces. The enthusiasm, hunger, and willingness to learn that is displayed by the 2022 cohort, is equally encouraging, and all UFS LIS staff are beaming with joy and in agreement that, they are indeed back!

SALW 2022 @ Library Services: Free State Province



South African Library Week was celebrated from 14-20 March 2022, but our libraries celebrated through the whole month of March with the theme "ReImagine! RePurpose!"

ReDiscover...Libraries!" LIASA sought to exhort all in the LIS sector to ReImagine and RePurpose libraries so that the communities we serve will ReDiscover them after reflecting

on the changes that were brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic. Showcasing what some of the Free State Provincial libraries did to celebrate Library Week during March see the following images:

ITUMELENG HOPESTILL MALUKAZI
PRINCIPAL LIBRARIAN
DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS
LIBRARY SERVICES: FREE STATE PROVINCE

Lephoi Public Library (Bethulie)



Story hour with the Naledi creche learners

Zamani Public Library (Memel)



After following the COVID-19 protocols, the staff held outdoor activities with the children of the community

Sechaba Mabobe Public Library



Story Time & Play On activity with the pre-schoolers of Botshabelo

Viljoenskroon Public Library



Colouring-in activity

Oppermansgronde Public Library



Poetry Reading with the teenagers of the community

Sasolburg Public Library



Library Ethics Game with the children of the Sasolburg community

Dipelaneng Public Library (Hobhouse)



Adult colouring in activity with the CWP (Community Workers Programme)

UFS LIS hosts the National Department of Transport's Master Plan 2050 Discussion

A conversation that started with the normal distribution of the National Transport Masterplan 2050 turned into a constructive discussion that led to a suggestion for a presentation to the relevant UFS community.

Mr. Siphso Dibakwane, a senior manager and the national masterplan policy analyst at the national Department of Transport, is currently on a nationwide awareness drive wherein South African citizens are alerted to the government's intention to transform the transport network by 2050. Upon listening to the interesting policy-shift, UFS LIS proposed that Mr. Dibakwane present to relevant



UFS departments that include the Department of Urban and Regional Planning. The Head of Department, Prof Marlene Campbell, was excited to be part

of the invitation and requested that it be held during the block session week to afford her students time to engage with Mr. Dibakwane.

Approved by Cabinet on 19 October 2016, the NATMAP 2050 aims to deliver a dynamic, long-term, and sustainable transportation systems framework. After a constructive discussion with staff and students, Mr. Dibakwane welcomed the proposal to hold a joint UFS LIS/ National department of Transport competition wherein students will be asked to produce models of future transport networks in South Africa.

MONDE MADIBA PL(SA)
DEPUTY-DIRECTOR
COLLECTION DEVELOPMENT & MANAGEMENT
UNIVERSITY OF THE FREE STATE



Thandi, Zinhle and Mthoko waiting for passers-by... and eventually...

Membership drive during SA Library Week 2022

Don Africana Durban Central Reference Library conducted a vigorous membership drive with Berea Technical and Rosebank College on two consecutive days.

The second one was an outreach membership drive held outside the newsroom library on 17 and 18 March 2022. We

placed a table outside the library and encouraged passers-by to join the library. The intention was to promote library services and reignite the love of reading, reassuring our patrons that we are still providing necessary services despite COVID-19 disruptions. Berea Technical students were

very excited to learn about the library services and relationships were established to assist them with their studies as the library caters for their needs.

This programme was a huge success as 53 new members joined the library. Both institutions requested that we continue

working together in future.

This programme has rediscovered more stakeholders and forged relationships.

SIBO DONCABE PL(SA)

SENIOR LIBRARIAN

DON AFRICANA DURBAN CENTRAL LIBRARY

Library Orientation: promoting the right of access to information



South African Library Week 2022 was celebrated during 14 to 23 March with the theme ReImagine! RePurpose! ReDiscover...Libraries!

In keeping with this theme, Eastwood Library hosted an event in the library and used Facebook to allow remote access to the community at large. The library has a target population of 280 children in total - 7 crèches with 40 children each, so in keeping with COVID-19 regulations, remote access was arranged via Facebook live, <https://www.facebook.com/ayesuni/>

The library vibrantly hosted storytelling, nursery rhymes, and action activities, and each child took home a library hamper consisting of a library bag

containing a membership card, bookmark, colour-in work sheets and a printed story.

Libraries are vital community partners in supporting the development of young children and enabling them with skills and habits for lifelong learning. Many parents rely on libraries to support their child's learning. Thus, Eastwood library creates awareness of the range of activities, programmes, services, and events that it offers children.



Eastwood library showcases that it not only serves as a community hub, but a hub specific to ECD and early literacy. The library also formed partnerships with the crèches in

terms of block loans and other initiatives.

SUNITHA RICHARD PL(SA)

EASTWOOD LIBRARIAN

LIASA KZN CHAIR-ELECT



UNISA Library banner

SALW UNISA poster and selfie frame with library new book display

UNISA mobile library

ReImagine! RePurpose! ReDiscover... Libraries! @ UNISA Cape Town

The University of South Africa's Cape Town Branch Library celebrated South African Library Week (SALW) amidst challenges brought by labour-related protest action. In order to not miss this momentous occasion, the celebrations were spread over a period of two weeks.

The first week was marked by four online library orientation slots using MS Teams to make contact with students. The attendance and participation were beyond the staff's expectation demonstrating the students' need to be informed and armed with skills to access various resources. As a library at a Comprehensive Open Distance e- Learning [CODeL] institution, staff were flexible but remained resolute to achieve the goals of the proposed programme.

In the second week, the library staff conducted a Student Conversation held both online and face-to-face. The objective was two-fold, namely, to provide a platform for students to enlighten the library on the findings of its 2021 Client Satisfaction Survey (CSS) and engender a tradition of student consultation to continually improve its products



Presentation by W Zaal

and services. The participation was informal and conversational, but lessons were learnt about a range of issues ranging from study environment during COVID to data/devices to access library's online resources. The challenges with unemployment, data, and devices, studying environment and access to electronic resources and the fact that libraries were closed during lockdown was discussed. The opportunities of going online were overshadowed by the cost of data and lack of digital skills. The slogan "Nothing About Us Without Us" was mentioned to thank students for participating in the Student

Conversations session. It also emphasized the importance of involving our primary stakeholders (our students) when reviewing and planning improvements in terms of library services. Further sessions were planned to address plagiarism and copyright issues. Follow-up conversations were agreed and planned for the near future to continually discuss and grow a tradition of openness as both parties navigate the post-COVID library and information services' space.

In the proposed programme, interrupted by protest action across the University, the library staff wanted to host the local

Virgin Active branch to promote healthy living in the wake and defeat of COVID. This activity will be hosted during one of the global or national library or literary days. The second activity involves the return of library material next to the Mobile Bus where students can view the interior of the bus and take selfies as mementos.

Academic library services are undergoing major changes because of the pandemic's impact on many facets of library operations and procedures, including collections, physical spaces, and operations. Thus, academic libraries will need to rethink and restructure their service delivery approaches to predict the future. The SALW theme for 2022, Reimagine! Repurpose! Rediscover... Libraries!, inspired us to rethink the way we serve and to keep on improving our services and make the community aware of the role that libraries can play in lifelong learning.

BEATRICE DE LA PORTE PL(SA)
MDU NCONGWANE
BRANCH LIBRARIANS
UNISA CAPE TOWN BRANCH LIBRARY

Human Rights Day

Domestic/Gender Based Violence Programme at Eastwood Library

In keeping with the South African Library Week 2022 theme, "ReImagine! RePurpose! ReDiscover...Libraries!" the library hosted a hybrid event on 18 March 2022 in keeping with COVID-19 regulations.

Remote access was provided via Facebook live <https://www.facebook.com/ayesuni/>

The purpose of this programme was to sensitise men and women to domestic violence and the avenues that they could take to seek help.

How Libraries Change Lives
If someone is controlling or frightening one, then it may be

difficult for one to find out about one's options or where to find help. An abuser can monitor one's online activity through checking one's computer's history or with spy software, making it impossible to completely cover one's online tracks. A library computer can't be monitored: by using it, one will have access to all the information one needs, and it is free and safe.

Eastwood Library has committed to providing help and support to victims of domestic abuse by providing the information and resources needed in a safe environment. Eastwood library's Cyber Kadet

has set up a page on all public access computers with links to organisations where people can seek help.

Eastwood library has proven to be a dynamic institution that makes huge contributions towards the social, economic and political environment. The library is no longer a quiet place where one borrows books or sits and reads; it has evolved into a dynamic social space where people meet, learn and grow. The library has offered many developmental programmes with much success.

In this instance the library partnered with SAPS, Department



of Health (Northdale Hospital), Midlands Medical Centre, Royal Hospital, and National Association of Democratic Lawyers. The guest speaker was Fikile Mbatha, author of *An Untold Story*.

SUNITHA RICHARD



LIASA Eastern Cape launches SALW with a post-lockdown well-planned series of events

LIASA Eastern Cape (EC) celebrated SALW under the theme: ReImagine! RePurpose! ReDiscover... Libraries! in collaboration with the EC Provincial Department of Sports, Arts and Culture and the Department of Recreation, Arts and Culture at Umzimvubu Local Municipality in the Alfred Nzo District, kwaBhaca.

Despite the unfavourable weather conditions, the MEC: Sport, Arts and Culture, Ms Fezeka Nkomonye, the Mayor Cllr Z. Ndevu, the LIASA Eastern Cape Chairperson Ms Thandi Dyantyi, Mr Anele Moko, Ms Nolwazi Somhlahlo, Senior Managers from DSRAC and a delegation from Ikomkhulu together with librarians from the surroundings of kwaBhaca and eMaxesibeni attended and contributed to the enjoyable event which raised awareness about the importance of libraries in our communities. The 2022 SALW theme encouraged ALL in the community, from school learners to Gogos, to make use of the

libraries in their communities.

Learners, community members, teachers and librarians gathered for a well-planned series of events packed with activities, from the handing over of a new library, storytelling, reading clubs, drama performances, and games to dance.

Monday, 14 March saw the official opening of SALW at Mpendla Community Hall. The day started with a motorcade from the municipal offices. The speaker invited all the members of the community while sharing the history of libraries and the purpose of the SALW. The event started with a prayer followed by the singing of the National Anthem. Thereafter, the Programme Director explained the purpose of the day, and the exciting and enjoyable line up of activities continued.

On this day school learners reviewed books in different languages written by local authors who were also present at the event. At the end of the session,

they all received prizes for their outstanding work and talent.

On Tuesday 15 March, Mpendla Modular Library was officially handed over to the Umzimvubu Local Municipality. The MEC Ms Nkomonye honoured us with her presence and a short message. She later officially opened the library by cutting the ribbon. This was a most important day for the locals of uMzimvubu; it was packed with activities while the Mbodleni Choir sang beautifully for the guests. Later, the other stakeholders were given the opportunity to deliver a message of support. On behalf of LIASA I grabbed the opportunity with both hands as this was my chance to market LIASA and its services, while I encouraged the members of the community to treasure libraries, bring them closer to their hearts and educated them about their importance in the community. The day ended with more activities and entertainment, from poetry to singing.

Wednesday, 16 March was

my last day at kwaBhaca and I attended all the activities. This day was as well planned as the previous days. We got to enjoy staged activities with different libraries showing what they had implemented in their libraries, Book Clubs gave a glimpse of what they are doing, storytelling, amazing talent in drama, and more.

I was impressed by the unique book club of gogos and visually impaired people. They also got an opportunity to review books by local authors. It was amazing how they remembered everything from the different books they read.

I would like to thank the Office of the MEC: Eastern Cape, DSRAC and Rhodes University for affording me the opportunity to go out there and advocate not only for LIASA as an organisation, but for all the Information workers out there.

THANDI DYANTYI PL(SA)

LIASA EC CHAIRPERSON 2021 - 2023
UNDERGRADUATE LIBRARIAN: INFORMATION LITERACY TRAINER, RHODES UNIVERSITY



Eastwood Library Reading Competition at Glenwood Primary School



Eastwood Library Reading Competition winner

SALW 2022 – Eastwood Library promotes reading at Glenwood Primary

As part of Eastwood Library's ongoing work to support schools, Reading Challenges take place every term.

These challenges are designed to encourage reading for pleasure in schools, as well as developing

reading stamina and increasing reading diversity.

On 17 March, Grades 3 to 7 were required to read a page from a book selected according to the ages of the learners. They were assessed on their expression,

tone of voice, pronunciation and reading confidence. There were two rounds; the first to get a top learner from each class and then a final round to get the top learners from each grade.

Certificates and gifts were

handed out to motivate learners.

SUNITHA RICHARD PL(SA)
EASTWOOD LIBRARIAN
LIASA KZN CHAIR-ELECT

City of Cape Town launched South African Library Week 2022 in style



Display winners: Bridgetown library Bronwen Erasmus (MC and area head 9), Rhys de Beer (library aide Bridgetown Library, June Swart (Area Manager: Central) and Micaela de Beer (Assistant librarian Bridgetown Library)



'Library People' the band featuring Luke Townsend (hands raised, writer, composer of the song) with band members: Ashleigh Wessels (assistant librarian Southfield Library), Wesley Wyngaardt (assistant librarian Athlone Library); Alicia Thornton (Snr Librarian Claremont Library) and Nokulunga Tshonti (ass. librarian Wynberg)

Not only was there a physical launch with guests in attendance after almost two years, the event was also live streamed via YouTube to all City of Cape Town Library and Information staff members. The staff and community of Masakhane library gave it their all during the launch.

The packed event included a motivational talk by community leader McDonald Ngxukuma whose entire career was launched at Masakhane library. He spoke about the impact the library had on his personal journey to success

and how he now encourages the young people who he is mentoring on the benefits of their local library. He explained to the audience that he trained himself to understand science by reading the scientific books in the library.

At the event, libraries who were participating in the SALW display competition also found out who the winners were. All libraries had to interpret the LIASA SALW 2022 theme "ReImagine! RePurpose! ReDiscover... Libraries!" in the form of displays at their libraries.

The top three libraries were Durbanville Library, Bridgetown Library and Bloubergstrand Library. The ultimate winner was Bridgetown Library

As much as this was a highlight, the ultimate high of the launch was the release of a library video called *Library People* by Library People, this was followed by a live performance by the band Library People to the rapt audience who went wild.

"To celebrate public libraries through music during South African Library Week 2022,

City of Cape Town library staff members have produced a video of an original pop song. This funky song, 'Library People', was composed and performed by staff at various City public libraries and promotes all of the values of SALW." said Luke Townsend, creator/producer of the song

The video was widely posted on the City of Cape Town's social media platforms.

MERLE COLLINS

HEAD: MARKETING AND COMMUNICATIONS;
LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SERVICES
COMMUNITY SERVICES AND HEALTH

DUT Library celebrates SA Library Week with a dynamic public lecture

The Durban University of Technology Library held a public lecture to mark South African Library Week (SALW).

The DUT public lecture was held virtually via Microsoft Teams on 17 March 2022. Mr Nazeem Hardy, President of the Library and Information Association of South Africa (LIASA) was the guest speaker. The theme of SALW 2022 was ReImagine, RePurpose, ReDiscover... Libraries. Mr Romeo Matumba, the DUT marketing and communication librarian, facilitated the programme.

The opening address was delivered by Professor Sibusiso Moyo, Deputy Vice Chancellor (DVC) for Research, Innovation and Engagement (RIE). In her opening address, the DVC: RIE highlighted the importance of the library and its critical role as a strategic partner in supporting the academic project. "This public lecture is a particularly important event in the University's calendar. The library plays a critical role in supporting teaching and learning, research and innovation, and providing spaces for students, researchers and communities", said Prof. Moyo. She also reiterated that LIASA plays a major role in the development and improvement of libraries in South Africa and it is

therefore important that librarians and institutions continue to support the association.

Professor Mehta, DUT's Manager at the Writing Centre, delivered a message of support. He reiterated the importance of appreciating the role of libraries in our daily lives. Prof Mehta also used this opportunity to rebuke the recent attacks on libraries.

"I wish every week was SALW. Maybe then the message would get through that libraries really matter. Maybe we would begin to appreciate the sanctity of libraries and it would become taboo in our society for anyone to think of damaging the infrastructure of libraries. This is a time for building, not destroying. It is time to evaluate our library services and it is time to re-imagine how we can take our library services to the next level," added Prof Mehta.

To set the mood for the guest speaker, a DUT doctoral student, Mr. Hlangani Shange, gave a brief presentation on the value proposition of the library in his academic journey. He described how he benefited from library services during the pandemic and how the library's support helped him complete his master's degree in 2021.

Dr Malefetjane Phaladi,

Director of Library Services at DUT, introduced the guest speaker, Mr. Nazeem Hardy.

In his presentation, Mr Hardy highlighted the role LIASA has played in shaping the theme to celebrate libraries in South Africa. LIASA's mission includes advocating for the basic human right of freedom of access to information and freedom of expression. LIASA is therefore committed to promoting literacy, tolerance and respect in our society. He also pointed out that this is the 20th year of SALW celebrations, a milestone for South African libraries, and that LIASA is celebrating its 25th anniversary.

"All libraries celebrate this week to also advance humanitarian values and tolerance in communities and embrace access to the library as a basic human right. Therefore, it is celebrated close to 21 March when we celebrate Human Rights Day", said President Hardy.

His lecture revolved around the SALW theme for 2022, "ReImagine! RePurpose! ReDiscover!... Libraries". Mr. Hardy discussed how libraries should continue to reimagine and reconceptualise spaces and services with the future in mind. He spoke about the role libraries

play in a variety of communities and institutions. He concluded by emphasising the need to engage communities in the academic, school and public sectors in the conversation on library development, as libraries are for the people.

"People always see the library as a safe space. This requires other stakeholders to come together to help create safety and security, social networks, etc. I believe that despite all the current challenges, libraries continue to reimagine and rediscover. Libraries continue repurposing their services and spaces, rediscovering their specific strengths and how certain services can be reintroduced to improve the image and development of libraries," added President Nazeem Hardy.

Prof. Oludayo Olugbara, DUT's Executive Dean of the Faculty of Accounting and Informatics delivered the vote of thanks. The event was well attended by members of the DUT community, colleagues from other universities, library schools, corporates and LIASA executive members.

MUVHULAWA ROMEO MATUMBA
LIBRARIAN:

MARKETING AND COMMUNICATION, DUT

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How can we ReImagine! RePurpose! ReDiscover our library services?

When the 26 March 2020 level 5 lockdown struck, libraries were utilizing a hybrid system, which merged both physical and online services.

The situation forced us to halt our physical services and only depend on our online services.

At that point in time however, many challenges requiring immediate solutions were also encountered including - not all our services were accessible online; some of our online services were not 100% accessible to clients; some of us had no proxy access tools implemented; some of our proxy access tools were not fully or properly configured to enable remote access. In a short space of time, we found solutions to allow clients to remotely access our electronic sources, as well as ensure that our electronic resources were at the forefront of our services. In addition to these, we also embarked on further services enhancements initiatives, such as implementing access enhancement tools like LibKey and library apps, as well as advanced ILL systems such as TIPASA to enable our clients to do direct online ILL requests from our catalogues.

As we prepare to slowly

return to our normal ways of working, and as most of us have physically returned to our workstations, these are some of the interventions we can embark on to ensure smooth operations going forward:

To minimize computing issues, we need to accept that times are changing. Gone are the times whereby a staff member would usually have a desktop PC and an additional laptop or mobile device to work from home. In terms of minimizing computing costs and ensuring that all staff members are well equipped to work from home, some institutions have adopted a long-term solution or policy to exchange all desktop PCs with laptops or mobile devices, and many can be expected to follow suit. Given our existing situation of working in open plan offices that accommodate many staff members in one space, should it happen that many staff members are back at work simultaneously, there will be no need for them to be bound to a specific workstation, but instead, they can be dispersed to any available open spaces to ensure efficient physical distancing. As libraries we should work with internal ICT departments to ensure that all

our spaces are equipped with sufficient Wi-Fi allocation to enable physical distancing for both clients and staff members.

We also need to market and offer our Discovery search boxes as the main access points or the main feature of our homepages, because they offer a much easier and more convenient way to access all our content from a single point of entry. I am glad that this has been done by almost all, except for only one academic institution,

We should also expand our online training and marketing initiatives. Internet data literacy should form part of our regular programmes and training, including our yearly inductions. We need to ensure that our patrons understand how much data is consumed by utilizing our online services and training, so that they will be better prepared and plan for their online activities wisely. Our internal ICT departments can be approached to form part of these training sessions.

We also need to find new ways to justify our ever-expanding electronic subscriptions budget, which according to CHELSA's STATE OF SOUTH AFRICAN ACADEMIC LIBRARIES REPORT

(2021) was over 70% of our collections budget in 2021. One way to do this is by utilizing skills such as Data Science to gather, analyse, visualise and share our usage statistics with our institutions' management in innovative ways that have not been explored before.

Given the known fact that our electronic resources subscription content differs significantly, now more than ever we need to embark on discussions with SANLiC and other bodies, and to appeal to our institutions' management to initiate discussions on jointly shared national access to electronic subscription content. This might also assist in lessening the associated subscription budgets.

Indeed, our services have weathered storms, and have already survived four waves of the pandemic. However, as COVID-19 advances in its waves, let us also advance in the ways we deliver our services. As we get boosters to enhance our personal survival, let us give our services and clients satisfaction boosters as well.

THANYANI MPEIWA
SYSTEMS LIBRARIAN
UNIVERSITY OF VENDA

University of Pretoria's Department of Library Services uses InstaNovels to encourage reading

servicing all our faculties and we are constantly innovating ways to encourage our students to become enthusiastic readers. We strongly resonate with this year's South African Library Week theme: ReImagine! RePurpose! ReDiscover ... Libraries! To invigorate the library's use within the university, we invited all our students and staff to participate in our #SALW22 competition. We asked staff and students to share with us how they READiscovered our libraries during COVID-19 and which creative ways they use to access library resources.

Academic reading

To encourage a culture of reading, we must consider what appeals to young people and adapt what libraries offer in the digital era. It's an exciting time on campus as we are seeing greater numbers of students return and an opportunity to further develop the online relationship we nurtured during the pandemic period. The switch to online teaching and learning included making textbooks or chapters available online through acquired licences, and reminding students about

understanding what plagiarism is in the online environment; how to reference properly and how to add their voices, not just cut and paste existing material. The digital shift to online journals and books has been huge for libraries. Today, as a library, we have about 10% print journals and subscriptions and the rest are online, for which we purchase licence or lease agreements at great cost to make them available to our university staff and students.

Recreational reading

One of several ways in which we have reimagined and repurposed our offering is to introduce a series of InstaNovels since 2020. Purists might balk at the concept, but it is a great opportunity to offer a tech-savvy reading alternative for this digital age. It aligns with the Department of Library Services' overall vision to establish a modern, 21st-century library. Reading on mobile devices has a distinct advantage - you always have your book with you because you always have your phone with you.

The concept was originally introduced by the New York

Public Library in response to the rise of social media in the past decade when attention spans have decreased and addiction to technology has reduced consumption of offline content. The InstaNovels we publish are either out of copyright or they are written by staff and students, creating a wonderful platform for emerging writers. Each InstaNovel is published via the UP Library Instagram (@uplibrary), where they can be accessed at any time by anyone who would like to read them.

LINDIWE SOYZIWAPI
DIRECTOR OF LIBRARY SERVICES
UNIVERSITY OF PRETORIA



Lindiwe Soyizwapi

From InstaNovels to enticing 'Book Nook' reading spaces in the library, the University of Pretoria's (UP) Dept. of Library Services (DLS) constantly comes up with approaches to encourage students to acquire and nurture the wonderful habit of reading.

It's an activity students will be able to enjoy for both studying and recreational purposes, and it is essential to the development of a critical outlook and critical mind. In the bigger picture, it elevates education in South Africa. The DLS Director, Ms Lindiwe Soyizwapi, shares how their library continuously modifies their services to encourage reading:

South African Library Week

At UP we are fortunate to have 11 highly functional libraries



WRAD activities in City of Cape Town LIS Area East

A big thumbs up to Area East Libraries – Kulani, Khayelitsha and Masakhane - for being the top WRAD pledger for 2022.

These three libraries teamed up to spread the love of stories at Injongo Primary School. Despite the overcast weather, the team, together with LiBee the Library Mascot, forged ahead and read stories to a total of 1,433 children. Amidst the stories and singing, LiBee also got to entertain the children with some dancing. This team showed their tenacity by not letting COVID or the weather stop them from sharing the love of stories. Well done to the Area East team



LiBee accompanied Kulani, Khayelitsha and Masakhane staff to Injongo Primary School



Recreation and Parks doing ice breakers with the children



Mogamat Armien Fredericks (Athlone Library) reads to pre-schoolers from Bridgetown

Librarians write children's book during lockdown and launch it on WRAD!

During the hard lockdown many of us took the time to reflect or catch up on the dreams that we put aside.

Tracey, the Children's Coordinator for the City of Cape Town Library Services, describes herself as a passionate children's librarian who always wanted to write a children's book but never found the time to follow her dream. During the COVID

pandemic, she finally had the time to get creative and used LiBee the Library Mascot as her inspiration. The story was brought to life by self-taught graphic artist, Angelo Drage, who currently works at Central Library. He used the COVID period to test his illustrating skills. Like many, Angelo went through a difficult period adjusting to the hard lockdown and he delved into

illustrating this story as a means of keeping his mind occupied.

This book deals with LiBee who is feeling glum and Mom decides to take them to the local library. The story encourages children to join the library and teaches them the wonderful things that a library has to offer.

We are proud that this book was printed and that we can see our work being used by libraries

as it was meant to be. The story will be read by library staff to encourage little ones to read and of course, to join the library. After all, libraries are there to grow the minds of children... one story at a time.

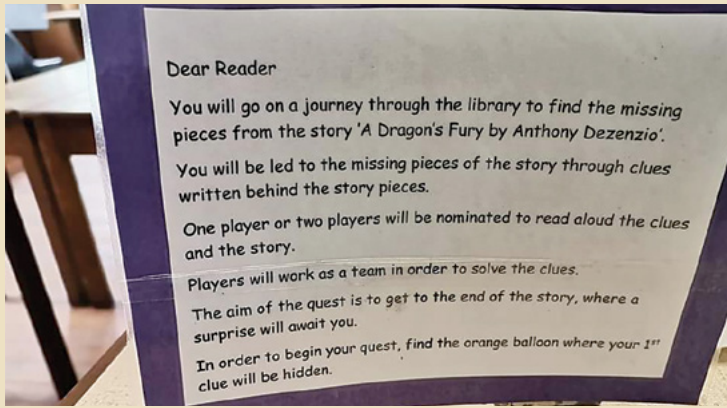
TRACEY MUIR-RIX AND ANGELO DRAGE
CITY OF CAPE TOWN LIS



From left: Councillor Ronel Viljoen (Portfolio Committee Chairperson for Community Services and Health), Christelle Lubbe (LIS), Councillor Patricia Van Der Ross (Member of the Mayoral Committee for Community Services and Health), Illustrator Angelo Drage (LIS) and Author Tracey Muir-Rix (LIS)

World Read Aloud Day (WRAD)

Story Hunt for Teens



Story Hunt instruction card



A learner reading aloud the reading piece

This year Wynberg Library truly embodied the “Party in the Park” theme for WRAD 2022 and included teenagers in the celebration.

In addition to our story-telling and activity sessions at Simon Van Der Stel Primary and Happy Hearts crèche on 2 February 2022, we collaborated with Voortrekker High School to do a Story Hunt in their school library with the Grade 8 learners on 3 February 2022.

The short story “A dragon’s fury” by Anthony Dezenzio was

used for the hunt. The story was split into shorter parts which were scattered around the school’s library along with clues that would ultimately lead the learners to the end of the story and the hidden treasure. The hunt also exposed learners to the various sections and resources in their library. The learners were divided into smaller groups that ranged from 10 to 15 learners. One or two learners were selected to read the reading pieces and clues, and in some cases everyone in a group got a turn to read. Our World

Read Aloud Day continued into the next week as well, where we conducted another story hunt with the remaining Grade 8 learners in which the story was adapted slightly.

The learners really enjoyed the activity as they got so excited that they could hardly wait and dashed through the library in search of clues. The event was used as a way to introduce the library to the learners. The teacher stated that when she handed out the library forms after the activity and asked the learners who wanted to join

the library, there was a sea of raised hands which shows that we achieved what we set out to do.

The story hunt was a fun way to include teenagers in the celebration of WRAD which is usually aimed at children. We hope in the future to continue including this age group in the festivities of World Read Aloud Day.

KIM ALBERTYN
LIBRARIAN
WYNBERG LIBRARY



Voortrekker High learners with Rethabile Nkhahle (staff)



Learners retrieving the treasure chest



The Treasure!

Mogale City celebrated the month of love in style

It is the culture and practice of libraries to observe special calendar dates and days.

This is mostly done through displays within the libraries to celebrate those days or through formal events.

February is regarded as the Month of Love hence you see these beautiful displays within our different libraries. This year the theme of love was embraced by all the Librarians and their staff to show that libraries cater for all spheres of life including – LOVE.

DR NTHABISENG RADUVHA
MOGALE CITY LIBRARIES: SENIOR LIBRARIAN

Lewisham Library



Azaadville Library

World Read Aloud Day (WRAD)

The Department of Library Services, University of Pretoria (UP)



The Department of Library Services (DLS) at UP celebrated World Read Aloud Day (WRAD) on Wednesday, 2 February 2022 - a very important day on the library's calendar. WRAD was established in 2010, by a non-profit organisation "LitWorld", which actively promotes the power of reading aloud in society.

They focus on the following beneficial aspects that are developed during the reading process:

- Enhancement of general knowledge
- Expansion of vocabulary
- Development of writing skills, and
- Stimulation of imagination that

transfers a child into another world.

To commemorate this day, the DLS team visited the pre-school at the Lutheran Theological Seminary for a day of reading and fun activities. The reading theme for the day was "birds", which saw some role-playing performances from the children who imitated birds by standing like flamingos, flapping their wings like an owl, and waddling with their feet like penguins.

Afterwards, there was a fun baking session where the children created bird nests and branches using biscuits, speckled eggs, caramel condensed milk, and coco pops. In line with the theme,

the children were shown four dried weaver nests that were still on branches as well as real ostrich eggs - to demonstrate how large a bird's egg can be - and they were delighted by these practical examples. The weaver nests were also donated to the school afterwards and the teachers were very excited.

The team read the following books to the children, which the DLS also donated to the school:

- Butterfield, M. (2021) *Dance like a flamingo: learn how to move and groove like the animals do!* Welbeck Editions.
- Hegarty, P. and Galloway, F. (2019) *Flamingo a playful book of counting!* Wilton, CT: Tiger

Tales (My little world).

- Sirett, D., Davis, S. and King, D. (2011) *Pop-up peekaboo! Farm.* New York, NY: DK Pub (Pop-up peekaboo!).
- Teckentrup, B. (2020) *Blue.* London: Orchard Books.

The outreach was a fun-filled day - the teachers and children were very happy and expressed their gratitude for all the donations. The read aloud event contributes to our story telling techniques, which we constantly try to improve on. As a team, we felt that although we are small, we contributed significantly to celebrating World Read Aloud Day.

CHRISTINE NEL

City of Johannesburg Libraries Online

Attracting International Awards Nominations

As part of the digital transformation in libraries and in response to COVID-19 challenges, in addition to using the Facebook Page, the City of Johannesburg Library and Information Services (CoJLIS) re-introduced an eLearning website that is aimed at providing communities with access to free digital content and information about COJ Library facilities and services.

The website www.cojelearning.org.za is a mobile-friendly platform that is accessible anywhere and was developed to strengthen digital literacy in our library communities. The Digital Literacy programme was launched during the opening of the Noordgesig Library on 8 September 2021 where the website was also introduced. The website has attracted over 15 000 visitors since launching and is part of the eLearning programmes that are intended for youth skills development.

The introduction of the website led to the CoJLIS being shortlisted for the second time for the London Book Fair International Excellence Library of

the Year Award: 2022*, and also nominated for the World Summit for Information Society Prize for 2022 under elearning.**

These two nominations further encourage COJ libraries to embrace technology and focus on digital literacy for communities. While libraries are not training centres, they play a major role in supporting the lifelong learning and personal development of all communities through collaborations and partnerships with NGOs, academic institutions, corporations, and internal COJ units. By providing access to carefully selected online courses and other e-resources and digital content, libraries enable the public to participate in the digital economy, and to develop basic, intermediate, and advanced digital skills. The website offers access to open-source and online subscriptions and other free digital content such as the following:

- eBooks via Overdrive platform
- Guttenberg, which offers free access to eBooks,
- Librivox which provides free access to audiobooks
- Jurno and African Journal Online: offering free access to

academic articles

- MSD Manual link - reliable medical information from the MERCK manual publishers.

These e-resources links will be updated as and when the library services acquire more.

Library services have also partnered with reputable corporations such as IBM, Microsoft (through Harambee) and Google SA, to provide links to their free learning platforms.

- Microsoft SA, through Harambee's Thintimillon project: free Microsoft Office courses for beginners that require basic to intermediate level digital skills. Users can complete the courses and obtain a digital certificate of completion.
- IBM Digital Nation Africa: digital skills programme that is focused on 4IR concepts such as Coding, Artificial Intelligence, Data Science, etc. Users earn digital badges after completion. IBM courses allow users to select their level of competency, from a beginner level; termed "Explorer", to "innovators", which is where users learn to design

technology. The platform also links users to platforms with job opportunities.

- Google SA: offers the Google Digital Skills for Africa programme with courses focused on digital marketing which comes with a certification after completion. There are more courses to select from that assist in starting an online business or learning to use technology in business.

The website features live Facebook updates for those who cannot access the Facebook app, and also offers library staff and other partners opportunities to contribute articles to the Blog page. The public is encouraged to access the website and explore the digital content, using their smart devices and computers. Libraries are now open to provide guidance and support, including free wi-fi, in accessing this platform.

Enquiries can be directed to enquiries@cojelearning.org.za or jeffny@joburg.org.za

JEFF NYOKA

ELEARNING MANAGER

CITY OF JOHANNESBURG LIBRARY

* <https://hub.londonbookfair.co.uk/lbf-international-excellence-awards-2022-shortlist-revealed/>

** <https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/stocktaking/Prizes/2022/Nominated?jts=U6LCBS&idx=12&page=9#start>



Thusiville Public Library WRAD celebrations



Ermelo Public Library Metanoia Preschool

Msukaligwa Municipality Library Section

These past two years were unprecedented in the way we had to cope with the COVID 19 pandemic and all its restrictions.

The way Public Libraries operate and the services we provide have changed dramatically, almost overnight, it feels.

At the Msukaligwa Library Section we tried to operate as 'normally' as possible within the various restrictions. A big thank you must go out to all our loyal patrons and other members of the community, who supported and understood our 'new' working procedures. 'Kerb-side delivery/pick-up', did not just apply to fast food and sanitizing hands, books, computer workstations, etc. has become second nature, as well as reminding people to 'Ngicela uSanitize- please sanitize'. Facebook, WhatsApp and other

social media have become our best friends and lifelines during this time.

Slowly but surely, we returned to first allowing people in restricted numbers to enter and come and borrow books, or make copies; then, to use the computer for 30 minutes at a time and two-hour study sessions on an appointment basis. Now those restrictions have been lifted, but social distancing, mask-wearing, etc. are still practiced.

These past two months have also seen us returning to in-person events - storytelling/reading, library orientation, etc. The pre-schools especially are starting to visit the libraries again for story-hours and it is wonderful to have the library returning to 'life'.

World Read Aloud Day was celebrated at Thusiville Public

Library, where the children came together in the open air to listen to stories and to read something aloud. They enjoyed the day immensely and went home with a sweet and cupcake for padkos.

The LIASA SA Library Week theme "ReImagine! RePurpose! ReDiscover...Libraries!" was so appropriate this year, as we all had to ReDo and ReThink our operations.

At one of our most rural libraries, Davel Public Library, the librarian decided to establish a vegetable garden at the library as there is a big yard that was overgrown with weeds and grass. This garden contributes a little bit to the surrounding community, because due to the low employment rate and social issues complicated and increased by the pandemic, the community

is very poor.

The librarian at Davel PL and some volunteers also assist Grades 11 and 12 students with extra classes in Geography and Mathematical Literacy. The library itself is very small and does not have space for people to sit and study, so the rest of the building was repurposed to extend the floor-space. The office and meeting room that was no longer used by other sections of the municipality and that had become a catchall and store space were cleaned out and are now utilized as a study area, classroom, discussion room, children's story hour space and also meeting room for small meetings.

CHRISNA CALITZ PL(SA)
SENIOR LIBRARIAN

MSUKALIGWA MUNICIPALITY (MPUMALANGA)

LIASA Representative Council 2022... unmasked!

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Draft National Open Science Policy: opportunities for education



Anelisa Mente-Mpako

The progressive conversation on the South African National Open Science Policy contributes to the international project of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)¹.

Achieving SDG4 Quality Education (Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all)² is becoming increasingly inseparable from Open Science initiatives. One of these initiatives is the UNESCO's Global Education Coalition

(GEC) which was established in March 2020 to ensure that education continues after the unprecedented disruption by COVID-19³. Although the GEC was primarily established to respond to school teaching and learning, the responses and solutions are applicable to different levels of education including higher education⁴.

The discussion on development and implementation of the National Open Science Policy occurs at a time where higher education institutions are navigating the hybrid teaching and learning environment. Critical to the support of hybrid teaching and learning model is a need to develop and make use of Open Educational Resources (OER) for teaching and learning purposes. Several opportunities for education were discussed in the Open Science Stakeholder workshop on the South African Open Science Policy. The first of the six desired outcomes of Open Science in South Africa addresses OERs⁵, a much-needed Open Science practice in support of the increased demand for hybrid

models in higher education.

The open science conversation is complex and requires representation of all stakeholders for an unbiased engagement and good governance practice. Representation of stakeholder communities can ensure a balanced discussion and provide an enabling context for clear articulation and monitoring of policies without compromising good governance. Owing to characteristics of good governance such as participation, consensus, equity, inclusiveness, accountability⁶; representation of all stakeholders should be encouraged. In the governance section of the National Policy document, it is stated that this should not be limited to the implementation phase but should be consistent through to the evaluation of desired outcomes.

South Africa as a developing country could greatly benefit from the implementation of the National Open Science Policy which would feed into other documents of action such as the National Development Plan. In addition to this, the

country stands a good chance to progressively address socio-economic issues such as free access to quality education⁷ and being well positioned within global trends.

As the 17 SDGs are integrated, education is one of the most viable goals through which sustainable development can be achieved. For this reason, the advancement of education through the National Open Science Policy is of great importance to the benefit of the desired society.

1. Department of Science and Innovation. *Draft National Open Science Policy*, p6.
2. United Nations. *Sustainable Development Goal 4*. <https://sdgs.un.org/goals/goal4>
3. UNESCO (2021). *Global Education Coalition* <https://en.unesco.org/covid19/educationresponse/globalcoalition>
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5. Department of Science and Innovation. *Draft National Open Science Policy*, p10
6. United Nations. *What is Good Governance?* <https://www.unescap.org/sites/default/files/good-governance.pdf>
7. Department of Science and Innovation. *Draft National Open Science Policy*, p7-8.

ANELISA MENTE-MPAKO PL(SA)
RESEARCH & REFERENCE SUPPORT LIBRARIAN
UNIVERSITY OF THE WESTERN CAPE

Information Services in a Changed Teaching and Learning Space

The last two years (2020-2021) witnessed library and information services' professionals change tack in terms of information service work.

The national COVID crisis, and the way that it manifested itself, was both a shock and a "call to arms". It completely turned the ship around and steered it in a different direction. At once, the normal became abnormal, the business as usual was now business unusual.

How did Information Search Librarians deal with this changed time-space? The lessons learnt at the inception, during the course of, and in the waning phase of the crisis are important and will guide LIS professionals in charting a

new work ethic and work process going forward. Already, various higher education institutions have either changed their Open Distance e-Learning (ODeL) Models, or re-purposed them to incorporate a smart, remote work service.

New and insightful ways of working were tested. Not all instances of distance work can be regarded as smooth or easy-going. Although the prospect of working from home may appear inviting, there are certain misgivings about its flaws. Fundamental among these is the isolation from colleagues, not having the privilege of face-to-face interaction with colleagues, distraction in the home working

space, inadequate data and related matters. However, in all of this, a few phenomena have emerged that merit consideration.

Firstly, there are certain types of information work that can be done completely in an ODeL space. With discovery tools and databases accessible over secure Internet platforms, staff can serve students from almost anywhere. Secondly, with the high-fidelity electronic devices available, information work can be done effectively and efficiently. Thirdly, with tools such as Microsoft Teams, colleagues and work teams can be highly productive if managed carefully. All these instances require a certain dedication, commitment to stated

work goals, and most of all, time management.

ODeL-based information services demand a high level of integrity and dedication, particularly in instances where databases or electronic resources are not immediately accessible. The seasoned LIS professional has to school herself in Open Educational Resources to utilize when subscription databases are offline, to be resourceful and industrious in making sure that students are supported with the information that they require.

SURENDRA JUGDAV PL(SA)
DEPUTY DIRECTOR
INFORMATION RESOURCES DISTRIBUTION
UNISA LIBRARY



LIASA MAIG Committee 2016-2018



IGBIS Executive Committee, 2018-2021
Front: Alwill Westcott, Zenkosi Majola, Tina Coetzer. Back: Tienie de Klerk, Martha de Waal, Soretha du Plessis, Tholakele Xulu



Unathi Mapongwana (Bishop Lavis Library) engages with pregnant moms at Bishop Lavis Clinic



Yandiswa Qweshwa and Nangamso Vaphi doing a 1000SbS drive outside Dunoon Clinic

1000 Stories before school...

Is this even possible? Yes! according to the City of Cape Town Library and Information Services and their partners.

This very ambitious project aims to introduce reading to babies in the womb from 26 weeks onwards.

The programme will end when that same baby is six years old and ready to start Grade 1. During this time, it is hoped that the parents, either mom or dad, caregivers, teachers etc will play a role in exposing the baby/toddler/young child to at least 1000 stories before they formally start their school career.

The campaign is part of the City of Cape Town's reading strategy which was launched on Literacy Day last year. The practical nature of the 1000 stories before school reading campaign involves stakeholders and caregivers on all levels. Different booklets were designed to assist with the reading needs of

the four different stages.

Stage1: 26 weeks

Read to the bump! At 26 weeks of conception, the health workers talk to the pregnant moms during their check-ups, about the Love Pillar which forms part of the First 1000 Days Campaign.

Stage 2

The Buzzing BaBee focuses on the new born baby from birth to 12 months.

Stage 3 and 4

Booklet number 3, Movers and Shakers, focuses on the toddler aged 12 to 26 months while booklet 4, Budding Bees, focuses on ages 3- 6 years (Grade R).

The 1000 stories Reading Campaign took two years to develop and is the culmination of many thinktank and brain storming sessions with various stakeholders. The booklets were designed with input from



Huguenot Square registers first pregnant mom

the Western Cape Education Department, City Health, Social Development, Mikhulu Trust, Wordworks, Early Learning Resource Unit (ELRU) and of course Nal'iBali. Each booklet contains a wealth of information for parents, from how to do book sharing and why reading is important to how to register a new baby, to name just a few.

We hope that this campaign will lay a firm foundation for our future young readers. By working with all stakeholders, we hope to grow the minds of children... one story at a time.



Olivia Naidu (parent) with Jayda-Lee Payne, Ocean View Library's First LiBee Club Member

TRACEY MUIR-RIX
SPO: CHILDREN'S COORDINATOR
PROFESSIONAL SERVICES
COCT LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SERVICES

Writers Workshop

A collaboration between Gauteng Provincial Library and Information Services (GPLIS) and Mogale City Local Municipality Libraries

A writers' workshop was held on 12 March 2022 to educate and empower upcoming writers, to help more writers to emerge from all our communities and to find the hidden knowledge and talent.

Mr Fundile Mqatu (GPLIS) gave the background and reason for these programmes and said, "Gauteng Provincial Library Services aims at ensuring that the culture of reading becomes the centre of transformation and upliftment. We are here to equip writers with the knowhow, skills and techniques of producing sound books with informative knowledge and a message that will be easily understood by the intended audience or community."

Presenter Mr Phillip Ndlovu from How2HelpWriters Publishing



and Services Company conducted the workshop professionally and simply. All the writers were given a pen and note book to record the points. The theme "How to become the best writer you can ever be" was presented with the following sub-topics:

- The High 5 to becoming the best author
- What type of writer are you?
- Who is the audience?

- What is your style of writing?
- Which genre are you comfortable with?
- Who do you want to be remembered as?
- The other part of writing and their opportunities.
- Finding a publisher
- Things to consider

This was followed by a Question-and-Answer session and ended with a draw for



Mr Fundile Mqatu

promotional material from Mogale City Libraries as a token of appreciation for their presence at the programme.

In conclusion, Dr Raduvha encouraged the writers to believe in themselves and to read more books so they can become acquainted with different styles of writing.

DR NTHABISENG RADUVHA
SENIOR LIBRARIAN: MOGALE CITY LIBRARIES

NLSA/CISCO Graduation Ceremony and Launch



National Librarian and CEO,
Mr Kepi Madumo



Graduands from public and community libraries

The National Library of South Africa (NLSA) recognises the value of Information and Communications Technologies (ICT) in the lives of people as workers, learners and citizens.

For this reason, the NLSA collaborated with Cisco Network Academy to empower librarians across all nine South African provinces with IT skills.

With technology enhanced learning, libraries are in the best position to provide valuable information to help community members lead gainful lives. Information literacy has never been more relevant than it is now. The NLSA hosted a graduation ceremony on 8 March 2022 at its Pretoria Campus for librarians who completed a short course on IT Essentials.

The National Librarian and CEO, Mr Kepi Madumo in his keynote address, said that he believed e-learning was one way in which libraries can remain relevant in the information and

knowledge era. "Like many African countries, libraries and librarians in South Africa are faced with rapidly evolving information technologies and thus libraries must be flexible to meet the demands of library users and communities. During May 2021, the NLSA together with Cisco launched the IT essentials short course and today I beam with pride to announce that 36 librarians from all over the country successfully completed the on-line course. What makes us more appreciative of the partnership with Cisco Network Academy is that, through this course, we are advancing access to information in our communities," said Mr Madumo.

These librarians will now be able to serve their communities with their acquired skills. To aid this training, each province has identified one library site to be used as a Network Academy for digital learning. The library sites have all been fitted with a WEBEX

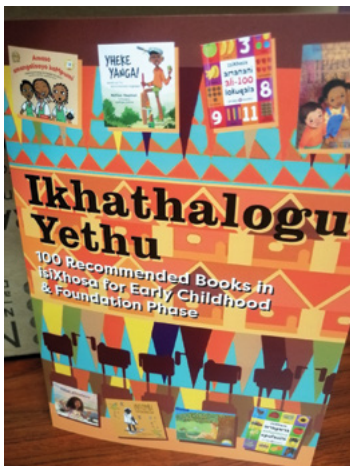
room kit which includes a smart TV. Community members can now approach their local library where they will receive support and access to a full range of self-paced IT courses.

On 23 March 2022, the NLSA and Cisco Network Academy launched the sites to the public at a media launch held at the Germiston Library in the Ekurhuleni Municipality, Gauteng. General Manager at Cisco, Ms Smangele Nkosi said that she appreciated the partnership with the NLSA as it will contribute towards the alleviation of poverty, inequalities and unemployment. "Today we are very proud of the nine participating libraries that have installed the digital hubs in order to facilitate access to information and bridge the digital divide, particularly in disadvantaged areas. Further, the digital learning hubs provide an opportunity for community members to learn IT skills in this technology-driven world,"

commented Ms Nkosi.

Representing the NLSA was Executive Director: Core Programmes, Ms Nokuthula Musa, who mentioned that the partnership with Cisco was assisting in closing the digital gap by ensuring that library users who have not had formal schooling are able to access information and learning informally, including basic computer skills. "As the NLSA we take cognisance of the fact that information is essential for all and the NLSA aims to provide the right information at the right time in the right format to our library users. It is therefore the role of every library to support lifelong learning and underpin the move towards social cohesion and economic participation," said Ms Musa on the role of libraries as digital hubs.

MUSA BALOYI-SEKESE
CONTENT DEVELOPMENT MANAGER
NLSA



Launch of Ikhathalogu Yethu

Foundation, Bibliodef South Africa, International Board for Books for Young People (IBBY SA) and the University of the Western Cape to launch a children's literature catalogue of 100 recommended books in IsiXhosa for Early Childhood and Foundation phase titled *Ikhathalogu Yethu*.

Different speakers representing their partnering organisations spoke about the desire to instil a culture of reading among emergent readers, with access to storybooks in their mother-tongue. The marginalisation of languages resulted in children's literature in indigenous languages not developing and this necessitated the development of the catalogue.

The launch included a panel discussion with Ms Elinor Sisulu from Puku, Dr Vukosi Marivate from the University of Pretoria and Mabuto Kid Sithole from Indigenous Languages Initiative for Advancement discussing the importance of encouraging childhood reading in an increasingly multimedia environment. There was consensus on the need to develop children's literature in mother tongue to elevate the status and use of indigenous languages.

National Librarian and CEO, Mr Kepi Madumo, lamented that books for children are predominately published in Afrikaans and English due to

South Africa's colonial history. He reported that publishing for children in indigenous languages remains problematic and it was therefore necessary to list relevant children's books published in indigenous languages in observance of UNESCO's Decade of Indigenous Languages 2022-2032. Moreover, Mr Madumo mentioned that the NLSA will support further initiatives to develop catalogues in all South African languages.

Ikhathalogu Yethu will be donated to public and community libraries across the country.

For more information, please contact Mr Mandla Mona at mandla.mona@nlsa.ac.za

On 7 March 2021, the National Library of South Africa (NLSA) partnered with the University of South Africa (UNISA), Puku Children's Literature

Coding in libraries

Johannesburg Libraries introduce Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR) tailored programmes

“Libraries will be advocates for and facilitators of the Fourth Industrial Revolution, where people create their own devices and objects” (Ahmat and Hanipah, 2018).

This was concluded during a July 2017 special Global Vision discussion commissioned by The International Federation of Library Associations (IFLA) on the Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR) concerning libraries.

In response to libraries being advocates and facilitators of 4IR, Johannesburg (Joburg) libraries introduced coding programmes in 2018 to equip young children with coding skills at an early age. This programme, which was disrupted by the COVID-19 pandemic, was reactivated in 2022, during the March/April 2022 holiday programmes. Introducing more school learners to this coding programme is in preparation for the programmes in Africa Code Week (ACW) held in October, which “advocates for creating free opportunities for young Africans to learn coding skills and digital skills”.

Through these coding programmes, Joburg libraries fulfil their mandate of “playing a key role in contributing to the skills development of city residents” by introducing much anticipated and in-demand digital skills, to young children. These skills are regarded as requisite in the



4IR. Coding is regarded as the cornerstone of 4IR, on the basis that the technology that propels 4IR relies heavily on coding, e.g., APPs, Drones, Animations, Robotics, etc. Therefore, Joburg libraries saw it fit and appropriate to introduce coding programmes to young children in the form of Tanks Coding during the March/April 2022 holiday programmes.

TANKS coding is a game that makes use of puzzle tokens, image recognition, and a smart device (smartphone/tablet) App. It introduces participants to basic coding concepts and skills by allowing them to indulge in gamification that uses puzzle tokens, converted into

instructions, using the Tanks App downloaded on a smart device (cell phone or Tablet) from Google Playstore for free.

The provision of coding programmes indicates that libraries are no longer just hubs of information and knowledge, but are dynamic institutions reimagining and repurposing themselves to meet the ever-changing needs of their patrons; including acquiring a new set of skills. The coding programmes were introduced and implemented as part of Joburg Libraries’ holiday programmes to keep children off the streets and engaged in library organised programmes, and to learn new skills.

In 2018, the programme was piloted as a school knockout competition across all city regions (A-G) including JCL; wherein 120 learners participated. This year more than 500 children participated in the Tanks coding programmes, quite an increase since 2018.

Learning coding at an early age equips children with critical skills such as organisation; problem-solving and critical thinking, and empowers them for the future. In addition, coding skills reinforce math skills, collaboration, and creativity, stimulating the imagination of children.

The usage of tablets in library programmes brings an element of excitement to the children. In addition, it is fun and captivating learning which in turn encourages young children to learn more and explore the Tanks Coding game in order to collect maximum points. The more excited they got about reaching the highest level of the game; the more they learned and gained insights into solving complex challenges.

Learning and acquiring coding skills are important and relevant to participating actively in the 4IR. So, look out for holiday programmes in your local library to learn these valuable skills.

GABRIEL MASHABELA

Eastwood Library’s Senior Citizens’ Club (Club Woodlander)



“A society that does not value its older people denies its roots and endangers its future. Let us strive to enhance their capacity to support themselves for as long as possible and, when they cannot do so anymore, to care for them.” ~ Nelson Mandela in a message announcing 1999 as the United Nations International Year of Older Persons, 17 December 1998.

Every Wednesday Eastwood Library staff visit the Senior Club

of 45 members. After initiating a regular block loan service to this club, a book club has emerged. The seniors meet and discuss the books that they have read. The library staff take various speakers from organisations such as SAPS (domestic violence), Department of Health (screening, and talking about various health issues), National Law Association (Wills etc..). to educate and inform them on various subjects. The library staff also uses word

puzzles, number puzzles and board games to stimulate the brain and keep the seniors entertained. This sustainable initiative is supported by the Friends of the Library.

Seniors who once felt alone and unwanted now feel cared for; they are monitored for any health issues, are more active and feel a sense of belonging.

SUNITHA RICHARD PL(SA)
LIBRARIAN
LIASA KZN CHAIR-ELECT

LIASA 25 Gallery



Delegates at the LIASA 2004 Conference Exhibition



PEOPLE IN THE LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SECTOR

On the move – New appointments



The National Library of South Africa (NLSA) welcomes **STANLEY MANINJWA**, to the position of Classics Co-ordinator effective 1 April 2022.



The NLSA congratulates **SONTO MOLEME**, on her appointment as Director: Business Development effective 1 April 2022.



ROBYN ALEXANDER joined UCT Libraries' Scholarly Communications team in February 2022. She first graduated from the University of Cape Town (UCT) with a Masters in English Literature in 1995,

and started her working life as a junior lecturer in the Department of English at the University of Stellenbosch. In 2000, she changed lanes to become a copy-editor, starting out in

customer publishing at the Jet Club and Edgars Club magazines. She went on to work at a number of local publications, including *House and Leisure*, *Marie Claire* South Africa, and the *Sunday Times Home Weekly*, where she was assistant editor and then editor. In recent years, she has worked as a freelance editor and writer, and was part-time deputy editor of *VISI* magazine from late 2019 to January 2022. In 2020, Robyn decided to switch things up again, and completed a PGDipLIS at UCT. Her personal passions include design and architecture, great clothes (not fashion) and good food.



NABISA MBALI has been appointed Subject Librarian in the Faculty of Engineering and the Built Environment at the Steve Biko Campus as of 1 April 2022. She has been working in

academic libraries for more than 20 years. She previously held the positions of Research Support Librarian at UNIZULU Libraries;

Branch Manager, and Senior Librarian at the University of Witwatersrand, Management Campus; Faculty Liaison Librarian at Rhodes University; Subject Librarian at UWC; Subject Librarian at UKZN-PMB Campus, and Campus Librarian at Helderberg College in Somerset-West, Western Cape. She holds a degree in Library and Information Science as well as a Supervision Certificate from Rhodes University. With this move, Nabisa looks forward to sharing her knowledge with colleagues and students, and to bringing her constant intellectual curiosity to DUT.

Retirement

From UCT Libraries:



BEVERLEY ANGUS, who joined UCT in 1998. With 23 years of service. Bev, a librarian and member of the Published Collections team in Special Collections, has dedicated her time and efforts to building the unique

African films collection, which was lost to the devastating Jagger fire. During the salvage, Bev was an inspiration to behold! She subsumed her grief and pain into applying her knowledge of the basements and its contents during the salvage and focused on the recovery of salvaged antiquarian materials thereafter.



SUSANNE NOLL, who joined UCT in 2001 with 20 years of service. Susanne, a librarian in the Commerce, CHED & Enterprise team, has demonstrated her love for teaching and learning through the information literacy

training programmes she's developed for students, and publishing and presenting on her own research as part of her own professional development.

Both Bev and Susanne have earned the respect of the respective teams and broader UCTL community.

Theresa Schoeman, UCT Libraries

In Memoriam



GCOBISA XALABILE passed away on 27 March 2022 after her battle with cancer. She re-joined UCT Libraries in 2015 as a librarian in the Science and Engineering section.

MOGAMAT PHILEMON passed away 26 March 2022 after a long battle with cancer. He joined UCT Libraries in 1989 as a cleaner in the main section of UCT Libraries. He later worked as a library assistant in various departments and branch libraries, with the Interlibrary Loans being his final workplace.

Both colleagues bore their pain with immense courage, spirit and forbearance. They are remembered for the collegiality and friendship that they developed with many colleagues over the years.

Graduation



ANNELIZE ROWAN from Kimberley Africana Library obtained her Bachelor of Information Science from Unisa in May 2021

Honours and Citations



From the NLSA:

The Manager: Special LIS Projects, **TSAKANE CHAUKE** is officially a doctor after his PhD degree was conferred on 8 April 2022 for his dissertation titled "Socio-economic benefits of conditional

grants in public libraries in the Heidelberg and Siculo communities in Gauteng, South Africa". Congratulations to Dr Chauke!

Retirement

From UP



MIKE VOLSCHENK

began his career as a railway steward, serving food and drinks to passengers. He was required to perform national service and became involved with the Weather Bureau, where he completed

a basic three-month meteorology course in order to supply weather information to Airforce pilots. He worked as a bus driver for the City of Pretoria before enrolling in college full-time. Mike was pursuing a BA degree in 1982 when he learned about part-time library jobs for students at UP. He began working in the Merensky 2 Library on 1 February 1983. While working in the library, he earned both his BA and B.Bibl degrees. Mike worked for 12 years in the Merensky 2 Library before moving to the Medical Library in 1994, where he worked for another 27 years. He retired as an Information Specialist at the end of 2021, after 39 years of wonderful service to the Department of Library Services.

Elsabe Olivier, UP

From the NLSA



National Librarian and CEO, Mr Kepi Madumo, sadly announces the retirement of **ANDREW MALOTLE**, Director: Conditional Grant. His last working day was 31 March 2022. The NLSA's Board and

Management would like to thank Mr Malotle for his unwavering support and commitment to the NLSA; his contribution and dedication will always be valued and remembered. Best wishes to Mr Malotle on his retirement.



LAZARUS MATIZIROFA, Deputy Director at University of Pretoria's (UP) Department of Library Services (DLS), has been appointed as a board member of the global Networked Digital Library of Theses

and Dissertations (NDLTD). The NDLTD is an international organisation that supports electronic publishing and open access to scholarship, to enhance the sharing of knowledge globally.

This comes as a recognition of his commitment to open scholarship and open research visibility in South Africa and Africa. Lazarus is a member of the [Confederation of Open Access Repositories \(COAR\)](#) Next Generation Repositories Working Group. He was also a Technical Advisory Board member for the [African Open Science Platform \(AOSP\)](#) (2017-2019), and a member of the Steering Committee for the [SA-EU Open Science Dialogue](#) (2018-2019). Mr Matzirofa was one of the pioneers of Open scholarship librarians who steered the formation of the Institutional Repository Managers' Forum in South Africa in 2011, which led to the [IRTALK](#).

Before joining UP, Lazarus was Head of Digital Curation and Content Management (2014-2019), Acting Executive Director of

the Knowledge Management Directorate at the [National Research Foundation](#) (2017-2018). Furthermore, he was the first Open Scholarship librarian at the UJ Libraries from 2010 to 2014. He steered the digitisation of the entire hardcopy collections of theses and dissertations, digitally curating these e-copies to the [University of Johannesburg Institutional Repository \(UJ IR\)](#), and was instrumental in the implementation of the [Online Research Output Submission System \(OROSS\)](#). These projects culminated in the global reach and visibility of UJ research outputs in support of its Open Access policy. Mr Matzirofa, together with Dr Daisy Selematsela (now WITS Library Director) was instrumental in drafting the NRF's Open Access Statement (2015). He also worked with colleagues at the WITS library to ensure the [Wits-NRF Digitisation Capacity Development Initiative](#) is sustained as National Digitisation Project.

Currently, as Deputy Director: Scholarly Communications, Digital Systems & Services, Mr Matzirofa is responsible for DLS' sub-directorate comprising the following services units: Open Scholarship, Digital Scholarship, Information Technologies, Research Data Management, Digitisation, Makerspace, Library Website Management, [Libby \(the first Robot Librarian in Africa\)](#), and Special Collections. To date, the library and the Faculty of Education launched the [UP Journals](#) in 2021. This publishing platform hosts 14 journal titles powered by [Open](#)

[Journal Systems \(OJS\)](#), an open-source software application for managing and publishing scholarly journals). Of the 14 journal titles, seven are DHET accredited. The library is also currently investigating an Online Researcher Tools Platform to support research visibility and the impact of UP scholars on a global scale. DLS is also taking advantage of the digital shift, embracing the digital transformation of its strategy, people, processes, and technology. The DLS will also be looking into a project to visualise ETDs to enhance their usefulness to the Sustainable Development Goals and the South African knowledge economy.

Mr Matzirofa holds a Master's and Honours degree in Library and Information Studies from the University of Cape Town, a Higher Diploma in Library and Information Science, a Diploma in Information Science, and a Diploma in Public Relations from the Harare Polytechnic, Zimbabwe. He is currently studying for a Doctor of Philosophy in Information Science at the University of South Africa. His research interests include Open Innovation, Open Scholarship, Open Science - Open access: Transitions and transformations; Evolving integrated library systems, Research Data Services (RDS): Ethics and maturation; Streaming media; Copyright of digital media, and Research visibility and impact. He has made presentations on areas of research interest at both national and international forums.



Constituent conference 1997, Pretoria: (from left) Robert Wedgeworth - IFLA President, Robert Pearce, Bill Bennett, Ellen Tise, Ross Shimmon - Executive Director: The Library Association

(continued from page 17)

ALECIA STEENKAMP

She has also been inspired by different artists at different stages of her life. Currently she enjoys the art of Hester Berry, Barry Hilton, and South African Simon Addy. Social media has opened up a world of amazing artists and art to enjoy. Should we ask her the same question next week, she might have new favourites.

When asked about her role models in the library world, she said: "It will be a disservice to single out one. Librarians and other LIS colleagues that have crossed my path in my career have taught me more than University would ever be able to do. Each one is special in their own way. I have been fortunate to have had managers that were and

are passionate about libraries and from each I have gained valuable experience - Carol Slater, Thembi Kumalo, Nokuthula Musa, Mzo Zuma and Bongeka Mjwara are just a few."

Lastly, we had a few quick-fire questions for Alecia:

What are you currently reading?

The Artist's Way by Julia Cameron and *Rise* by Siya Kolisi in e-book format

Your favourite book growing up?

"Having lived most of my school years in small towns, my book world was small and consisted of Saartjie and Trompie books and in high school Ena Murry"



LIASA Conference 1998, LIASA Exco members

E-Books, printed books or audio books?

"I would go old school here and say printed books, but e-books are easily available, so I do tend to read more in that format."

Most valuable advice you've received?

"In general: You are stronger than you think. As a librarian: To never forget the impact you have on people's lives. As an artist: Do art for yourself, then art for someone will follow."

Favourite Quote:

"When you buy something from an artist, you're buying more than an object. You are buying hundreds of hours of errors and experimentation. You're buying years of frustration and moments of pure joy. You're not buying just one thing, you are buying a piece of a heart, a piece of a soul. A small piece of someone else's life."
Adier Palmer

Read the full interview with Alecia Steenkamp at: <https://www.liasa.org.za/page/alecia>



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