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# LIASA in touch

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## LIASA Librarian of the Year 2019



Above: Nikki Crowster (LIASA President), Ros Hattingh (Sabinet), Vuyokazi Jamieson (2nd runner-up), Sunitha Richard (1st runner-up), Freda van Wyk (Nevada LMS), Neesha Ramsumar (UKS), Lefose Makgahlela (2019 Librarian of the Year)

### Congratulations to the 2019 Librarian of the Year Winners

And a special Thank You to the Sponsors



2019 President's Branch Award:  
Free State: Kegomodicwe Phuthi  
and Jeannet Mologyane



2019 LIASA Membership Award:  
Northern Cape: Bernice Nagel (Chair),  
Manda Hough (Chair-Elect)



Mandla Ntombela  
Immediate Past President  
Honorary Membership of LIASA

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

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Advertisements:

Nohra Moerat

Cell: 082 884 6275

[liasaintouch@liasa.org.za](mailto:liasaintouch@liasa.org.za)

Editor and Proofreader:

Nohra Moerat

Cell: 082 884 6275

[liasaintouch@liasa.org.za](mailto:liasaintouch@liasa.org.za)

Design to Print:

Muhdni Grimwood

[muhdni@telkomsa.net](mailto:muhdni@telkomsa.net)

LIASA Office:

LIASA House

228 Johannes Ramokhoase Str.

Pretoria, 0001

Tel: 012 323-4912

Fax: 012 323-1033

[liasa@liasa.org.za](mailto:liasa@liasa.org.za)

[www.liasa.org.za](http://www.liasa.org.za)

Office Manager:

Annamarie Goosen

Tel: 012 324-6096

[manager@liasa.org.za](mailto:manager@liasa.org.za)

Membership Officer:

Kagiso Ledwaba

Tel: 021 323 4912

[memberships@liasa.org.za](mailto:memberships@liasa.org.za)

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## WELCOME BACK!

Welcome back to our LIASA National Office Administrator, **Lebogang Masalesa**, from maternity leave – we missed you Lebo and hope you had a well-deserved break!

On the same note, we would like to extend our sincere gratitude to Matheba Maaake, who in addition to the office work, was such a star during conference. Matheba, as described by our Office Manager, Annamarie Goosen – is a quiet, always



Matheba Maaake

## MEMBERSHIP

LIASA set a target to reach 2019 members for 2019 and membership was at 1833 as of 18 Oct 2019 which means that we have a shortfall of only 186 members. Out of this number, 39 members renewed during conference week.

Members are encouraged to renew their membership or join the SAQA Professional Body, in order to enable LIASA to reach its revised target of two thousand and twenty (2020) members. Take advantage of the Early Bird rates

which will run until 31 December 2019 and renew and pay your membership to ensure that you are a fully paid up member by then. Renewals without payment will lead to you paying the 2020 fee if not paid by 31 December 2019.

Members are once again reminded to renew their membership in the following way:

- Pay via EFT. Forms with banking details can be accessed on the website at <http://www.liasa.org.za/register/>

friendly and so willing to help character! We thank him for interning with us during these last 3 months and wish him all the best for his future career.

In August 2019, Annamarie Goosen and Membership Officer, Kagiso Ledwaba, attended the Associations' Conference in Pretoria. Topics dealt with were Leadership; Membership and Strategies for Growing; Various Income Streams, and Training and Development.

## VISIT FROM SAQA

LIASA Office had the privilege of a visit from SAQA to assess and find out how we are doing as a Professional Body since our status was awarded. About 288 members were awarded the Professional Librarian designations since Conference 2018. The process is ongoing, so register to be awarded the SAQA Professional Librarian designation and do not be left behind!

## Membership Fees for 2020

### INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP 2020

|                           |            |
|---------------------------|------------|
| South African Individual  | ZAR 650-00 |
| SA Undergraduate Students | ZAR 310-00 |
| SA Interns                | ZAR 310-00 |
| SA Pensioners             | ZAR 310-00 |
| SA Unemployed             | ZAR 310-00 |
| SA Volunteer              | ZAR 310-00 |
| African Individuals       | ZAR 975-00 |
| International Individuals | ZAR 975-00 |

### INSTITUTIONAL MEMBERSHIP 2020

|                           |              |
|---------------------------|--------------|
| South African Institution | ZAR 3 260-00 |
| African Institution       | ZAR 3 260-00 |
| International Institution | ZAR 3 260-00 |

## SAJLIS

Meet the new Editor-In-Chief of *The South African Journal of Libraries and Information Science* (SAJLIS). The LIASA Representative Council has appointed Prof. Rocky Ralebipi-Simela as the Editor-in-Chief of SAJLIS for the period 2018-2020.

Since the previous editor, Professor Jaya Raju stepped down in October 2018, the President-Elect, Mr Nazeem Hardy has been the acting Editor. At present, we are catching up with the backlog, having assigned the bulk of the submissions to reviewers. SAJLIS remains an important flagship project of LIASA and we want to give everyone the assurance that the Journal will resume its usual cycle of publishing now that we



Prof. Rocky Ralebipi-Simela

have a permanent appointment in place.

You can now direct all your submissions to Prof Rocky Ralebipi-Simela at [sajlis@liasa.org.za](mailto:sajlis@liasa.org.za)

## SOUTH AFRICAN LIBRARY WEEK (SALW) 2020

South African Library Week 2020 will be celebrated from 16 - 22 March 2020 with the launch provisionally scheduled to take place on Thursday, 12 March 2020 to be hosted by the Gauteng South Branch. The SALW 2020 theme "Libraries: Your Partners for Life" articulates with the LIASA Presidential Theme: "Libraries: Advancing development through collaboration, partnerships and innovation".

## LIASA OFFICE CLOSURE FOR THE FESTIVE SEASON

The LIASA Office will be closed from 23 December 2019 and will reopen on 3 January 2020.

We would like to pause, and take this opportunity to thank all our members, partners and stakeholders for your support and dedication to the Association. On behalf of the Executive Committee, the Representative Council and the LIASA Office Staff, we would like to wish everyone a wonderful festive season!

#icommit the slogan continues!

**Mokgadi Rebecca Senyolo**  
LIASA SECRETARY



Ms Nikki Crowster

# From the President

that AGM remains the highest decision-making body in LIASA. Governance is managed by a Board of 7 to 11 members and in which is found a balance of skills, experience, diversity and independence. A CEO – an acceptable term in NPO-speak – is the liaison between the Board, the members and the head of the Secretariat, the operations office of the new LIASA wherein are found the skills of Administration, Advocacy, Finance, HR, ICT, Innovation, Marketing, Publishing, Research and, Training and Development (CPD). These competencies represent the required operations of a 21st century LIS Association and Professional Body. Many questions arise with a common refrain asking about the cost of this office. The restructuring conversation is not over and further consultations with the membership will be undertaken together with sectoral engagements and continuing research into income streams for LIASA.

The most far-reaching change for all of us though is the transformation of Branches to more effective units of professional engagement which for now we call 'communities of practice' and 'circles of excellence'. For too long LIASA has shoe-horned too many focus areas, whether these are of vocational or professional interest, into a model we called Branches and it has not worked; and we have attempted to cover vast areas because of regional boundaries. By doing so, we have placed the burden of travel and engagements within a province on the members and this approach has not served us well. On the Roadtrip we received several requests to split Branches into more groups to service LIS practitioners further away. We have expected Branches to be

generalists and to bring on board all types of LIS entities even when these did not occur in a region. For these reasons, we propose that Communities of Practice of natural occurring ~ and of keen professional interest, develop in all spaces in our country. For example, all the Academic Libraries in a region could group as a community of practice. The model is expandable across the country so all the knowledge managers could group together virtually. The model allows for cross-functional engagement and could be applied at a micro level allowing for let's say a Digitisation Unit in region A to partner with a public library in Region G. Colleagues, the professional opportunities to engage across the spectrum of the LIS sector is as wide as you can conceptualise and fit into your strategic intentions. The circles of excellence will be supported from the Secretariat but will be encouraged to work independently as these mature. Colleagues, LIASA is known for being bold and leading from the front. For our restructure to work, we need the support and the involvement of all members. We invite you to come on board; to experiment, to give constructive criticism, to sign up and lead a community of practice, to contribute to the excellence that LIASA is known for internationally and to take that further.

The 2019 Conference was by all accounts successful. The theme: LIASA: **The Butterfly Effect** was well-received and lent itself well to the conversation on restructure, on innovation and on retaining the core LIASA principles. We have issued an evaluation request to all conference goers and the data received will inform a way forward. In the President's report, we shared with the AGM the outcomes of the investigation into

the viability of LIASA conferences taking into account the views that conference was too expensive and the quality was questioned. The feedback of the questionnaire and the text mining analysis done by Dr Shirlene Neerputh indicated middling stances from the respondents about conference bags, food and accommodation. LIASA fared favorably in the investigations into comparison of costs of similar events. AGM acknowledged that in the light of the impending restructure that the LIASA conference model too would need to be revised. Therefore, we will host the 2020 conference in the current format before changes are applied. By that time, the communities of practice model would be in operation sufficiently for the LIASA membership to make input to the new conference model in the new LIASA. We announced at AGM that the papers presented at the 2020 LIASA conference would be published as proceedings.

The impact of Industry 4.0 featured prominently in papers at Conference and in an unprecedented approach, we used the usual Friday morning plenary to crowdsource a LIASA statement on Libraries in the 4th industrial revolution chaired by Prof Maria Frahm-Arp. LIASA will continue to work on this matter and your input is welcomed. Read more about the Conference in this edition of *LIASA-in-Touch*.

There is much more to tell about our first year and therefore, after the Executive Committee's strategic planning in November, we will roll out #masithethe to get going the conversations on the way forward. Till next, keep on being awesome librarians and information practitioners and professionals and continue to hold the LIASA flag high.

**Nikki Crowster**

LIASA PRESIDENT

## Dear LIASA colleagues

One year of the current Presidency has passed. It has been a whirlwind year; tough but greatly rewarding as we met LIASA members from all Branches. It became evident that while our organisation has systemic problems, the dedication and commitment of the LIS practitioners obviate many of these. Some however need urgent attention: the situation of School Librarians; the Limpopo colleagues who have been volunteering for many years in the public libraries yet have no prospects of permanent employment; the employers who disregard our profession and advertise for posts in libraries without requiring LIS qualifications; the dysfunction of Branches; and, the lack of knowledge of LIASA by our own members. These are some of the findings of the 2019 **Siyalalela Roadtrip** presented as part of the President's report at the 2019 AGM held on 3 October.

The tour of the country was needed to inform the mandate on restructuring LIASA. AGM accepted the proposed model in principle with the proviso that proofs-of-concept are presented to the Association by 30 June 2020. The new structure asserts

## LIASA Executive Committee 2018 – 2020



Nikki Crowster

Nazeem Hardy

Rebecca Senyolo

Senovia Welman

Steve Mokhabukhi

Teboho Morajane

Nohra Moerat

Wynand van der Walt

Annamarie Goosen

Linda Ntaka

**LIASA**  
WWW.LIASA.ORG.ZA  
**2019**  
**20<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL CONFERENCE**



LIASA President welcomes conference delegates at the Opening session



Opening address by Mr Vusithemba Ndima National Department of Arts and Culture



Advocate Marukgwane Moremogolo  
[#readingrunner](#)



LIASA President-elect, Mr Nazeem Hardy



Keynote Speaker, Mr Michael Dowling



Mr Brent Lindique [#goodthingsguy](#)



An Opening moment with Caitlin de Ville



LIASA Presidents, Past, Present and Future with guests after the Opening session



Acknowledged: Professional Body Advisory Committee: Theresa de Young; Shirlene Neerpath; Mandla Ntombela; Rachel More; Segametsi Molawa; Naomi Haasbroek and Ujala Satgoor

# Congratulations to the 2019 Librarian of the Year Nominees



Jeff Nyoka - Gauteng South



Jeanette Matsopola - North West



Bernice Nagel - Northern Cape



Kholo Sambo - Mpumalanga



Mahlodi Moroamodishi - Gauteng North



Righardt le Roux - Western Cape



Neo Molemela - Free State

## Congratulations to the 2019 Librarian of the Year Winners

The highly regarded Librarian of the Year (LoY) event happened during the LIASA National Conference 2019 held at the Durban International Conference Centre from 30 September to 4 October 2019.

This year all ten Branches of LIASA participated which resulted in ten Branch Librarians of the Year (only one did not attend the interviews). All those who attended presented posters as evidence of their activities and engaged in a rigorous question and answer session about their professional involvement in the LIS sector with the LoY award committee members. These presentations were inspiring, but in the end the three most robust candidates walked away with the First, Second and Third Prize.

The Librarian of the Year is a role model for the Library and Information Services community; a person whose contributions make a lasting impact on the sector and who will be an ambassador for LIASA and Librarianship for the upcoming year.

The Selection Panel included LIASA President, Ms Nikki Crowster; LIASA President-Elect, Mr Nazeem Hardy; LIASA National

PRO, Ms Senovia Welman and the three main Sponsors of the event, viz. Ms Neesha Ramsumar, from UKS, Ms Freda van Wyk from Nevada LMS and Ms Rosalind Hattingh from SABINET.

The event was the culmination of a long process with strict selection criteria:

- The award should be used for educational and development purposes and should be in line with the sponsors' guidelines. The Sponsors of the awards were UKS (1st Prize: R30 000), Nevada LMS

(2nd prize: R20 000) and SABINET (3rd prize: R10 000)

- All three winners will present a poster at the following year's conference to highlight their use of the prize money. In addition, the winner will present a report of how the prize money was applied, the value gained for the sector and the community at the following year's Annual Conference Gala Dinner and,
- The two runners-up will present reports of how the prize money was applied, the

value gained for the sector and the community at the following year's Annual Conference during a parallel session.

The President, The Executive Committee and Representative Council of LIASA wish to congratulate all the LIASA Branch winners for 2019, particularly the new 2019 LIASA Librarian of the Year, Mr Lefose Makgahlela from Limpopo Branch, first runner-up, Ms Sunitha Richard from KwaZulu-Natal Branch and second runner-up, Ms Vuyokazi Jamieson from Eastern Cape Branch. All Branch Winners are winners and we wish to thank them for setting an example as leaders in the LIS Sector. We look forward to seeing how their collective efforts will shape the future of our industry.

Heartfelt appreciation is also extended to the sponsors for their continuous generous support of the LIASA Librarian of the Year Awards: Ms Neesha Ramsumar, UKS (1st Prize), Ms Freda van Wyk, Nevada LMS (2nd prize) and Ms Rosalind Hattingh, SABINET (3rd prize).



**Senovia Welman**

LIASA NATIONAL PRO: 2018 - 2020

# LIASA 2019 Executive Librarian Award

## About the Award

The Executive Librarian Award is aimed at recognising the captains of the LIS profession - the powerhouses who are currently inspiring and building a legacy not only for themselves but also for all LIS practitioners.

It is directed at later career librarians and information workers therefore nominees are expected to be older than 50 years (50+ 1 day) at the time of nomination.

This single-winner award is valued at R45,000 and is for an individual who has made an extensive contribution to the profession in the LIS sector with a minimum of 15 years' experience. The contribution can be at any level of the profession, including operational, management or academic. Such individuals must have a proven track record of mentorship as well as strong evidence of leadership.

## Process followed to select the winner

- Nominations invited from all LIASA members and closed on 13 September.



2019 Executive Librarian of the Year to Robert Moropa

- The selection Panel consisted of the LIASA President, Ms Nikki Crowster, LIASA President-Elect, Mr Nazeem Hardy and the three main Sponsors of the Award, Ms Neesha Ramsumar (UKS), Ms Freda van Wyk (Nevada LMS) and Ms Rosalind Hattingh (SABINET).
- Shortlisting took place from 23 to 27 September. Four nominations were received of which three were shortlisted

and invited to an interview with the selection panel.

- The candidates were introduced during the Exhibition Opening of the 20th LIASA Annual Conference on 1 October at the Durban ICC.
- The winner of the Award was announced at the Conference Gala Dinner on 3 October 2019.

## Selection Criteria:

All nominees were evaluated on the following criteria:

- Be a LIASA individual, paid-up member for a minimum of 10 consecutive years
- Have a recognised LIS qualification
- Currently be engaged in the LIS sector for a minimum of 15 years
- Be older than 50 years (50 + 1 day) of age at the time of nomination
- Have made an extensive contribution in the LIS sector
- Have a proven track record of mentorship
- Display strong evidence of leadership

## Additional requirements:

- The shortlisted nominees should be able to attend the panel interviews and

the Annual Conference

- It will be required from the winner to present a paper at the following year's conference
- Act as an ambassador for LIASA and the sponsors as and when needed
- Mentor and coach emerging librarians
- The winner may be requested to attend and present at certain key LIASA events and meetings during the year
- Write an article for the *LIASA-in-Touch* within a year of receiving the award

## Winner 2019

The second recipient of the prestigious Executive Librarian of the Year Award is Mr Robert Moropa, Director of Library Services at the University of Pretoria (Gauteng North Branch). Mr Moropa has served the LIS profession in South Africa in various capacities. He was the LIASA President from October 2002 to October 2004. He was also Vice-Chair of SANLiC when it was founded. He is a visionary leader and has contributed passionately throughout his career at UNITRA, UNISA and the University of Pretoria for 41 years. He has mentored a number of current leaders in the South African LIS as well as developing the next generation of leaders at UP.

## Special word of thanks to the sponsors

Once again, we wish to thank the generous sponsors of the award who contributed an amount of R15 000 each: Ms Neesha Ramsumar (UKS), Ms Freda van Wyk (Nevada LMS) and Ms Rosalind Hattingh (SABINET). We truly appreciate their continuous support for LIASA and for being so altruistic in their sponsorships!

**Senovia Welman**

LIASA NATIONAL PRO: 2018-2020

## LIASA 2019: Best poster



## LIASA 2019 – A snapshot in numbers

|  |     |
|--|-----|
| Number of Delegates at the conference: . . . . .         | 812 |
| Pre-Conference Workshops: . . . . .                      | 4   |
| Total number of sessions: . . . . .                      | 40  |
| Special sessions (plenary, report back, etc): . . . . .  | 8   |
| Plenary speakers: . . . . .                              | 4   |
| Papers delivered: . . . . .                              | 28  |
| Round Table discussion sessions: . . . . .               | 2   |
| Meetings held at conference (including AGMs): . . . . .  | 12  |
| Posters presented: (13 posters - LoY related): . . . . . | 18  |
| Exhibitors: . . . . .                                    | 30  |
| Sponsors: . . . . .                                      | 3   |
| Volunteers: . . . . .                                    | 11  |
| Grantees: . . . . .                                      | 43  |
| Social functions: . . . . .                              | 2   |

# SALI Trust/LIASA 2019 Lifetime Achievement Award

**J**ohn Tsebe, for long a leading figure in the library profession in South Africa and also further afield in Africa and internationally, received one of the profession's highest honours, the SALI Trust / LIASA Lifetime Achievement Award, during the LIASA Annual Conference gala dinner held in Durban.

The Award, presented jointly by the Chairperson of the South African Library and Information (SALI) Trust, Rachel More, and the President of LIASA, Nikki Crowster, honoured John Tsebe for his extraordinary leadership, commitment, service and achievements in the library and information services field in South Africa. In paying tribute, Rachel More noted that he was fondly referred to by many young librarians as "Ntate Tsebe" or "Father Tsebe" in acknowledgement of his role as a father figure, mentor and leader in the profession.

John Tsebe obtained his initial undergraduate and postgraduate qualifications at the then University of the North (now Limpopo) and went on to complete a Masters degree in Library Science at Syracuse University in the U.S. and also obtained a Masters from Harvard University. He then worked for 30 years at the University of the North, including 20 years as Head of the University Library, before being appointed as National Librarian and CEO of the National Library of South Africa (NLSA) in 2004 from where he retired in 2014. Among the many projects he played a leading role in while at the National Library was the state-of-the-art building, a mass de-acidification unit and the reprinting of indigenous classics. He was also instrumental in the drafting of the



John Tsebe receives his award from Nikki Crowster (LIASA President) and Rachel More (Chairperson of the SALI Trust)

Library and Information Services Transformation Charter, which was completed and submitted to the Department of Arts and Culture in 2014. Rachel More highlighted that throughout his career he expanded professional opportunity for many and will be remembered as someone who transformed the National Library and opened its doors wider to the nation.

However, John Tsebe's contribution stretches far beyond his institutional service. Ever willing to serve the profession and the community, his many roles included being Chair of the then Forum of University Librarians of South Africa (now CHELSA) and serving on a number of boards, including the S.A. Library and Information Consortia, the S.A. Book Development Council and the SALI Trust. He was a founder member of LIASA and will always

be appreciated for giving LIASA a home on the premises of the National Library.

Internationally John Tsebe's positions have included Chairmanship of the Standing Conference of African National and University Libraries in Eastern, Central and Southern Africa (1998 – 2002), and he became the first National Librarian from Africa to Chair the Conference of Directors of National Libraries (2010 – 2014). He also served on the UNESCO Memory of the World National Committee and the UNESCO Commission for South Africa, and was the first President of the African Library and Information Associations and Institutions (AflIA) from 2015 – 2019 where he continues to serve as Past President.

Honours bestowed on him include being nominated in 2010 as one of the 14 most influential

alumni in their respective professions by Syracuse University, Honorary Membership of LIASA in 2017 and an Honorary Doctorate from the Commonwealth University and London Graduate School in 2019.

In concluding her tribute, Rachel More described him as a giant and a living legend in the profession who also made immense contributions world-wide. She asked everyone who was trained, mentored or worked with him to rise and he received a standing ovation.

In his acceptance speech, John Tsebe dedicated the award to his late parents, his late wife Viadah Lindeni Ndhlovu, his siblings and his daughter, Marta. He also thanked a wide range of people who played a role in his life, including the community where he grew up in North West, institutions where he was educated, and the management and staff at the University of Limpopo and the NLSA where he spent his working life. He made special mention of his lecturer, mentor and role model, Prof Seth Manaka, for introducing him to the LIS profession. He ended with a plea to colleagues in the profession to be creative and active members of their professional association and also international professional bodies, and to use their skills, knowledge and expertise to assist in the development of the nation and the world at large.

**John van Niekerk**

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER, SALI TRUST

## LIASA 2019 snapshot

NLSA staff at their stand



## Inmagic GeniePlus is here!

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# LIASA 2019 Librarian of the Year: Lefose Makgahlela

I am thrilled to be named as the national Librarian of the Year for 2019. I am also earnestly grateful for the recognition I have received for my work as a Lecturer and Librarian, because I am very sure that every other finalist was as capable if not more, of winning this award. I can safely say that I never thought I would be writing this article to accept the Award of LIASA Librarian of the Year. It is so fulfilling to me both personally and professionally.

I would like to thank LIASA and the sponsor UKS for this opportunity. It is not just my individual effort that has brought me here. I would like to make a special mention of my family, my colleagues in the Programme of Information Studies at the University of Limpopo, all current and former students of the University and all members of LIASA Limpopo Branch for their support on this journey. My sincere gratitude to all for the incredible enduring encouragement that has throughout enabled me to put in the hard work and time to accomplish this feat. Your confidence in me and my abilities is greatly appreciated.

My journey as Librarian of the Year started on 3 October



when it was announced that the winner of the Award came from Limpopo Province. My name was never mentioned as the winner, as colleagues started celebrating even before my name was called and all the librarians from the province come on stage and started dancing. I never thought some of my colleagues can get down like that!

Receiving the Award means a lot for me and my career because it means my work has been recognised and appreciated, but I realise that the really hard work will start now. One of the biggest challenges facing this country at the moment is the high level of unemployment, illiteracy, inequality and poverty.

However, these challenges can easily be overcome if the level of literacy can be improved. It is the responsibility of LIASA working together with stakeholders to eradicate the high level of illiteracy. If LIS professionals provide the community with access to information, then the high level of illiteracy, and subsequently unemployment and inequality, will also be reduced.

Low morale among LIS professionals is a serious concern in many organisations. Budget cuts, low salaries, unrecognised professional status and poor financial resources have been the main obstacles to the advancement of the profession. LIASA's role should also be

around lobbying for more funds for building libraries and the employment of qualified librarians to run libraries. I am more energised and charged up to take up the new and challenging position as an ambassador of LIASA, LIS as a Brand, Librarians and the Sponsors.

As librarians we must go out there and start telling people about the services that we provide. We provide the Library and Information Services (LIS) Brand and that must be marketed to our people. We must also collaborate with government, non-governmental organisations and other stakeholders to deliver quality services to our people. Our people are thirsty for knowledge, and our responsibility as librarians is to satisfy that thirst.

Many of our colleagues are not members of LIASA, and as librarians, we must go out and recruit them. As we all know, "Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much". We have many challenges as librarians, but together we can win the battle. I look forward to all of the excitement and challenges that lie ahead.

**Lefose Makgahlela**

LIMPOPO PROVINCE  
LIBRARIAN OF THE YEAR 2019

## Why comfort zones are such even when they trap and condemn us to an irrelevant past

### Foreword

This article is dedicated to the following sponsors of the Executive Librarian 2019 Award:

- LIASA: (Nikki Crowster)
- Nevada LMS: (Freda van Wyk)
- Sabinet: (Ros Hattingh) and
- UKS: (Neesha Ramsumar)

I also dedicate this article to the staff members of the UP Library for having made it possible for me to receive.

### Introduction

The launch of Libby (the service robot) at the UP Library generated a wide range of reaction, most of which was positive. However, I was dumbfounded by the negative responses that we received. The leading negative comment was the one concerning the adverse impact that Libby could have on jobs. This was perplexing, especially if one considers that jobs have always come and disappeared. For instance, as a young librarian I worked in libraries that had "Typing Pools". Today there is no library that has a typing pool. This "job" (of creating catalogue cards) and related jobs disappeared

long before the arrival of Libby.

### Why are we afraid of change?

These negative responses have propelled me to find answers to the question "why do we resist change?" A bit of reading has made me realise that we resist change because, among others, we get addicted to our jobs that we perform daily – while the broader environment – comprising legislation, technological developments, the fluctuating state of the economy, currency fluctuations etc. - changes continuously. We are creatures of habit. [CITATION Dis12 \l 7177] says that once you've acquired a habit you carry it out without thinking. When that happens, it means that your body is doing the thinking and not your brain. A habit is an automatic action that does not require thinking or even effort. It's like an addiction. It is a comfort zone. A habit is fine if it is serving you well and enables you to grow and develop. Unfortunately, there are habits that get outdated over time and cease to be beneficial. But due to changes that may have occurred in the external and

broader environment such habits may no longer be assets that they used to be previously. In fact, they may now be a liability. Such habits must be changed, improved or even done away with. The one such practical job or habit that I can think of in our sector is that of creating a catalogue card. The other broader example of such a habit that I can think of is the mind-set of acquiring qualifications for the purpose of seeking a job. This approach was fine during the industrial revolution because there was an explosion of jobs. But today organisations are retrenching their staff. This mind-set is no longer serving us well. It therefore means that we must stop following it blindly. We must replace it with a new habit: studying to equip ourselves for creating jobs.

### Overcoming resistance to change

I am convinced that outdated habits and attitudes can be overcome. I strongly believe that leaders can and should take it upon themselves to tackle these habits to ensure that they do not drag their organisations down.

### My contribution as the recipient of the Award

As the recipient of the above award, for which I am grateful, I intend to assist leaders and staff members of libraries in South Africa – through workshops, coaching and mentoring – to overcome this debilitating resistance to change. Failure to fight this tendency will contribute towards hastening the demise of libraries in the face of unparalleled developments in the era of the 4th Industrial Revolution. Since I view the granting of this award to me as, among others, a proxy recognition for the high level of successes attained by the UP Library (which I have led for the past 13 years) in recent years I intend sharing with other libraries some of the factors that contributed to these successes – including the employment of Libby.

**Robert Moropa**

RECIPIENT OF  
THE EXECUTIVE LIBRARIAN 2019 AWARD  
DIRECTOR: DEPT OF LIBRARY SERVICES, UP

Work Cited:

Dispenza, J. (2012). *Breaking the habit of being yourself: how to lose your mind and create a new one*. California: Hay House.

# LIASA 2019 Librarian of the Year

## 1<sup>st</sup> Runner Up: Sunitha Richard

**I** Sunitha Richard, Librarian at Eastwood Library, Pietermaritzburg, KwaZulu Natal take this opportunity to thank the committee for recognising my efforts in the world of librarianship.

I am humbled by this recognition and will carry myself with utmost respect as a LIASA Ambassador.

Libraries, across all sectors, are subject to continual change, especially in today's digital information environment. Similarly, the political and economic environments in which libraries operate mean that we need to be flexible, agile and continually evolving. Thus, for a library to embrace change, its workforce must continually develop its professional and technical skills. I believe strongly that we as librarians are the heart of the community and it is our responsibility to continually



develop ourselves professionally to ensure that our libraries remain relevant.

My goal, therefore, is to attend the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA) World Library and Information Congress (WLIC) 2020 which will take place

in Dublin, Ireland from 15 – 21 August 2020. The theme for the conference is "Inspire, Engage, Enable, Connect". The event will facilitate the exchange of experience and best practice between local, regional and international members of the profession, thereby providing useful insights and global comparisons to advance library

innovation at home, as well as make contacts at WLIC that will last a lifetime and greatly enhance personal professional development. Guided tours are being organised due to fact that Dublin has a large number and wide variety of libraries which will also provide me with useful

information to bring back home.

The knowledge gained will be ploughed back to into my community, my staff and librarians at large. I will utilise LIASA workshops and Department of Arts and Culture: Library Services: Interest Group Forums to do presentations. I have done the same already with the online training meet I am currently on through AfLIA, known as the International Network of Emerging Librarians. This has been a success thus far whereby I reached over 80 librarians from different libraries in Kwa Zulu Natal.

Thank you LIASA and Freda van Wyk of Nevada LSM for this opportunity to broaden my knowledge, make connections and enhance my service delivery.

**Sunitha Richard (Mrs)**

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Runner Up: Vuyokazi Jamieson

**F**or me falling in love is associated with the sensation of butterflies in one's stomach thus I happily related to this year's LIASA conference theme of "The Butterfly Effect" which also filled my stomach with the sensation of those butterflies.

I hope to use the R10,000 prize money to cover part of the cost to attend the American Independent Schools Library (AISL) Conference which will be held in Houston Texas in 2020. This conference will equip me to better serve my purpose as the Eastern Cape Librarian of the Year, and help me to share some insights of worldwide library trends back here in South Africa and the Eastern Cape in particular. I previously did this with the Personal Librarian Programme that I encountered at Yale University in 2012 and which I implemented at Rhodes University.

The AISL Conference takes place from 1 to 3 April 2020. Unlike other large-scale library conferences that offer multiple streams of sessions and attract thousands of attendees, the AISL conference is distinctive by hosting an intentionally small (approximately 150 attendees) conference that is deliberately designed to showcase the distinctive strengths of the host schools. Conference delegates



will visit various schools and their libraries, and network with colleagues sharing best practices and being able to participate in professional development sessions. The AISL conference is targeted at the unique needs of independent school librarians.

In an informal survey, attendees from past conferences cite the following experiences in their testimonials as reasons for attending an AISL conference:

The value of experiencing a variety of junior and senior school libraries with a focus on literacy and reading at the heart of their

library programme;

Observing different pedagogical perspectives on the value and role of the library from Heads of various schools;

An emphasis on the arts, books and culture that is an inspiring change from business and technology;

Wonderful hospitality; informative workshops; thought-provoking keynote speakers and excellent programmes.

Hopefully, the conference will serve to confirm that our own library initiatives and directives are on target. It will allow me to share best practice with institutions with similar missions and visions. Attendees should share a sense of celebration in our mutual profession and accomplishments.

I am really excited about the possibility of attending this conference as it speaks to my vision for St Andrew's College, Cawse Library and the direction that South African school libraries should take as a link between tertiary and secondary institutions. I will also be able

to interact with Independent Schools' librarians from all over the world and observe what modern trends are in their school libraries. I am passionate about the eradication of illiteracy in our beautiful country and I feel that this experience will equip me with more skills to help promote literacy amongst our readers.

I will also be able to learn how schools strengthen their networks and evaluate how valuable their connections with their professional associations are. It is important to observe how well-resourced institutions or schools relate to and impact under-resourced schools elsewhere in the world.

I am grateful to St Andrew's College for affording me the opportunity to pursue the Librarian of the Year process and thank them for their continued commitment and support during my LOY period. I am thankful for the support of my family and friends and I am forever grateful to God for this award, I realize the responsibility it carries, and I look forward to holding it with pride.

A special 'thank you' must go to Sabinet who sponsored my prize.

**Vuyokazi Jamieson**

HEAD LIBRARIAN  
THE CAWSE LIBRARY  
ST ANDREW'S COLLEGE

# Meet AfLIA President 2019 - 2021



Mr Mandla Ntombela

**W**hatever you do today, do it excellently; as if there is no other chance tomorrow".

With his string of qualifications which include a Masters in Information Science, Ntombela entered the profession as an assistant librarian at UKZN Library and then with his current employer, Msunduzi Municipality and gradually worked his way up. He is a former LIASA president who now serves as AfLIA president for the 2019-2021 term.

Ntombela was promoted thrice

by his employer after recognizing his great leadership potential. He advanced from the lower ranks to principal librarian despite many challenges. He continued to participate in professional societies with his positive work ethic and was appointed District Manager for EThekweni Municipality Parks, Recreation and Culture, Libraries and Heritage between 2011-2012.

Other professional involvement includes serving in structures like: LIASA KZN Chair and Rep Council Member 2008 – 2010; LIASA National EXCO: Convenor for Branches and Interest Groups 2010 – 2012; LIASA National PRO 2012 – 2014 and LIASA President Elect 2014 – 2016; Legal Deposit Committee Chair 2014 -2016; SALI Trust Board Member 2015 – 2018; Chair for AfLIA Training Committee 2016 to 2019; AfLIA Vice President 2017 to 2019 among others. Despite these accolades, Ntombela humbly continued to seek professional advice and guidance from seasoned librarians such as Mr. John Tsebe, Ms Susan Schnuer,

Ms Lucille Webster, Prof. M. Nkondo, Ms Naomi Haasbroek, Ms Ujala Satgour, Ms Segametsi Molawa and many others.

In one of the interviews with The Witness (Natal Midlands newspaper), Ntombela indicated that he would like to see African libraries on a par with libraries of the developed countries whose information services are exceptional. He earnestly believes that empowering librarians through continental programmes such as AfLIAC, IYALI, INELI and many others will produce a new breed of librarians to transform African communities. These AfLIA programmes continue to produce dynamic librarians in the country such as Noxolo Zokwe, Shanitha Bhim, Pranisha Parag, Bethuel Makhaye, Sunitha Richards, Promise Ngoza, Anele Moko, Nomgcobo Siphondo, Mthandazo Ntsham, Patience Tshisikule, Sydney Nkosi, Thuletu Mlumbi-Javu and others.

His strong focus includes transforming libraries across the continent to digital-friendly zones. Another aspect of his new

leadership role is finding ways to draw the youth to libraries. He said; "I will be focusing on uplifting the standards of libraries on the continent and in the country. We need to find out if our libraries are speaking to the needs of the people and find ways to advance them technologically". Being involved in various information services decision-making structures in the country allows him to use his knowledge acquired from international and continental structures to influence decision-making that will benefit and uplift the profession while incorporating SDGs in the libraries.

He also highlighted that it is possible for African libraries to achieve the 17 SDGs. "Librarians must be willing to change, network and partner with public and private organisations and work like a Trojan as if there is no tomorrow" expressed Ntombela.

**Lucky Mbatha and Masontaha Mahlatsi**

MSUNDUZI LIBRARY SERVICES LIBRARIANS

## Commonwealth University and London Graduate School bestows honorary doctorate on Mr. John Tsebe, immediate past president of AfLIA

**T**he Commonwealth University and London Graduate School has bestowed an Honorary Doctorate on Mr. John Tsebe, immediate past president of the African Library & Information Associations and Institutions (AfLIA).

*"The ultimate benefit of one's essence to mankind is to sacrifice for, serve and improve society through one's field of endeavour. Librarianship continues to afford me the opportunity to do just that for the good of society".*

These were the words of wisdom from the former AfLIA President, who with a standing ovation accepted the honorary doctoral degree from the Commonwealth University and London Graduate School, an honour reserved for persons who have distinguished themselves professionally through meritorious service that impacted many lives positively.

John K. Tsebe served as the President of AfLIA from 2015-2017 and 2017-2019. He is one of the founding members of the Library and Information Association of South Africa (LIASA). He had served as Vice Chair and then Chair of the Forum of University Librarians of South Africa (FULSA). He was instrumental to the transformation of FULSA into the new Committee of Higher Education Librarians



of South Africa (CHELSA). Working with the South African National Council for Library and Information Services (NCLIS), he coordinated the drafting of the Library and Information Services Transformation Charter for South Africa. This was completed and submitted to the Department of Arts and Culture in February 2014, before his retirement.

He has chaired the Executive Committee of the Standing Conference of African National and University Libraries in Eastern, Central and Southern Africa (SCANUL-ECS) for two terms (1998-2000 and 2000-2002).

Mr. Tsebe was National Librarian and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the National Library of South Africa (NLSA) from March 2004 to February 2014. During that period he became the Chair, CDNL – Committee of National Librarians (2009 – 2014), a global Body. He has also served OCLC and UNESCO in different capacities.

The former AfLIA President attended the University of the North (now University of Limpopo) for six years for his undergraduate and post graduate studies. He got his Master's degree in Library and Information from Syracuse University School of Information

Studies, Syracuse, New York, USA and an MPA from Harvard University, Cambridge, USA. Recently Syracuse University recognised alumni that have distinguished themselves since the foundation of the Institution in 1879. Joe Biden, the former US Vice President as well as Mr. John K. Tsebe were named! He was honoured as one of the alumni who has consistently gone on to gain national and international acclaim for illustrious contributions and renowned accomplishments in the Information Profession.

Saying "well deserved for this honour" will be a gross understatement from us at AfLIA. John Tsebe's contribution to the growth of AfLIA can never be quantified; but for his professionalism, wisdom, boldness, honesty, truth telling even at the peril of being a lone ranger, and his unifying spirit, AfLIA would not have been at the high level that it is now. AfLIA is especially proud and happy that this great man is being honoured while alive. AfLIA heartily congratulates and thanks Dr. Tsebe for having been there and standing up for her. AfLIA will still treasure his contributions as the IPP of AfLIA.

Congratulations to a worthy ambassador, Dr. John Tsebe!!



Pre-conference workshop participants



## Addressing the South African Reading Literacy crisis using Mobile Technology

**I**t was former president Nelson Mandela who said that education is the most powerful weapon which we can use to change the world; this includes librarians – through educating ourselves, and in turn, educating others.

If we do not pass on our new knowledge, how else will we create a better future and empower others to continue from where we stopped?

During the past LIASA pre-conference workshop on mobile literacy, 59 librarians attended and engaged on how we can all collectively work together to go further as part of the 4th Industrial Revolution, as opposed to working alone and going faster, with reference to the African proverb:

*“If you want to go fast, go alone; but if you want to go far, go together.”*

Mobile phones are such powerful tools, and although it is a very personal device, it can be used as a great tool to collaborate and engage with others, beyond just making calls, messaging and social media. Since this was a digital mobile workshop, participants were encouraged to take notes using a note taking app, take photos, record the sessions, scan QR codes – using nothing else than their mobile phones. During a group activity where participants took selfies and shared a mobile phone to complete an online form and attach the photos, they indicated that it did not bother them using someone else’s phone. However, in one instance the owner of the cell phone indicated that she felt her privacy was invaded, since it attracted lots of comments and criticism from others on what she had on her phone.

The world of apps was further introduced to all. Participants learned that apps can be downloaded and installed with great ease from the Google Play Store, free of charge. Where their phones did not have it pre-installed, apps for the following were installed: a note taking app, QR code reader, pdf reader and an e-book reader. The LIASA conference app was also downloaded and installed, and all participants were encouraged to give feedback regarding the workshop through the contact function on the app.

Real-life challenges were experienced, and in future we are positive that librarians will empathise more with their users. Batteries ran out, the network was slow at times and became flooded, and all participants had different phones with different settings, something that can become quite challenging and keep you on your toes when having to assist clients.

The second half of the session focussed on the use of mobile phones to advance basic reading literacy among young learners. South Africa’s reading crisis is a topic of ongoing debate and several strategies for improvement have been proposed: promoting a culture of reading; encouraging parents to read to their children; making books accessible in schools and improving initial teacher education. Librarians were encouraged to extend their physical collections beyond just the brick and mortar of a physical building, and to also create an awareness on open access reading material available through app stores and initiatives such as the following: **African Storybook; Book Dash; FunDza; Nal’ibali; Penreach; Puku; Worldreader and PressReader.**

Librarians were further encouraged to target potential clients not part of the membership yet, make provision for mobile users to charge mobile phone batteries inside the library, and lastly, to join and support President Cyril Ramaphosa’s Reading Circle and the **#ReadingRevolution**, advancing the literacy level of all in our beautiful country. More at <http://nrc.org.za/president-reading-circle/#>

The presentation from the workshop can be accessed at <https://www.slideshare.net/Kidsin-theCloud/liasa-preconference-workshop-3-mobile-literacy>

or scan the QR code using the QR code scanning app on your mobile phone.



**Ina Smith**

CO-DIRECTOR, IN THE CLOUD

## NLSA @ LIASA 2019

**T**he National Library of South Africa (NLSA) proudly participated in the 19th annual LIASA Conference from 30 September to 4 October 2019 at the Durban International Convention Centre.

The theme of the Conference was **The Butterfly Effect**.

This year, our exhibition stall boasted an #Iwasthere poster that collected numerous signatures of delegates and exhibitors. The NLSA staff participated as delegates, exhibitors and programme presenters at the Conference.

A highlight of the Conference was definitely the former National Librarian and CEO, Mr John Tsebe receiving the 2019 SALI Trust/ LIASA Lifetime Achievement Award.

The NLSA would like to take this opportunity to applaud Mr Tsebe on his phenomenal and inspiring achievement and



contribution to the LIS sector and the NLSA.

**Shadé Pietersen**

SENIOR COMMUNICATIONS PRACTITIONER  
NATIONAL LIBRARY OF SOUTH AFRICA

# IFLA World Library and Information Congress, Athens, August 2019

In August more than 3300 delegates from over 130 countries arrived in Athens, Greece, for the 2019 IFLA World Library and Information Congress (WLIC).

They had a warm welcome -- warm in both senses of the word, for the welcome was friendly and generous, and the daytime temperature stayed in the low to mid-30s throughout the week.

It was my 27th IFLA Conference/WLIC, but my first visit to Greece. It was also the first time I had my pocket picked successfully – my wallet was stolen in the Metro on my way from the airport to my hotel. I was tired after three flights and more than 24 hours travelling. I should have known better, but I let my guard down in the crowded train, and my wallet was taken from a readily accessible pocket. Fortunately, I keep my bank and credit cards and my passport concealed on my person, so I lost only cash. So one learns.

Due to a stomach upset, I

PHOTO WITH PERMISSION FROM PROF. THEO BOTHMIA



Peter Lor and Raisa Teodori (Outgoing Chair of IFLA's Division I), who represented IFLA at the launch

missed the opening session and the first day's sessions, but I was well enough after a day or so to participate in the programme. I was able to attend the meetings of the Standing Committee of the Section for Library Theory

and Research (LTR), which approved my proposal for a satellite meeting on "Pitfalls and challenges in international and comparative LIS research". The satellite meeting will take place in Dublin, Ireland, in August 2020.

For me the highlight of the WLIC was the session during which the Berlin-based publisher De Gruyter-Saur launched my book, *International and comparative librarianship: concepts and methods for global studies*. I had started planning and researching this book more than ten years ago. The project took on a life of its own, and it was a great relief finally to see it in print, all 900-plus pages of it. It was published in the series "Global studies in libraries and information", under the auspices of IFLA.

There was a substantial South African delegation, thirty-two being named in the participants list, many of whom I met and spoke to. Some of them will undoubtedly share their impressions of the WLIC through *LIASA-in-Touch*. I intend to highlight some of the professional and scholarly papers in a later issue of my column, "Global gleanings".

Peter Lor

## "Dialogue libraries as models of change" My IFLA experience

This has been the one of the most memorable international conferences I have ever attended.

I was given this privilege by Ms Betsy Eister, Director of Library and Information Services at the University of the Free State (UFS) by virtue of being UFS Librarian of the Year and LIASA Free State Branch Librarian 2018. I learned a lot at the conference and hope to impart what I learned in my work..

I had a local experience by travelling with the metro rail to the conference venue. I also travelled with some fellow delegates from other countries which was great because I was able to network on the way to the conference venue.

I attended the newcomer's session on the first day as I wanted to get a refresh on IFLA and the programme of the week which helped me to know which sessions to attend.

More than 3600 delegates from 140 countries contended for a spot in Greece's premier convention venue to experience the official opening of the 85th IFLA General Conference and Assembly which was held in the Lambrakis auditorium at the Megaron Athens International Conference Centre.

There were 500 speakers on the programme. I attended many sessions and I learned a lot about other libraries across the world. A few highlights:



Kegomodicwe Phuthi and the Cultural Dancers at the National Library of Greece (NLG) in its new premises at the Stavros

- Main theme: **Library Integration into the Research Lifecycle: a STEM Perspective – Academic and Research Libraries and Health and Biosciences**. This session focused on how librarians should do research on how to embed themselves in the research cycle of their faculties.
- Main theme: **Data Mining and Artificial Intelligence: Artificial Intelligence and Data Mining to transform knowledge management and information services in libraries and information organizations - Knowledge Management with Information Technology and the Big Data**
- Presentation: **Virtual information assistants on mobile app to serve visitors at Helsinki Central Library**
- **#marketinggenius - Beg, Borrow or Steal Great Ideas from Around the World – Management and Marketing** which I enjoyed very much
- **Green Libraries: Towards Green Sustainable Development** was an eye opener

I networked with colleagues from different countries like Kenya, New Zealand, Spain, Hong Kong, Nigeria, Australia and more.

The cultural evening was held at the National Library of Greece (NLG) new premises at the Stavros Niarchos Foundation Cultural Centre and we had a great time eating and dancing the night away with a lot of entertainment from local artists. I also visited

the old national libraries in a very beautiful building with a rich history; it has now become a historical monument.

There were 66 exhibitions at the conference. The exhibitions were amazing; there were different kinds of technologies on display from self-checkout systems to machines that clean books, Greek libraries, and service providers

It was wonderful to have a one on one meeting with LIS coaches from all over the world who gave great insights on professional development. It is something for which I will be grateful for a long time, that people who have been in the profession for many years and of a high calibre were willing to take time out to spend in a one on one session with a librarian and advise on career and professional development.

I had the opportunity to meet the Ambassador of South Africa to Greece, Ms BR Sisulu together with the other South African delegates

I visited two libraries; the Library of Athens School of Fine Arts (ASFA) supports the Institute's academic and research programmes in History of Art, emphasising Greek Modern Art, and the University of Piraeus Library.

**Kegomodicwe Phuthi**  
FACULTY LIBRARIAN  
UNIVERSITY OF THE FREE STATE

# My personal journey to the IFLA WLIC Conference 2019

The WLIC IFLA Conference 2019 brought together library and information professionals from all around the world.

There were over 3300 participants from 140 countries. For me, attending the conference for the first time was such an overwhelming experience. The conference provided the platform for the following:

- Learning from other libraries and information professionals
- Gathering new ideas to implement at home
- Identifying future trends that will affect the service
- Assessing my services against international best practice for public libraries
- Benefiting by identifying which other libraries to work with, or promoting my services. Having a broader context, or building a network to call upon for exchanging information about best practice.
- Networking with the international community and professional development
- Keeping abreast with new developments

Some of the highlights for me were:

- Meeting the outgoing IFLA president, Glòria Pérez-Salmerón
- Chatting to the librarians from the Selangor Public Library Corporation, Malaysia about their beautiful poster and the amazing work they do. Their library has a relaxing room with a TV for families to chill in. They have prayer rooms and an outdoor gym and recreational facility allowing the whole family to come and enjoy their specific interests. They have excellent reading and learning spaces and their library is filled with light and colour.
- It was great meeting other librarians from South Africa and around the world and building networks for future partnerships
- The cultural evening sponsored by the Stavros Niarchos Foundation was an awesome experience. The National Library of Greece is housed there and has a dedicated children's section!
- Visiting the infant and toddler library in Athens was so cool; it is the only library that has material specifically for this age group. They also have feeding chairs for the mothers and they just had the cutest furniture.
- The library love stories sessions brought a tear to my eye with a proposal that took place



Anwar Adriaanse (UWC Libraries), Carmen Holtzman (City of Cape Town LIS), Nadia Ismail (City of Cape Town LIS), Senovia Welman (LIASA National PRO), Nizam Bray (PACLIG National PRO)



Greek National Library



With Glòria Pérez-Salmerón

in a library in Australia and the whole story behind that proposal; how the couple met at the library and how their love blossomed there too. I paid my own travelling costs because I wanted so much to attend the Conference and meet librarians from all over the world. It was really great participating in workshops with librarians from other countries and finding out what their successes and challenges are. And the innovative programmes that other countries are doing.

Overall it was a most rewarding experience and I would encourage everyone to attend



Children's section at the National Library



Infant and Toddler Library, Athens

at least one conference in their lifetime. This will not be definitely not be my last IFLA conference.

I will gladly pay my own way again if needs be!

**Nizam Bray**

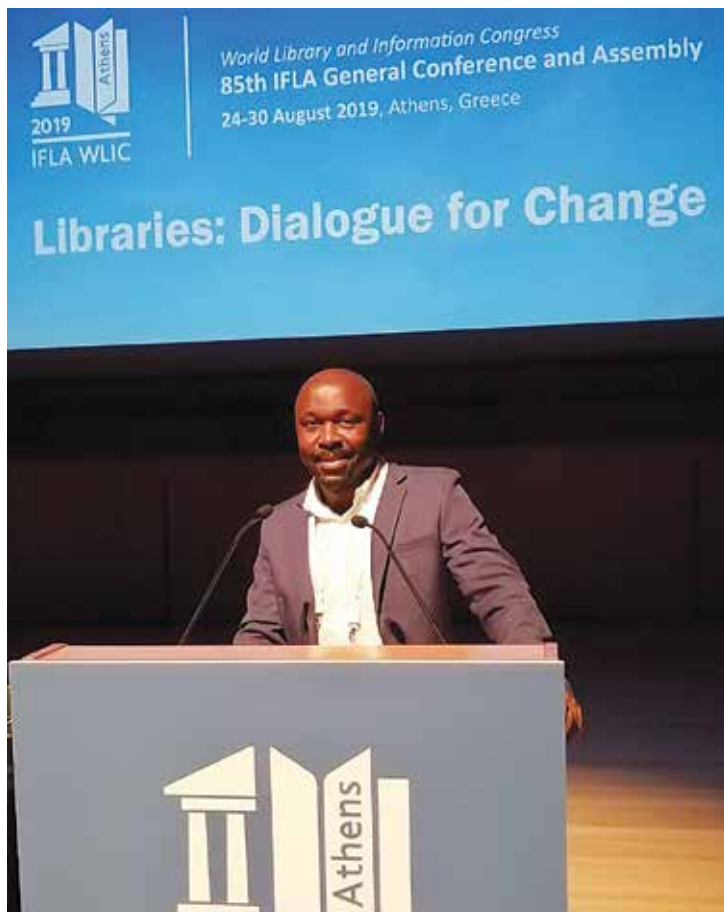
# City of Johannesburg's eLearning Services @ IFLA 2019

eLearning Manager for City of Johannesburg (COJ) Library and Information Services, Mr. Jeff Nyoka, attended his first IFLA World Library and Information Congress, in Athens, Greece, from 24-30 August 2019.

He presented a paper titled "Collaboration and partnerships in redesigning library spaces: the use of eLearning classrooms as multipurpose facilities and as mobile classrooms in City of Johannesburg libraries". The International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA) is the leading international body representing the interests of library and information services and their users. The 2019 IFLA Conference had over 3300 delegates from 130+ countries with more than 500 speakers in 250+ open sessions, nearly 200 poster sessions and 30 lightning talks.

The conference was also a Launch of IFLA Strategy 2019-2024 which was revealed by IFLA Secretary-General, Gerald Leitner. This is "the culmination of more than two years of dialogue with library and information workers around the world. And it sets out a clear mission – to inspire, engage, enable and connect the global library field in order to change lives".

The COJ's eLearning presentation was met with excitement and a lot of interest from various conference attendees who asked questions



Jeff Nyoka @ IFLA 2019, Athens, Greece

about libraries' relationship with government departments, about SDGs and also about the concept of design thinking.

Jeff was also introduced to a Lithuania National Library's librarian who was presenting a digital poster which won the IFLA

Best Poster prize. It was a poster on a project called MakersSpace for the youth in libraries. It's a programme that brings different technical skills activities within library spaces for the youth. COJ will work with Lithuania in exploring the possibility of

introducing similar activities in City of Johannesburg eLearning classrooms in libraries.

Jeff also networked with librarians from the African region including Dr Nkem E. Osuigwe who is the Human Capacity Development & Training Director for African Library and Information Associations & Institutions (AfLIA). She suggested that Jeff submits the City's eLearning programmes so that she can report on them in her next meeting.

Attendees were taken to visit various libraries including the Greece National library. What was interesting to note was that COJ libraries are not too far behind in use of technology in libraries, with the availability of computers and free internet. Most international libraries, especially in the Eastern countries, have embraced the concept of Multipurpose libraries. Our South African libraries can benefit from this approach because it attracts library users back into libraries, with the availability of other resources like a crèche, a gym, restaurant, etc. they feel like they are at home.

Some of the most interesting posters included a poster on Practicing Coding through stories; the use of tablets for action bound activities and posters on libraries with different facilities that are not normally found in traditional libraries.

**Jeff Nyoka**

MANAGER: eLEARNING  
CITY OF JOHANNESBURG PUBLIC LIBRARIES

## MakerSpace at the Neville Alexander Library, South Campus, UFS



Ms Betsy Eister: Director: Library and Information Services and Ms Lianda Coetzer officially opening the Makerspace.



On 22 August 2019 the first ever MakerSpace in the Free State was opened at the Neville Alexander Library South Campus of the University of the Free State (UFS).

The UFS has noted and acknowledged the need to respond to the fast-changing landscape of global economics and the phenomenon that has been dubbed the 4IR. At UFS

it was noted that the traditional methods of teaching and learning will have to adapt to the education space in the 4IR.

Through the Integration Transformation Plan (ITP) that was introduced at UFS, the Campus Librarian, Ms Coetzer, obtained funding to develop and furnish the Makerspace with various tools and equipment for students to gather and be creative. The

importance of the MakerSpace is to empower the students to shift from being passive consumers of information and products to active creators and innovators.

Programmes that will be offered by the IT student organisation include Robotics using Raspberry Pi, HTML website development, Python programming, Mobile App Development and 3D printing.

The hope is to collaborate with other Faculties and Departments on all three campuses of the UFS to utilise the space and to develop students that will be able to adapt to the ever-changing world of work.

**Lianda Coetzer**

CAMPUS LIBRARIAN: NEVILLE ALEXANDER  
LIBRARY

# We have the potential to build and destroy!

## A message to my colleagues

**W**orking in a small community, we all know that the Librarian is not only a librarian but also a social worker, a caregiver, a nurse, a teacher, a parent, a confidant and the list is almost never-ending.

I can recall my husband telling me that the hardest part of my job was to open the door when I went to work. I invited him to spend a day with me at work and I told him to observe my interaction with the community. He was stunned by the amount of work that we do, the way we interact with our users, the way we interact with our service providers and the way we manage all our library activities. He has a different outlook on how we manoeuvre through all the facets of the library environment. I always tell him that I don't "go to work" because for me being a librarian and in service of the com-

munity is not work but a privilege. Make no mistake, we do have deadlines and personal struggles (we are just human –even if it seems like we are super human). It is in the best interest of our users that we set our personal struggles aside and focus on building or assisting with building into a future that sometimes seems scary. In some cases, patrons, especially the younger ones, would stay away from the library and would openly confide that some of us are not helpful, very disrespectful and absent-minded. I sometimes wonder, why? Why do we as librarians have that type of negative demeanour? Do we realise that our negativity spills over to the users, and they take that experience with them for a long time, sometimes even a lifetime?

I am using the example of the impact that your Grade 1 teacher had on you or the bad

experience you have had while shopping or the long wait at some Government institutions, how you felt, your emotions, and the fact that we as humans may forget certain experiences in our lives but we will never forget how a person has treated us – whether good or bad and this leads me to believe that we have the potential to build and/or destroy.

But the most exciting part for me is when I see the potential in a patron, especially our scholars and young adults at varsity, helping them to shape their/"our" future and (silently) knowing that I had a part to play and that Libraries as well as Librarians are shaping the future of all people that study or work - Wow what a job we have!

Once you understand that you as a Librarian have an important role in society and that your positive contribution in people's lives can

change and have an everlasting effect, then you are on the right track. We must ensure that whoever passes through our doors are helped with the highest level of service and when they vacate the library they are well equipped to face the challenges that they may encounter, whether it be in the choice of a book for leisure reading or the study material they require for research. So, let us change the way we interact with our patrons; instead of being negative make the change because if you do not change then nothing will happen.

If you are a positive contributor at your library, give yourself a pat on the back. WOW what a job we have!!!

**Gizelle Kirkman**  
MIDDELBURG MPUMALANGA



### IFLA 2019: One of a series of posters on display

**Practice Coding with Stories**

**Program Overview**

- Why start now?** 17 (17 hours for a 2000-member library)
- For whom?** 300 (300 children)
- Where is this happening?** 20 (20 public libraries)
- When and how often?** 76 (76 public libraries)
- What kind of picture books?** 4 (4 picture books)
- How is the program run?** 4 (4 public libraries)
- What we expect!** 4 (4 public libraries)

**Program Curriculum**

- 1 STEP** Read a picture book (80 mins): Students read a picture book with the librarian.
- 2 STEP** Making activities (50 mins): Students make their own action bound activities with recycled paper.
- 3 STEP** Learn to code with Scratch (60 mins): Students create a coding story by connecting blocks to the story and learning more.
- 4 STEP** Make a Presentation (80 mins): Students create a presentation about their story and share their thoughts and their story.

**Role of NLCY**

Some of the most interesting posters included a poster on Practicing Coding through stories; the use of tablets for action bound activities and posters on libraries with different facilities that are not normally found in traditional libraries.

### LIASA Marketing and Advocacy Interest Group (MAIG) Seminar



Reinhard Bodenstien, Theresa Schoeman, René Schoombée and Annalien Fourie

**L**IASA MAIG hosted a successful seminar on 6 September 2019 at Alkantrand Public Library in Tshwane.

Four speakers addressed the delegates on the day:

- Reinhard Bodenstien gave tips on video marketing,
- René Schoombée shared information about a successful social media strategy,
- Theresa Schoeman focused on presenting and radio

- interview skills and
- Annalien Fourie closed with an insightful talk on how to dress for success.

This morning was insightful and was characterised by interaction between librarians.

Everyone agreed that the MAIG Seminar was one for the books!

**Rene Schoombée**  
MAIG PRO



Seminar Attendees



# Global Gleanings

**A column of news, views and snippets from the international literature of books, libraries, and information, compiled by Peter Lor**

While working on his recently published book on international and comparative librarianship (*Lor2019*), Peter Lor subscribed to various current awareness services to pick up items of interest. In retirement, he continues to keep an eye on the international literature. In this column, he intends to cherry-pick items of professional and scholarly interest as well as quaint snippets from the international literature of LIS and related fields.

## Maps and perceptions

When I joined IFLA staff in 2005, I found a map on display showing the world upside down. That is, the South Pole was at the top of the map and the North Pole at the bottom – to tell Europeans, Americans and other Northern Hemisphere inhabitants that the way we depict the globe is purely a convention and has no basis in physics or astronomy. (The importance of the Northern Hemisphere is also exaggerated by the way the commonly used Mercator projection distorts land masses. In it, Greenland (2.16 million square km, 56,000 inhabitants) looms forbiddingly over the rest of the world, dwarfing South America and Australia (7.69 square km). Isn't it time we Africans also started putting our continent at the top of world maps?) This is to remind readers to look up IFLA's *Library map of the world* (<https://librarymap.ifla.org/>), an impressive source of information, although it uses the Mercator projection and has North still at the top of the screen. It shows that South Africa has 7,459 libraries, two-thirds of which are school libraries, and 1879 public libraries – but no community libraries. A matter of terminology?

## Web archiving

In 2005 the IFLA Headquarters office also sported a notice saying: "The world will not end today. It is already tomorrow down under". With that reassurance, I proceed to Australia. In the newsletter of the Conference of Directors of National Libraries in Asia and Oceania (CDNLAO), Kylie Johnson of the National Library of Australia, reported that Australian digital content since 1996 is available free of charge in the Australian Web Archive (AWA) (<https://www.ndl.go.jp/en/cdnlaol/newsletter/094/943.html>). The AWA contains "snapshots" of hundreds of thousands of Australian websites, amounting to about nine billion records and 600 terabytes, and can be searched full-text via the Library's online search facility, Trove (<https://trove.nla.gov.au/>).

Why do this? When I think back to when I was being trained as a librarian in the mid-1960s, just about all reference searches required looking in printed volumes. Bibliographic records were found using printed bibliographies and their endless supplements and cumulative volumes. Addresses were found in annual street directories, where you could find out who was living at which address at the time the directory was compiled. That information was useful at the time, but it also has historical value. For example, it enables a literary historian writing a biography of a poet or novelist to trace where her subject was living from year to year by using the annual street directories. She could also get a sense of what else was going on in that neighbourhood. By looking up the advertisements in newspapers of that time, an economic historian can check the price of butter and milk, and a costume designer can find pictures of what women were wearing in the 1880s. But today? All this information is available online – but not for long. If the websites offering such information are not archived, this ephemeral information is lost and we risk entering the "digital dark ages".

The preservation of digital content – as distinct from the digital preservation of analogue content – has exercised minds in our profession for some time. I first became involved in this problem in the late 1990s, when I was at the then State Library and participated in a working group set up by the Conference of Directors of National Libraries. The Finnish, Norwegian and Swedish national libraries were among the pioneers in the field of archiving websites. Huge technical and logistical problems of "harvesting" (collecting), ingesting, organizing and preserving websites, and providing access to the archived sites, had to be overcome. The pioneers ran into legal problems. Harvesting websites from the Internet could infringe copyright. Legal deposit and/or copyright legislation had to be amended. There were also ethical and

socio-economic issues. This topic could by itself fill several issues of *LIASA-in-Touch (L-i-T)*. Suffice it to say that we were able to learn from the experience of other national libraries. South Africa's Legal Deposit Act (No. 54, 1997) was framed in such a way that current media of all kinds and media not as yet invented, are covered by it. (See in particular the definition of "document" in article 1(iii).) The hoped-for signing of our new Copyright Amendment Act, discussed by Denise Rosemary Nicholson in an earlier issue of *L-i-T* will also help to clear the legal minefield for our legal deposit libraries. But to fully implement the Act, they will need more resources.

## Fauna and flora

Science is not always only about the very latest information. Biologists need to know what species of plants or animals they are studying, and to refer to them correctly. Organisms have been named using scientific names (basically Latin and Latinized Greek) since the Swedish scientist Carl Linnaeus devised the binomial system of biological nomenclature, first published in his *Systema Naturae* in 1735. (Linnaeus included plants, animals and stones, but his classification of stones did not catch on among geologists.) Biologists also want to know when and where organisms were first found, and by whom they were first described. So, the full scientific name of the House Sparrow is "*Passer domesticus Linnaeus, 1758*", followed by a reference to the book in which it was first described, in this case, the tenth edition of Linnaeus's own *Systema Naturae*, in 1758.

Consequently, zoologists and botanists often have to refer to the earliest books in which species were described. This can be difficult, because some older books may have survived only in a handful of libraries scattered over the world. To make these sources more accessible, a consortium was formed in 2007 to make taxonomic information openly available through a digital portal <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/>.

Member institutions of the consortium, based at the Smithsonian Institution's Biodiversity Heritage Library (BHL) in Washington DC, have scanned over 147,000 titles, with information on more than 180 million species of animals and plants. George Eberhart reports that this is greatly appreciated by biologists, to the extent that in 2015 a Hungarian zoologist named a new species of snail *Vargapupa biheli*, after the BHL (<https://americanlibrariesmagazine.org/2019/06/03/bookend-biodiversity-heritage-library-finding-flora-fauna/>). Maybe a fleet-footed organism would have been more appropriate.

## Patience and Fortitude

I end with another animal story. This time not about library cats or parrots, but about Patience and Fortitude, the two marble lions that have for more than a century guarded the steps leading up to the New York Public Library. The library is a magnificent example of beaux arts architecture, and well worth visiting. The lions themselves are a much photographed New York landmark. In the New York newspaper *amNewYork*, Lisa Colangelo tells the story of how they got their names (<https://www.amny.com/news/nyc-public-library-lions-1.34925124>). They were not formally named, but informally known as Leo Astor and Leo Lenox, after the library's founders. It was only during the Great Depression (1929-1939) that they received their current names. The then mayor of New York, Fiorello LaGuardia, thought that to survive the Depression the people of New York needed patience and fortitude, and that is how they got their names. Guarding a library 24/7 through summer heat and winter freeze is not for sissies, and this has taken its toll on the two statues. This summer they are getting a clean-up, using sophisticated restoration technology, to the tune of USD 250,000. A warm-blooded library kitty would have been more affordable.

For references and clickable links see Peter Lor's blog: <https://peterlor.com/temp/>

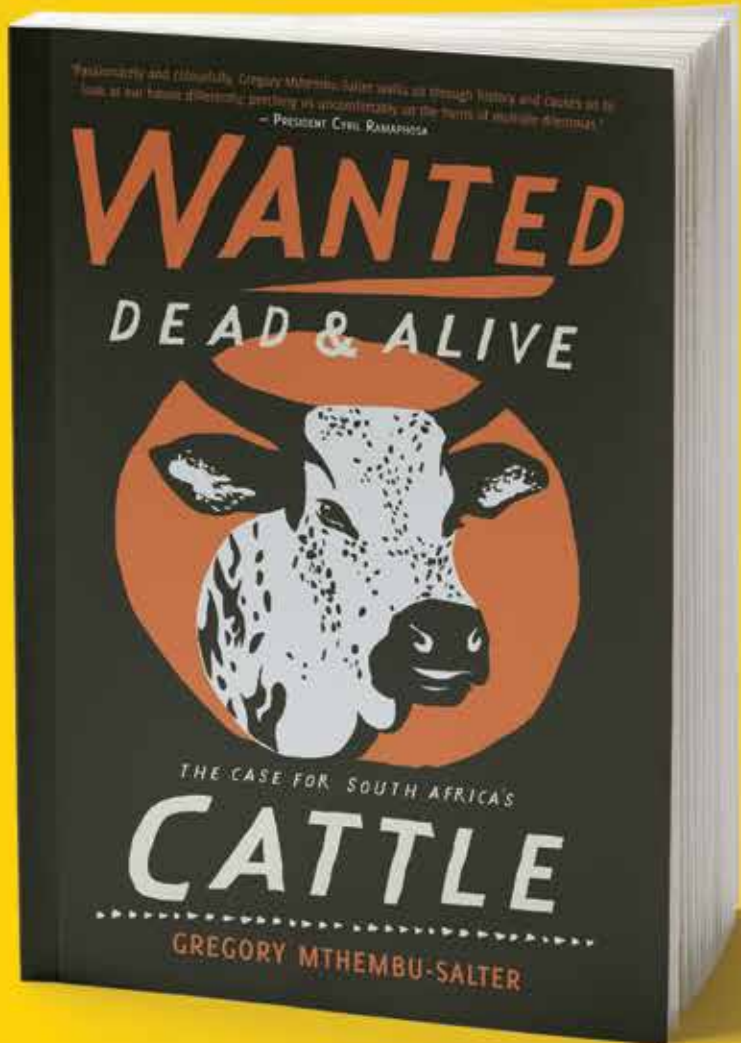
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is proud to publish

**Wanted Dead & Alive:  
The Case for  
South Africa's Cattle**

By Gregory Mthembu-Salter

This engaging book brings history, science, economics and popular culture together in a timely discussion about South Africa's national cattle hunger and whether it can be justified in a period of accelerating climate collapse.

The author, Gregory Mthembu-Salter, is a journalist and researcher who first encountered South Africa's love of cattle during his own lobola negotiations.



**'Passionately and colourfully, Gregory Mthembu-Salter walks us through history and causes us to look at our future differently, perching us uncomfortably on the horns of multiple dilemmas.'**

**– President Cyril Ramaphosa**

The book traces his personal journey through kraals, rangelands and feedlots across South Africa. It asks urgent questions about keeping cattle: Given what we know about global heating, should we still be raising and eating them? Does the positive impact of cattle on carbon sequestration make them a must-have for South Africa's degraded soils? How do we

weigh the cultural and economic value of cattle against their environmental impact?

In conclusion, Mthembu-Salter suggests that perhaps 'cattle can remain wanted and treasured ... more as living assets, kept in modest numbers on land where crops will not thrive, whose beef is eaten rarely – and, when it is, is savoured.'

■ Foreword by President Cyril Ramaphosa.

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Ask your regular library supplier to order,  
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face2face

# The Meaning of a Library for a Researcher in Law

Speech given at the University of the Free State Library Research week, 29 July 2019, amended for written context

In truth, I was somewhat puzzled about what I could add to the support of a library for researchers that wasn't trite.

Surely, and I am speaking from a largely humanities/social sciences point of departure, libraries provide access to much of the raw data necessary for research, the grist for the mill. What a library means for research is further related to the services it provides. But this everyone knows. However, as I thought about the support libraries provide for research, I realised that a few observations could be made about these well-known aspects yet contextualise them against the interesting dual spatial nature of libraries. Simply, modern libraries exist on both the physical and virtual planes of existence. 'Virtual' here is synonymous with technological or electronic. Unlike many institutions, the virtual plane of existence has not completely consumed the physical – and for research both are important for seamless access to research materials. I will briefly illustrate the dual nature of modern libraries along these lines and indicate the library's support for researchers on a ground level thus. Nothing here will venture into workshops, plagiarism nor journals to publish in which are other possible avenues of support a library offers.

Traditionally libraries comprised physical spaces where one could access physical books



Dr Albert Nell

and journals – this is, of course, still possible and many in the audience will probably appreciate the relief one experiences when going physically to the library (thus largely escaping landlines and other office interruptions! Of course, we still carry cellphones but, at least, in that case we determine the degree of the interruption). Also, hunting books physically on the shelves is always attended by a sense of discovery: will the book you find be a popular source or one which has not been opened in years? In neither case will you feel disappointed. For research, the space and calm a library presents one to think in is, of course, crucial – libraries often have seminar rooms to enable researchers to discuss their ideas against this broader tranquil environment. It might seem as though I overstate the case for the physical space a library presents to a researcher, but allow me two stories to illustrate. First, just over a year ago, I handed out assignments to my

students which also involved a research component. One day, a student came to see me about the assignment and revealed how upset he was with his 'lazy' classmates. Upon further inquiry he revealed that he was the only one in the library looking at books and journals. Clearly the others were taking shortcuts! Of course, they – anyways those who were working (!) – were engaging with the library through its virtual plane of existence (to which I will soon turn). The fact remains that a student, most likely a millennial, favoured the physical plane of the library's existence! The second illustrative story revolves around the University of Birmingham which demolished its previous library and built a completely new one in the last five years. If the physical library building and its constituent space was no longer relevant in the modern era, surely such an expense would not have been incurred.

So, as alluded to, on the flipside modern libraries also exist in virtual space. Through the virtual plane one can access many databases, like JSTOR, Academic Search as well as full text e-books – anywhere you are. All you need to continue your research is an electronic device, internet connection and a password. Yet here the library's physical and virtual environments may overlap as you can access the virtual from the physical through the library's computers. But if you have an electronic device,

it means – if you're sitting in a boring speech for example – that you could be 'in' the library right now. Libraries have thus kept up with the notion that research does not keep office hours! Another significant illustration of this dual spatial existence is found in the inter-library loans system (ILL) – a personal favourite of mine. Whilst one walks into one, physical, finite building, through the instrument of ILL, one actually walks into multiple 'virtual' libraries both domestic and international. For some researchers their sources are fragile and not yet available electronically – in such cases one could access them through the carefully curated Africana or reserved collections. Researchers are further aided by libraries in that if you struggle to navigate the different planes of existence there are always helpful librarians around to guide you. Some libraries are aware of the fact they have a self-reflexive role in research through reminding researchers of their value for research. This is, of course, exactly what a research week can achieve.

In sum, the library, in both its spatial planes, provides the grist for the researcher's mill – as such initiatives like the present must be lauded as one remembers that a library is part of an academic institution's heartbeat.

**Albert Nell**

LL.B, B.A. HONS (LATIN), LL.M (UFS), PHD  
(UNIVERSITY OF BIRMINGHAM).  
LECTURER IN LAW, FACULTY OF LAW, UFS.

## VUT Library hosts a research seminar: Getting to know your researcher



Prof. Fanyana Mtunzi



Ms Zodwa Somi Thomas



Dr Hannah Dunga



Mr Andrew Memela



Ms Rebecca Fani

Research has become the most vital tool to be used in order to gather all facts about a study. On 3 September 2019, the Vaal University of Technology (VUT) Goldfields Library Department hosted a research seminar themed "Getting to know your researcher".

The aim of this seminar was to educate students, lecturers and other staff members about the important aspects of research and how it is conducted, in an accessible way.

VUT lecturer, Dr Hannah Dunga, from the Department of Logistics, also had a chance to share her wisdom on research. Her key points were mostly based on how communication and time management with your research supervisor is important. She further explained that research should be more of a lifestyle and not based only on a "degree or academic level".

Dr Dunga also encouraged students and attendees by saying: "We were all created to be superior in the future; never doubt

the abilities you have within you and we should always consider the fact that God is there for us all. We should always keep an open mind and never give up on our dreams."

Professor Fanyana Mtunzi, a chemistry lecturer in the Department of Applied Sciences and who is currently working with Dhlare Remedy and traditional healers, was also given an opportunity to share more on what happens in research from a science perspective. Cannabis for Medicine and Phytoremediation

was the subject of his talk. He further explained that cannabis is not only used as a recreational drug, but it has been scientifically researched to find ways in which it can be used for non-curable diseases.

In closing remarks Prof Mtunzi said: "We should not only rely on having major qualifications with no plan of starting something of our own; we should be more educated and innovative individuals."

**Londiwe Dube**

# Rhodes University Library hosts Research Week: “Your e-research journey”



Larshan Naicker (Acting Director: Library Services), Denise Nicholson (University of the Witwatersrand), Debbie Martindale (Librarian) and Jill Otto (Principal Librarian)



Dr Peter Clayton (DVC Research & Development), Zanele Mogoba (WWIS), Larshan, Sylvia Kgorane (Clarivate Analytics), Linda Cartwright (Principal Librarian) and Debbie



Maretha Allwright (SEALS Trust and Systems Manager), Larshan, Kay Lino (Figshare) and Debbie



Research Week in progress in the Rhodes University Library Meeting Room

Rhodes University Library hosted their 3rd annual Research Week, which kicked off on Monday 3 June 2019 with the topic “Research discovery, evaluation, peer reviews and Publons”.

Zanele Mogoba (product specialist at World-Wide Information Services (WWIS)) showed researchers how to search for and publish in high impact journals. She also demonstrated how to use the citation indexes and to create citation analysis for academic rating/funding, and current and new research area trends & collaboration. Sylvia

Kgorane (account manager at Clarivate analytics) explained the role of Publons and the benefits of the platform which allows researchers/academics and the NRF to track their peer-review activities in addition to their research impact.

A session on Copyright, Open Access & OA publishing, and predatory journals was held on 5 June. These are issues that tend to create debates around the concerns and uncertainties of these topics. Denise Nicholson was invited to speak about these issues: “The Copyright Amendment Bill: how will

this affect me?”. The session culminated in lively discussion. Please view the podcast of the session at ([https://www.dropbox.com/sh/m9af86gkiz4fakv/AACx\\_TVbEF2hHNT-z6EQbalsa?dl=0&lst=](https://www.dropbox.com/sh/m9af86gkiz4fakv/AACx_TVbEF2hHNT-z6EQbalsa?dl=0&lst=)).

The Eastern Cape Library consortium, known as South East Academic Libraries System (SEALS), is working with Figshare toward the implementation of Figshare into our consortial Library Management Systems. This forms part of the Research Data Management strategy. Therefore it was fitting to have Maretha to speak about the

role of SEALS and for Kay Lino (Figshare) to explain the benefits of Figshare to the Rhodes researcher community.

The Research Week sessions were well attended and sparked lively discussions. The fact that the sessions were attended by postgraduates, researchers, academics, Research Office staff and SEALS partners is an indication of the value of these events. We thank all the presenters for their time to share their knowledge and expertise.

**Debbie Martindale**

LIBRARIAN: SCHOLARLY COMMUNICATION  
RHODES UNIVERSITY LIBRARY

## Public Speaking competition in honour of Women’s Month

Mogale City Library Services celebrated women’s month through a public speaking competition on 29 August 2019 at Krugersdorp Correctional Services.

The main objective of the programme was to promote library services, to promote a culture of reading and to improve public speaking and self-confidence of the women of Mogale City. The participants in the competition were women representing all of the fifteen libraries where they are based. Each library was represented by a group of fifteen women. The competition was divided into two parts; the first part was public speaking on the topic Speak up women: don’t keep it in you. The second part was a group item, where the whole group participated in one of the following: choir, drama, dance and poetry.



Ms Zingisa Jemsana



Advocate Ashmar Khuduge



Winning team of Lusaka Library

Lusaka Library won the competition and received a floating trophy which will be kept in the library and the team received beautiful umbrellas and lunch bags. The best public speaker received an individual trophy. All participants received lunch bags from Mogale City Library Services. The Executive Manager for Community Development Service, Adv. Ashmar Khuduge was the keynote speaker on the day. She encouraged the women of Mogale City to use libraries to empower themselves through reading. There were guest speakers from South African Polices Services talking to women about women abuse and how to go about reporting it. The programme was very successful and educational. A total 190 women benefited from the programme.

**Semakaleng Molewa**

LIBRARIAN

# A Night at the Paris Opera (or, What I did with my SALI Trust/LIASA 2018 Award)

The extreme honour of the 2018 SALI Trust/LIASA Lifetime Achievement Award combined a beautiful engraved glass trophy with a generously modest monetary award.

It was an amount that I felt I could use for something that would, in itself, be "once-in-a-lifetime". We were going again to France in April 2019 – would it not be appropriate to find something that would link the award to Paris? What might be uniquely enabled by the award? And then it came to me: we had never been to the theatre, the ballet or the opera in Paris.

The choice came down to one of two opera productions, either Bizet's tuneful and dramatic French opera *Carmen*, or an opera by the Russian composer Chostakovich (as spelled in French!), which we knew only by name: *Lady Macbeth of Mtzensk*, first produced in 1934 and banned politically and as "pornography" by Stalin, described variously online as "crude and intensely musical"; a "searing and scandalous work, banned from performance for nearly thirty years by the Soviet authorities"; and "a force in itself ... the full brilliance of the work as it's expressed here in the 2019 Paris Opera production". The Paris Opera website even carried the warning in red "Certain scenes may be inappropriate for ... the easily offended." It had been one of the earliest productions after the inauguration of the Paris Opera Bastille in July 1989, when we too had been in Paris for our first IFLA, celebrating the bicentenary of the French Revolution. How could we not go?

I selected, bought and printed



our tickets online the day the booking opened. Thanks to my Award, our seats were in the middle of the house, much better than we would normally have afforded (if at all). As it happened, the performance was on Easter Friday, the only day that fitted with our time in Paris; France is however a secular state, so the Opera was on.

As the name suggests, the Opera Bastille is to one side of the Place de la Bastille, where at the start of the French Revolution the people stormed and liberated the Bastille prison. The column in the Place is dated 1830 to commemorate a later revolt as well as 1789. Currently complex roadworks are being undertaken in the Place so all traffic is permanently gridlocked!

In keeping with A Night at the Opera, we decided to treat ourselves to a taxi! The day had gone on much, much longer than we had intended, so no supper, a rushed change of clothes and a sprint down to the taxi rank not far from the hotel to hail a taxi in the street (just as in the movies!). We made the opera with 10

minutes to spare.

Despite its capacity of nearly 3000, the Opera Bastille is so designed that the space seemed quite uncrowded. As we walked to the auditorium entrance on our level, past the theatre bar, a young barman asked if we wouldn't have a drink. We didn't have time, so he proposed that we ordered drinks to be waiting at the interval, with a baguette ham roll since by then we would be very, very hungry! The price of two glasses of Taittinger champagne was not exorbitant; when we emerged at interval after the first hour and a half overwhelmed by the power and intensity of the opera, it was delicious to have our two pre-ordered cool glasses and a baguette waiting at the stand-up counter. Many other people were doing the same – nothing unusual. We relaxed and watched in admiration as the two barmen served the long lines of people so smoothly, quietly and efficiently that there was never a crush or hold up. "Our" barman told us later that he was Spanish but wanted to come to South Africa to travel on the Blue Train!

Our seats were wonderfully placed and there were electronic overhead screens with French and English translations of Russian. We were not formally dressed though we did wear black and white; inevitably there were tourists in t-shirts, backpacks and sneakers. They were offset however by one grand elderly lady with two walking sticks and a full length cape – we decided she was an old-fashioned regular opera buff!

As to the four-act, 3 ½ hour performance – we were blown away by the sustained intensity of the dark, violent story translated into an operatic framework sung by a stunning Lithuanian soprano. The review in *Le Monde* newspaper referred to "beauty that was sonorous and intoxicating"; the music alone was magnificent; the operatic direction, voices and acting overwhelmingly powerful; the stage sets, ranging from a pig abattoir to underwater dream scenes to a devastating convict camp, were brilliant.

We originally had thought it might be relaxing to walk home – not very far, one bridge over the river, then twenty minutes to our hotel near the Luxembourg Garden -- quite safe at 11 pm! But some pavements were inaccessible because of the roadworks and a confusion of closed streets following the catastrophic Notre Dame cathedral fire four days previously. So we took another taxi after all.

What a Lifetime Award, what a night to remember! My deep appreciation once again to the SALI Trust/LIASA Selection Committee who made this wonderful occasion possible.

**Clare M Walker**

UNIVERSITY THE WITWATERSRAND LIBRARY  
(RETIRED)

## 10<sup>th</sup> Funda Mzantsi Championship

The National Library of South Africa (NLSA) in collaboration with the Department of Correctional Services (DCS) and George Municipality hosted a successful 10th Funda Mzantsi Championship in George, Western Cape from 23 to 27 September 2019 under the theme "Building Creative Minds".

The Funda Mzantsi Championship is a reading competition where book clubs compete against each other in categories including reading, book review, debate and spelling bee.

This year, 116 book clubs from



Prize giving ceremony with Dr Maisela Maepa, Executive Director, Core Programmes, NLSA, with George Municipality Deputy Mayor, Charlotte Mary-Anne Clarke and Mr Delekile Klaas, Western Cape Regional Commissioner at the 10th Funda Mzantsi Championship

the Department of Correctional Services, communities, universities and high schools country-wide

participated in the Championship. Winners of the competition took home medals and trophies.

"The National Library of South Africa takes pride in contributing to Outcome 14 of the National Development Plan which talks to Nation Building and Social Cohesion. Through the Funda Mzantsi Championship, we are able to bring together minds, both young and old, breaking the racial, gender and social status boundaries in pursuit of the same goal. It is so encouraging and motivating to see the impact of the Competition. We continue to pledge our support to the United Nations' theme of 2019 being the 'International Year of Indigenous Languages'," said Mr Lufuno Nematswerani, Acting CEO of the National Library of South Africa.

**Shade Pietersen**

# Beaconsfield Library 130<sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebrations



Cutting of Cake by Manda Hough & Manager NC Provincial Library Services, Vincent Midzi



Sabata-mpho Mokae (Author: Guest Speaker)



Steve Lunderstedt (Historian)



Mayuri Govender (Reading Club Ambassador)



Attendance was good



Mr P Modise, DSAC NC



Councillor Farland



Imagination World Reading Club

**T**he Beaconsfield Public Library in Kimberley celebrated 130 years of service to the public on Monday 20 May 2019.

This milestone was celebrated by a lovely event held at the library. The celebrations were attended by Department of Sport Arts and Culture, Sol Plaatje Municipality Councillors, present and past staff, library users and community members. 231 people attended the programme at the library.

Councillor Farland from Sol Plaatje Municipality welcomed all present and the event started with a performance by Greenpoint Primary School Choir. Mr Phenyoo

Modise, Senior Manager of Northern Cape Provincial Library Services, gave a message of support to Beaconsfield Library, followed by a performance by Bumble Bees ECD Centre in Beaconsfield.

Steve Lunderstedt, local historian and tour guide, spoke on the history of the Library, while Amanda Southey (library user), Ursula Koeloe (library student) and Mayuri Govender (Imagination World Reading Club Ambassador and the youngest winner of the Junior African Spelling Bee Title on the African Continent) shared their personal experiences. Librarian Manda Hough presented the library's activities followed by a performance by the library's

Reading Club. They performed a poem they wrote themselves especially for the library's birthday.

Bernice Nagel, Chairperson of the Northern Cape Branch of the Library and Information Association of South Africa (LIASA), gave an overview of the Association, followed by the SA Library of the Blind's presentation on the Mini-library services available for the visually impaired at the Beaconsfield Library.

Sabata-mpho Mokae, award-winning local author of African novels and Creative Writing lecturer at the Sol Plaatje University in Kimberley, was our guest speaker. Sabata-mpho gave an inspiring speech about African authors like

Solomon Plaatje, Olive Schreiner, ZK Mathews, Robert Sobukwe and others, their books and their association with Kimberley. He pointed out that books are the new diamonds of Kimberley and "the only way we can maintain our new diamonds is to keep reading and read our own".

David Lesetedi, Senior Manager of Frances Baard District Municipality, proposed a toast to Beaconsfield Public Library and Vincent Midzi, Manager of Northern Cape Provincial Library Services, cut the birthday cake together with Manda Hough. Refreshments sponsored by the NC Department of Sport, Arts and Culture, were served afterwards.



Manda Hough and children interviewed for SABC

## Beaconsfield Library Reading Club Featured on SABC on International Literacy Day

**B**eaconsfield Public Library in Kimberley started a reading club for primary school children in 2016.

It started with only a few children and grew every week. Today there are between 20 and 30 children in the Reading Club that attend every Wednesday.

The children chose the name of the reading club themselves: **Imagination World Reading Club.**

The Reading Club comes together every Wednesday afternoon from 2-4 pm. The children read stories in English and Afrikaans, learn to spell, play games and do fun activities. Every year we have spelling

competitions in English and Afrikaans to determine a winner for the year.

The children that joined the reading club from the beginning and who are still attending today all improved their reading and writing skills.

The SABC visited the reading club to talk to the children

and listen to their stories and it featured on SABC News on International Literacy day.

The children wrote a poem for the library's 130th birthday and recited it at the Birthday Celebrations.

**Manda Hough**  
LIBRARIAN

# IBBY Collaborations celebrate literacy in September



Erika Hougard, Nikki Crowster, Mercia Sias and Christien Gerber



Beauty, Righardt, Fadeela and Sam showing off the cake

On 21 September IBBY SA welcomed Spring with Fadeela Davids' **Reading in the Park** community project through cake and drawing in the park in Grassy Park.

Through constantly reaching out to different communities IBBY SA aims to bring the joy of books and reading to as many different communities as possible.

Storyteller Beauty Bokwani and illustrator Sam van Riet were

joined by community member and retired teacher Ms. Hajiera Enous and community gardener Uncle Kenny to entertain the many children who pitched up despite the rainy weather.

We were also happy to receive the editor of *LIASA-in-Touch* and visiting librarian Ronel Cloete from Sutherland. In this way IBBY SA continuously strives to create a bigger awareness of the role the organisation plays in promoting

reading and an appreciation of books and/or stories through literature and art in a fun way so that children will enjoy the event as a "reading / book party."

On 27 September Literacy Month was celebrated in De Doorns where IBBY SA in collaboration with the local library, LIASA and religious organisations worked tirelessly with parents, teachers, library practitioners and community volunteers to realise

the right of every child to become a writer.

Using the book *Theo the Library Cat*, LIASA President Nikki Crowster encouraged parents to keep on reading to their children, for children to keep on asking questions and stressing that it is every adult's moral obligation to ensure that we use stories and children's books to promote understanding.

**Righardt le Roux**

## Celebrating women with the M-party at Wynberg Library

Women of today lead hectic lives. They are mothers, workers, students, wives, daughters and sisters and hardly have time for themselves.

Therefore, the staff of Wynberg Library decided to celebrate Women's Day by treating our women patrons.

On 8 August 2019 we hosted an M-party for our knitting ladies and our women patrons. The M-party consisted of a range of treatments that the women could choose from starting with

the letter M namely: manicures, massages and makeovers which were initially going to be done by beauticians in training but due to a strike, they had to cancel. But this did not derail the staff from achieving their goal as the staff themselves along with the help of a volunteer then treated the women patrons to manicures, massages and makeovers.

The women also enjoyed delicious treats that all started with the letter M such as milk tarts, meringues, Mokate cappuccino and coffee as well as muffins.

The knitting ladies were also invited to participate in our Letter M character competition where they could win a prize. The ladies really got into the spirit of the competition. They got creative with their characters and costumes; our winner came dressed as a French maid and our runner ups were dressed as Mademoiselles and one lady even dressed as Mary Poppins.

The first thirty women that came to the library were also given a bag with a book mark with a poem that was written by a

staff member and a rose. We also gave a book mark with the poem on it, a rose and pots with seeds to our women patrons that came on 10 August 2019 because we also wanted these ladies to feel special.

The women that attended the M-party thoroughly enjoyed themselves and were blown away by the gesture. They appreciated what the staff of Wynberg Library did to celebrate Women's Day with them.

**Kim Albertyn**

LIBRARIAN (WYNBERG LIBRARY)

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Imelda, winner dressed as a French maid

Librarian, David Warbuton giving prizes to the runner-ups Lou and Di

Contestant Rina, dressed as Mary Poppins

# 11<sup>th</sup> UNISA Storytelling Festival celebrated in style

Presenting volumes of stories narrated by the learners

The Department of Information Science at Unisa celebrated World Literacy Month in Limpopo and North West provinces from 2- 6 September 2019.

This was a follow-up of last year's events. Original and innovative stories narrated by the learners in 2018 were compiled into volumes of three storybooks, *Boswa jwa rona* (Our heritage) 1, *Boswa jwa rona* 2 and *Bohwa bja rena* 3. The first two volumes contain stories in Setswana which were narrated by the learners from Utsane and Tisetso (North West).

In Limpopo, learners from Kiletsa and ZetZetTwo were over the moon to receive their stories in volume 3 which was dedicated to stories in Sesotho sa Lebowa. The project was made possible by Unisa and the National Heritage Council who donated funds to cover publishing costs. Dr Jan Maluleka, the coordinator, and Prof Mpho Ngoepe worked tirelessly to ensure that the stories are published.

It is disturbing that some schools which took part in the 2018 Storytelling Festival failed to submit good and thought-provoking stories narrated by learners for publication – a missed opportunity. Literacy teachers in



particular were shocked to realise that stories narrated by their learners have been published as anthologies in storybooks. It must be stated categorically that the publishing of these volumes is on a non-commercial basis. The aim is to encourage budding authors to reveal and expose their creativity and talents and to encourage them to write their own storybooks in future.

As language is a heritage on its own, it is crucial to preserve it for future generations. One way of preserving a particular language is to document it, for example, in the form of stories. To coincide with September as Heritage Month, the aim was to encourage learners to read widely in their own indigenous languages.

Even this year, learners from the visited schools narrated their stories in their own languages.

This Annual Storytelling Festival is aimed at resuscitating and instilling the culture of reading which is becoming a dinosaur in the majority of the schools particularly in the disadvantaged rural communities. In partnerships with local schools, community libraries are mandated to revive and inculcate a reading culture in learners through storytelling. This is even more true taking into consideration the dramatic shortage of well-resourced and functional school libraries in mostly rural provinces. With a backlog of over 2 732 community libraries in South Africa, it is crystal clear that there is a huge gap between information sources and the majority of teachers and learners in disadvantaged rural communities. Owing to the lack of exposure to reading materials, the majority of the learners have

resorted to mass media such as television and social media. The lack of reading materials such as newspapers and magazines negatively affect the outcomes of the learners in a school setting.

On 4 September, UNISA and University of Limpopo (UL) joined forces and staged the festival at UL. Mr Ramabu from Seshego narrated interesting stories to the amazement of staff and students of the Department of Information Studies at UL. His artistic use of puppets kept the audience spellbound. Thrilled students also took to the stage and narrated their stories.

The Department of Information Science at UNISA expresses its sincere gratitude to the generous sponsors of goodies from the private sector companies for learners who participated in the event. UNISA appreciates the sterling and unwavering support from Biblionef and the National Library of South Africa in Pretoria for donating books to enable schools such as Mamodikeleng, Ngwanaseala and Mamolope to kickstart a library collection.

**Prof SM Mojapelo and Mahlatse Shekgola**

DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATION SCIENCE,  
UNISA

## PACLIG Western Cape presents Collection Development Workshop

On 14 August 2019 PACLIG WC presented a Collection Development workshop at Porterville Public Library. Ronel Mouton, Assistant-Director: Library Services, facilitated the workshop and 34 delegates from areas as far as Stellenbosch, Paarl and Langebaan attended.

Delegates were welcomed with a cup of coffee and a muffin after the long drive to Porterville. As an ice-breaker, attendees had to break into smaller groups and discuss their funniest moments in the library service, then decide which one was the funniest and share it with everyone. This led to a lot of laughter and fun and set the mood for the first session. It was a full day workshop and after the first session, lunch was served in the relaxed atmosphere of one of the local restaurants. A lucky draw was held after lunch to get everyone awake and ready for the next session; prizes included books, weekly planners, note books, etc.

The content of the workshop included topics such as knowing your users and their needs,



Groups discussing case studies



Una Engelbrecht was one of the winners in our Lucky draw. Here she is with Yvonne Arnoldus



Ronel Mouton receiving a small token of appreciation from Tanya Wiese

assessing your stock with the help of e.g. interlibrary loan statistics in order to identify stock gaps and what to look out for when weeding. The importance of a Collection Development Policy was also emphasised in order to prevent a collection being skewed by personal interests and unskilled or uninformed staff. It is also important to remember that the relevance of a library's collection will determine how well it will be used.

Ronel had a practical session where she illustrated how weeding certain books from a shelf could make users aware of previously ignored items and even enhance the look of the shelf. Case studies were discussed in groups.

In the feedback delegates commented on Ronel's passion for and knowledge on the subject. They also identified workshops they would like PACLIG to present in future and we hope that we will be able to accommodate them.

**Marie Blignaut**

SENIOR LIBRARIAN  
READERS' LIBRARY, DRAKENSTEIN



Some of the children taking part in the walk to the venue



Nobubonga Mambakazi and Sbgongokuhle Maphosa



Atharv Agre, Lorraine Smith, Noxolo Nkosi and Kelebogile Selepe

## Msukaligwa Public Libraries (Mpumalanga) host Spelling Fun event for Literacy Day

**M**sukaligwa Municipality's Library section hosted a Spelling Fun competition this year to celebrate Literacy Day.

Last year we had a Story Fun event and continuing with the Fun Day theme, we decided to do Spelling this year. Being literate involves more than reading. Being confident in spelling leads to being confident in all aspects of literacy.

This year we started early in February by contacting schools and inviting them to participate.

They were provided with a wordlist and encouraged to

have an internal competition to determine the six best spellers from grades 4-6. The schools had until 3 May to enter the competition and 17 schools from across Msukaligwa entered. In July we had three semifinals to determine the 36 finalists for the finals on 5 September 2019.

Pansolutions continued with their sponsorship and we again had wonderful prizes for the individual winners and for the winning school.

The level of spelling was amazing and the competition was fierce from the semi-finals through to the finals. At the finals

the spelling was of such a high standard that we actually had to resort to going straight to the dictionary for words as the children exhausted all the words on the list.

After many rounds and some awesome spelling the results were:

- 5th place - Kelebogile Selepe from Sizakele Primary (R1000 Stationary voucher)
- 4th place - Atharv Agre from Ermelo English Primary School (R2000 voucher)
- 3rd place - Noxolo Nkosi from Sizakele Primary (Laptop with bag)

- 2nd place - Sbgongokuhle Maphosa from Ermelo Combined (Laptop with bag and R2000 voucher)
- 1st place - Nobubonga Mambakazi from Sizakele Primary (Laptop with bag and a R4000 voucher)

The winning school was Sizakele Primary.

Each finalist also received a certificate of participation and a book prize.

**Chrisna Calitz**

LIBRARIAN

MSUKALIGWA MUNICIPALITY (MPUMALANGA)



Reading Quiz competition



Public Speaking



Spelling Bee

Business Plans presentations

## Reading Festival 2019 @ Free State Province

**F**ree State Library Services in partnership with the Free State Department of Education (FSDoE) hosted the Provincial Competitions on Language Development and Enrichment in Bloemfontein from 2 to 6 September 2019.

The aim of the programme was to develop the entrepreneurial skills of unemployed youth through the compilation and presentation of business plans.

Grade 3 to 9 learners and unemployed youth participated in the following activities:

- Sesotho and English Spelling Bee (Grade 3 and 4 learners)
- National Book Week was created within the programme of the Reading Festival.
- Reading Quiz (Grade 5 and 6 learners)
- Public Speaking (Grade 9's)

- Business plans

**Itumeleng Ntsele**

PRINCIPAL LIBRARIAN: DEVELOPMENT

PROJECTS

FREE STATE LIBRARY SERVICES

BLOEMFONTEIN

## Mogale City LIS presents a Readathon Competition

**M**ogale City Library Services hosted a Readathon on 18 September 2019 at Die Poort Primary School in Hekpoort.

Its main objective was to get as many learners as possible to read in order to improve their pronunciation, vocabulary and overall knowledge, and to spread the love of reading for leisure.

Three schools participated in this competition: Die Poort Primary School, Shaumberg Combined School and Rand Gold Primary School. Each school was represented by three

learners. Three sets of books with different titles were delivered to the schools a month before the competition for learners to prepare themselves. The books used for the competition were *The Jungle Book*, *The Wind in the Willows* and *Treasure Island*.

The competition comprised of two activities which were unprepared reading and a questions and answers session. Adjudicators asked the participants to open their books to certain pages for unprepared reading and they were given two minutes to read a full page. For

this activity adjudicators were focusing on introduction, posture and book handling, pronunciation and fluency, and voice projection. For the second activity, the aim was to verify the participants' understanding of what they had read through questions and answers.

Die Poort Primary School won the competition with 72 Points, followed by Rand Gold Primary School with 58 points. Schuamberg Combined School was placed third with 48 points. The winning school received a floating trophy and the two

best learners received personal trophies. All the participants received lunch boxes, pencil cases and shopping bags from Mogale City Library Services. Senior Librarian Dr Nthabiseng Raduvha encouraged learners to start using libraries at an early age so that they can benefit from the services offered. 119 learners from the different schools participated in this programme.

**Tania Kgoale**

OUTREACH LIBRARIAN, MOGALE CITY LOCAL MUNICIPALITY



Prof Pitika Ntuli, Ms Lindiwe Hani, Prof Tawana Kupe, Mr Hlumelo Biko, and Prof Vasu Reddy



Learners from Sir Pierre Van Ryneveld High School

## National Book Week and Heritage Month

The Department of Library Services at the University of Pretoria (UP)

A diverse group of people consisting of students, alumni, secondary school scholars, book club members and representatives of various cultural groups gathered to celebrate two key events in South Africa, National Book Week and Heritage Month, on Saturday, 28 September 2019.

This initiative, facilitated by the executive team of the Department of LIS at the UP, was led by Mr. Robert Moropa with the theme: "The dynamics of Heritage Preservation in the era of the 4th Industrial Revolution." It was an important and critical initiative in encouraging the nation to value reading and in demonstrating how we can advance the efforts of shared heritage, nation building and social cohesion.

The programme started with a warm welcome by the Vice Chancellor and Principal, Prof. Tawana Kupe. The first keynote address was delivered by

Prof Pitika Ntuli (sculptor, poet, writer and an academic who has contributed to the political and artistic discourse of South Africa) who shared his wisdom as a world-renowned scholar and expert in issues of heritage, culture and the arts. His address reflected on how we can preserve our rich heritage and make sure it is not lost as our landscape changes in the face of the Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR).

The second keynote address was delivered by the Chief Director: Libraries and Archives (representing the Director-General of the Department of Arts and Culture), Mr. Vusumuzi Mkhize. He focused on government investment in indigenous knowledge systems and Pan-African history. Two young authors, Lindiwe Hani (daughter of Chris Hani and author of "Being Chris Hani's Daughter") and Hlumelo Biko (son of Steve Biko and author of "The Great African Society") as well as Prof.

Vasudhevan Reddy, the Dean of the Faculty of Humanities, spoke about their books and reflected on what they have learnt from their forefathers.

Part of the programme of the day was the debate on the impact of 4IR on heritage preservation. It was therefore critically important and exciting for the scholars to experience and interact with Libby, the library's service robot. Prof. Kupe said Libby was "the flagship ambassador for the dawning of a new and exciting era in South Africa and we at UP are ahead of the pack in terms of embracing opportunities that are rapidly evolving in line with the 4IR. In this specific instance, Libby has redefined client-interfacing applications at academic libraries. The impact of Libby has been hugely positive not only within the library environment but also on a national level, highlighting that UP is serious about embracing and leading with 4IR."

The Vice Chancellor thanked

Mr Robert Moropa and his team for continuing to transform UP students' experience of the library. He concluded that "as custodians of the information and knowledge sphere the library has exposed the academic environment directly to the world of AI, robotics and our future way of life. Students and staff that have never interacted with robotics or AI now have the opportunity to do so by visiting a library. In addition to the external exposure towards our clients, the library also embraced the adoption of these new technologies to enhance their own internal processes and services, paving the way for new skills and knowledge for this new and futuristic era. With the addition of Libby, the Library made its mark about being serious towards UP's commitment to the 4IR."

**Nandi Madadasana**  
MANAGING DIRECTOR  
EVERBOON ENTERPRISES



Mieke Fourie, Miane Fourie, De Villiers Pretorius, Mischa van Heerden and Marcus Schoeman, Grade 1 learners of Laerskool Rustenburg

### Winners of the Picture Book Hamper Competition!

Congratulations to René Schoombee, Information Facilitator at Laerskool Rustenburg in the North West Province who won a book hamper for the school from Jacana Media for the article she submitted about the school library. René is a true advocate for

school libraries, well done!

René received the hamper on Friday and is very pleased with the lovely picture books. She would like to thank Jacana Media and LIASA-in-Touch for this welcome addition to the library collection.

## National Book Week at Hermon Library

Hermon Library celebrated National Book Week with a series of programmes from 2 to 6 September 2019.

On 2 September we presented a Story Hour where volunteer Elizabeth Fryer read to the Grade 1's. On 3 September it was the turn of the Grade R's to learn about books and libraries. For some of the children from the surrounding farms it was their first visit to the library and they were very excited. Hildegard Adonis read them a story and did book education in a fun way.

On 4 September children made their own books and illustrated the pages with pictures.

They were excited and exchanged their books with each other so that they could see the stories they had made up themselves. A Readathon was held on 5 September to raise funds for the less unfortunate children who couldn't pay their fines.

On the 6th the children read to the elderly. They listened to a story even though they cannot read and the children felt that they had accepted the gift of listening which will surely be remembered long after the book was closed.

**Hildegard Adonis**  
LIBRARY ASSISTANT  
HERMON LIBRARY

# “Writing My City” anthology of poems and prose tells local stories

City of Cape Town Library and Information Services

The #WritingMyCity-project started in March 2019 where 25 Libraries were involved in a series of creative writing workshops with community members of all ages.

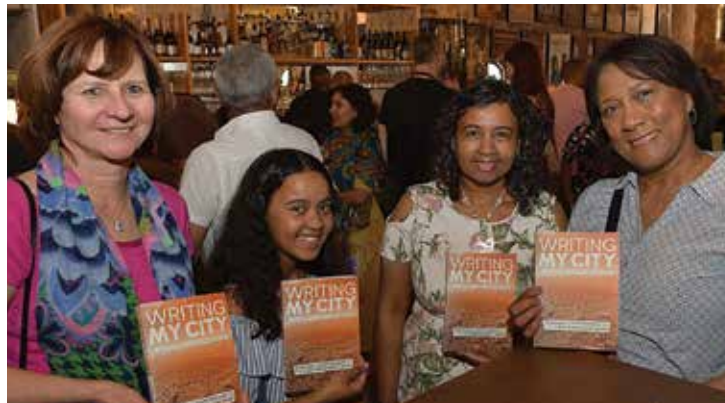
Workshops were also introduced to the various Book Clubs and Writing Clubs taking place at libraries. The workshops were facilitated by budding writers, established authors, teachers and publishers on a volunteer basis to bring their passion for the story to the communities. In collaboration with the Social Development Department, additional workshops were presented to vulnerable groups.

The goal of the project was to get Capetonians to share their stories of Cape Town from different perspectives and to find the personal voices of communities that are not normally exposed to the publishing world. The project was planned in collaboration with Open Book Festival that appointed judges and editors to assist in the publication process.

The 60 best stories were chosen to be included in the anthology which was launched at the Fugard Theatre on 7 September where the theatre



Christelle Lubbe, Marie Jansen, Refilwe Mtombeni, Zel-Rene Fourie



Irena Lukasiewicz, Keren Bosch, Letitia Bosch and Alison Sinclair. Letitia and her daughter Keren contributed to the #writingmycity anthology in writing workshops at Edgemoor Library

was packed with the brandnew authors, families and friends.

The new authors were overwhelmed when they first saw their story in print and it was heart-warming to see how they signed each other's copies and how they shared their writing process and stories at the launch. The contributions varied from memories from pensioners, immigrant perceptions, abused women and even poems from primary school children to highlight a few.

The unsung heroes of this project are the passionate librarians and the facilitators at the different libraries who encouraged people to put their stories on paper. The collaboration between the Open Book Festival organisers and City Libraries was crucial to get the book published and the grant made available by the City for the project allowed for all these elements to come together in a perfect storm of prose.

Each author received a free copy as part of the project and the “Writing my City” anthology will be available at each library in the City.

## Christelle Lubbe

HEAD: PROFESSIONAL SERVICES & PROGRAMMES

CCT LIBRARY & INFORMATION SERVICES

City of Johannesburg Public Libraries in partnership with Nal'ibali and Clowns without Borders of South Africa (CWBSA) held literacy-focused comedy shows at Jabavu and Diepkloof Zone 1 Libraries on 20 and 21 August 2019.

The free 40-minute comedy shows are designed to encourage families to explore their local libraries, model good book borrowing behaviour and to encourage all age groups to sign up for free library membership. Further, learners were also introduced to print and digital information for curricular and learning activities and with the intention to bridge the digital divide.

Approximately 278 Primary School learners benefitted from the educational and empowering literacy shows. In the context of the literacy shows, an oral story-telling and book reading were incorporated as well as the dramatization of stories.

Similarly, this strategic partnership is aligned to one of the key functions of the City's Libraries namely; to implement reading development programmes to promote reading



## Literacy Focused Comedy Shows

and the development of a reading culture among children, youth and families. On the other hand, this collaboration provides training to library staff members who have the passion and commitment in establishing and also maintaining reading book clubs. The library shares the same sentiments with these literary organisations that merging the power of play, imagination and story-telling could possibly inspire and encourage children to do the same by reading books. The shows emphasised that both children's story-telling and story acting can happen every day to demonstrate to children that

reading is fun, entertaining and stimulate critical thinking.

Librarian based at Jabavu Library, Mr. Gabriel Mashabela avers that these literacy-focused comedy shows complement the developmental and transformative agenda implemented by libraries, and also improves programme delivery by reinforcing library efforts of creating a culture of reading. Based on a review of the literature, there is a downward trend in teacher capability to create enthusiasm for literary fiction in class due to teachers' own dwindling interest, and this could negatively impact on an environment that positions

reading as pleasurable activity. Therefore, public libraries will serve as catalysts to mitigate against systemic library related challenges that impede instilling a culture of reading or supporting positive attitudes towards reading.

The City's Libraries have collaborated with these organisations to increase programme offerings to school learners as most literacy policies, plans and agreements of some schools do not promote reading engagement strategies as a school priority. The public libraries are conducive spaces to support positive attitudes toward reading which are associated with



The Ned Doman and Heideveld High Schools Steel Band performing at Athlone Library



Heideveld & Woodlands Primary Schools Steel Band at Heideveld Library

## Live Music in Libraries!

**L**ive music and libraries are a perfect match!

During September the Library and Information Service hosted four successful lunchtime concerts in libraries around Cape Town. A wide variety of styles of music were featured during the concerts including vibey Latin jazz, Caribbean calypso music, soothing light classical music and groovy Cape Jazz. The idea behind the concert series was to bring live music into actual library interiors.

The first two concerts in the series featured three school bands affiliated to the Steelband Project which has been running for 22 years. Set up in 1997 by Liz Brouckaert and David Wickham, the Project provides quality music education to young people in the Western Cape and is active in many suburban and township schools, as well as with street youth and young people with learning difficulties.

On Thursday 5 September the concert series kicked off at Heideveld Library where the Heideveld and Woodlands

Primary Schools Steel Band performed for a highly appreciative and attentive audience, fascinated by the sweet sound of these unique instruments. A week later, on Thursday 12 September, the Ned Doman High and Heideveld High Steel Bands played at Athlone Library, repeating this extraordinary experience for the audience there.

Dave Wickham, who continues to run the Steelband Project said: *"Both concerts were very good exposure for the bands. What was very good about our performances in the libraries, was that the audiences were there to pay attention and everybody stayed until the end of the shows. This was very good for the band members themselves."*

Tuesday 17 September, saw the Cape Town Philharmonic Youth Orchestra (CPYO) String Quartet mesmerizing spectators in the Arena at the Central Library, Cape Town with an exquisite programme of light classical music. Staff member, Kulsum Sydow who was deeply moved by

the concert by the CPYO String Quartet, said: *"The music in the Arena today was absolutely amazing! I'm still shaking - it sounded so beautiful!"*

The CPYO, which was established 15 years ago, is the training ground for hundreds of musicians, many of whom play as ad hoc or permanent musicians in the Cape Town Philharmonic Orchestra. The four young musicians who play in the string quartet are all experienced orchestral players, but display their talent, musicality and technique through another side of their musicianship in the intimacy of this chamber group.

The last concert in the series took place at Langa Library on Thursday 19 September and featured the Little Giants jazz band. Led by jazz stalwart and keyboardist, George Werner, this exciting 7-piece outfit stormed through an exuberant set of funky South African Jazz standards that enthralled the highly appreciative and cross-generational audience. South African jazz great Sylvia Mdunyelwa joined in on vocals to

provide a storming finale to the show.

Established in 1999 by Cape jazz legends – saxophonist Ezra Ngcukana and pianist George Werner, the Little Giants Music Project's initial purpose was to provide youth from the townships of Cape Town with a positive outlet for their talent and potential and has since evolved into an exciting jazz band specialising in South African jazz styles and repertoire.

After the Little Giants' show at Langa Library, George Werner said: *"I love performing in intimate spaces where one can interact with the audience. Our Langa Library gig offered us that space, with a captive audience and no disturbances from rowdy surrounds. It was a joy to see these faces, young and old, appreciating and engaging with our music. There is a definite need for similar performances in the future."*

**Luke Townsend**

PROFESSIONAL OFFICER: MUSIC SERVICES -  
CCT LIBRARY & INFORMATION SERVICES

reading frequency, and reading frequency is associated with literacy skills development.

Also, the partnership provides technical capacity to libraries to remove obstacles that could impede the development and maintenance of a reading culture. The libraries' directorate has professionally trained librarians who can provide children and people with information literacy skills required to develop a lifelong love of reading.

According to Assistant Director of Region D Libraries, Mr. Johannes Masenya, children from disadvantaged or underprivileged communities and who are not

good readers at primary school level are on a trajectory of limited educational progress. The current situation is exacerbated by a reading statistics report which indicates that only 14% of South Africans are readers of books. As supported by previous studies, a well-established culture of reading considering the Nal'ibali, CWBSA and City's Libraries partnership could be a game-changer for education in South Africa as literacy skills are also a strong predictor of future academic success in all subjects.

**Johannes Masenya**

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR: REGION D  
CITY OF JOHANNESBURG PUBLIC LIBRARIES

## Reading Extravaganza 23 August 2019

**T**he reading club extravaganza was launched at Tswellang Combined School with the LIASA PRO officially conducting the launch.

The event was graced by Nali'bali, a local author Mr E Motheane, and the local radio station OFM, station manager Ms Cathy Dlodlo. The Keynote address was delivered by the Chief Education Specialist Ms NSS Mochoare. Learners from different book clubs of the Branch came to showcase their talents and what they learned in their book clubs/reading circles. There was drama,

reading and poetry. The schools that participated were Barho Primary School, Botlehadi Primary School, Rutanang Primary School and the host school, Tswellang Combined School. OFM radio station wrote an article on their Facebook page about the event. It was a successful day and LIASA FS will reach more schools in 2020 together with partners in the programme.

**Kegomodicwe Phuthi**

FACULTY LIBRARIAN, UFS  
LIASA FS CHAIR-ELECT



## Ethekwini Municipality Library Reading Initiatives

**1. One City One Book Launch**  
Ethekwini Municipal Library (EML) held the annual launch of the One City One Book reading campaign at a glittering ceremony at the Durban International Conference Centre on 19 September 2019. The book selected for the next year is entitled "*The wounds of ignorance*" by Zanele Dlamini. A fiction novel, well researched and detailed, it tells the story of twelve

-year old Simo, caught in the ANC/IFP wars of the 1990's when he is forced to join a guerrilla group.

**2. National Book Week At EML**  
Tongaat Beach Library

**3. Extreme Reading Challenge**  
As an initiative to make reading fun and exciting Ethekwini Municipal Libraries started an

Extreme Reading Challenge in 2018. Kyra Bircher took first place in 2018 with her superlative acrobatic pose while reading. In 2019 Reminiscence Ndlovu walked away with first position – her picture combined the different elements of a reader crossing the river after collecting wood for the home fire yet taking time to read.  
**Durban – UNESCO City of Literature in Action.**

## National Book Week and International Literacy Day @ Laerskool Rustenburg



Author De Wet Hugo (right)

**L**aerskool Rustenburg's school library hosted an array of events in celebration of National Book Week and International Literacy Day. These included the following:



- The author De Wet Hugo visited the school and conducted a book talk

- and writing workshop
- The children made book report book marks

- The library prefects performed a dance for the school "I LIKE BIG BOOKS"



Presha Pillay, Futhi Lushaba, Ms Ngubane (correctional services), Nomonde Maqubela and Morgan Soobramoney

## National Book Week @ UNISA KwaZulu Natal

As part of the National Book Week and International Literacy Day, Unisa KwaZulu Natal Region staff at the Unisa Durban Hub visited female offenders at the Durban Female Correctional Centre, Westville Prison. The programme involved interacting with offenders on reading. The talks were on the importance of expanding knowledge to make better life choices through reading. Considering the current situation in South Africa, women

and abuse was also covered as part of the programme.

The visit also provided an opportunity to offer library support to offenders who are UNISA students by conducting library training and answer questions to get feedback on UNISA Library Services. In addition, books were donated to provide support to the prison library services.

**Presha Pillay**  
BRANCH LIBRARIAN, UNISA



UFH library staff and LIS students cleaning and shelving books at Emdeni Senior Secondary School library

from the old school building and placed in the new library. As a start-up, UFH Library donated old furniture like shelves, tables and chairs to the school.

On 18 July, the UFH team visited the school to clean the school library, sorted the books according to their subjects and school grades, whilst the male colleagues installed the shelves. After the books were sorted, they were shelved according to their subjects and the shelves were labelled. Subject based charts and posters were put on the walls and the desks were left neat and tidy to welcome learners to do their school work.

The team was pleased to note that the library is being used by the learners as a space for study and also to borrow books. The team enjoyed the visit and the school appreciated the assistance. This initiative also exposed the LIS students to community engagement as part of their learning experience.

**Ms Pyrene Bokwe and Dr Oluwayemi Ibukunoluwa Olatoye**

LECTURERS

DEPT OF LIBRARY & INFORMATION SCIENCE  
UNIVERSITY OF FORT HARE, ALICE CAMPUS

## Commemoration of Mandela Day 2019

It is with great joy that South Africans, Africans and the world at large celebrate the late sage and icon of peace, progress and prosperity, a person who was a South African revolutionary and politician, and was most famous for fighting against institutionalised discrimination against blacks in his country, known as Apartheid,

in the person of Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela (1918 – 2013).

The characteristics of the celebrated icon include the following: He was a man of peace, a visionary and could see the big picture.

It is on this premise that the University of Fort Hare (UFH) Library in collaboration with LIS Department visited the Emdeni Senior Secondary School in the

surrounding villages of Alice. It is worth mentioning that within the UFH team there was a group called library ambassadors, a group of students drawn from the library school. This was part of an ongoing project with the school which was initiated in 2018. The school was identified in a bid to help establish a school library as it has been recently refurbished. School textbooks were collected



Lukhanyo Calata



Maxine Case, Charlotte Ilunga, Giles Griffin and Mduduzi Ncongwane

## National Book Week at UNISA Library (Cape Town Campus)

The UNISA Library (Cape Town Campus) held an event on Thursday 5 September to celebrate National Book Week 2019.

The event was well attended by students and staff who were drawn in by the exciting speakers organised by the Library.

The key note speaker was Lukhanyo Calata, the award-winning journalist and author. Having previously worked for eNews and the SABC's parliamentary bureau he became part of the "SABC 8" who challenged the then head of the SABC, Hlaudi Motsoeneng's reign of censorship at the SABC in 2016. The son of Fort Calata, one of the four anti-apartheid activists from Cradock assassinated by the government in 1985, Lukhanyo is the author of the novel, *My Father Died for This*. He spoke to the audience about his journey from journalist to author, stressing

how South Africans need to write and publish their own histories and not simply accept a colonial viewpoint of events. A lively question and answer session followed, including some uncomfortable moments for the speakers from Parliament who were questioned over Parliament's refusal to act against the former head of the SABC regarding his unconstitutional actions in 2016.

Calls for people to write and tell their stories also came from the two representatives of the Life Righting Collective, Charlotte Mande Ilunga and Giles Griffin. Charlotte shared her remarkable and moving life story and gave advice for anyone interested in writing or journalism. Giles read out his moving and beautiful poem *This Is How It Is* published in the anthology by Life Righting. The Collective offers writing courses for anyone who wants to learn to write about their

experiences. Their approach promotes self-discovery, self-recovery and more effective communication.

Commonwealth Writers' prize winner Maxine Case spoke about her love of libraries and how they were a safe space for her. She also discussed how she became a writer and provided more inspiration to all the aspiring

writers in the audience.

The event was rounded off by speakers Azwinndini Sinyegwe, Public Education Practitioner, and Kenneth Bangi from the Public Education Department within Parliament. The presentation focussed on the processes of establishing the new Parliament and the role of Members (MPs) in their constituencies. Finally, Siphephelo Zuma and Mark Mitchell from Parow Public Library talked about how students can utilise the resources provided by public libraries.

Students were then invited to help themselves to academic textbooks that had been donated to the Library over the last year. The function ended on this high note, and we look forward to next year's celebration.

**Michelle Biederman**

JUNIOR LIBRARIAN, UNISA LIBRARY  
(CAPE TOWN CAMPUS)

## Mogale City initiatives for Mandela Day



## Graduation



**SIMON TSHABILE**  
from Kimberley Public Library obtained his Bachelor of Information Science from Unisa in May 2019



**VEDA DOYLE** from Kimberley Africana Research Library has obtained her Bachelor of Information Science from Unisa in May 2019



**MANDA HOUGH** who worked at the Beaconsfield Public Library as a Senior Librarian for the past seven years was appointed Acting City Librarian from 12 July 2019. Manda

previously worked in Kakamas as Head Librarian for 13 years and was formerly a Regional Librarian in Hermanus, Western Cape. She brings to this post training opportunities for support staff and newly qualified librarians.

## Retirement



**ROBERT PEARCE** Director of Library and Information Services at the Nelson Mandela University (NMU) in Port Elizabeth will retire after 10 years of service at NMU on 31 December 2019.

Originally from Eersterust in Pretoria, he has been living in Port Elizabeth for the past ten years. He holds, amongst others, a Masters Degree in Librarianship from Unisa and a Diploma in Industrial Psychology, also from Unisa. He has been a librarian for 44 years of which 33 years were spent at the University Libraries of NMU, UNISA, Venda and the Vaal University of Technology.

## On the Move



**AUBREY MAKGAHLELA** Mogale City Local Municipality is saying goodbye to one of its librarians, Mr Aubrey Makgahlela. "Mogale City Libraries gave me an opportunity to gain confidence by exposing me to staff supervision and doing

the cataloguing of the section. I have learnt a lot from the devoted team including their Professionalism", so said Aubrey when he was interviewed by Dr Nthabiseng Raduvha during the farewell function. Aubrey is now the Assistant Director –Technical Services at the North West Provincial Library Services, focusing on quality control of resources to be dispatched to community libraries within the North West province.

**Dr Nthabiseng Raduvha**

SNR LIBRARIAN, MOGALE CITY LOCAL MUNICIPALITY LIBRARIES

## UPLS Director Mr Robert Moropa bags Executive Librarian Award



The Department of Library Services of the University of Pretoria is proud to announce that its Director, **ROBERT MOROPA**, received the Library and Information Association of South Africa (LIASA) Executive Librarian

Award at their gala dinner on 3 October in Durban's International Convention Centre. This award is in recognition of his outstanding leadership, mentoring, contribution and commitment to Library and Information Services (LIS) Sector of South Africa.

The Executive Librarian Award is aimed at recognising the captains of the LIS profession; the powerhouses who are currently inspiring and building a legacy, not only for themselves but also for all LIS practitioners.

"I am grateful to be the recipient of this professional merit award. I thank LIASA, the sponsors of this award: NEVADA, SABINET and UKS as well as the staff members of the UP Library for having made it possible for me to receive this award," he says.

Moropa has served the LIS profession in various capacities. He served as the LIASA President from October 2002 to October 2004. He was also Vice-Chair of the South African National Library and Information Consortium when it was founded.

As the Library Director at the University of Pretoria, he is passionate about positioning the library in the University agenda. In 2017 he led the development of the strategic plan which made room for junior staff within the organisation to lead strategic projects. The library had nine strategic projects and a few of these were led by staff who occupied managerial positions. Each of these project leaders were assigned coaches who were part of senior management. This approach was adopted to mentor new leaders within the organisation and to develop those already in managerial positions.

"In declaring me the recipient of this award, LIASA has recognised my contribution in the growth and development of the LIS profession in South Africa. I view the granting of this award to me as a proxy recognition for the high level of successes attained by the UP Library in recent years."

**Elsabé Olivier** MARKETING & QUALITY ASSURANCE, UP

He is a past Editor of *LIASA-in-Touch* and he was the first Chairperson of LIASA Gauteng South. He has published articles and chapters in books on Librarianship and Afrikaans Literature in various countries such as the Netherlands, Belgium and South Africa.

He is an avid musician (guitar and vocals), dramatist and poetry writer and will pursue these hobbies after retirement at the age of 63.



**FREDERICK HENDRIK VAN DYK**, City Librarian of Kimberley Library and Research Services retired on 22 May 2019, after 32 years of service to the City of Kimberley.

## Last, but not least!



LIASA 2019 Conference Volunteers



## Sabinet applauds your commitment and service to the library and information sector

### LIASA Librarian of the Year Awards 2019

In keeping with our continued support of LIASA, Sabinet was this year proud to be able to sponsor the 2nd Runner Up Award.

#### Our thanks and congratulations go to worthy winner Vuyokazi Jamieson

Vuyokazi brings with her a combination of over a decade of committed service to the library and information services industry, and an innovative outlook for the future. She has been the chief librarian of the Cawse Library at St Andrew's College in Makhanda since January 2016 and is a board member of community outreach group, Friends of the Library. Vuyokazi is passionate about conducting research on how students learn and designing library spaces influenced by these findings. She would ultimately like to share her findings in order to enhance the experience of users in libraries through her research.



CONTACT US FOR MORE **INFORMATION**

+27 12 643 9500 [www.sabinet.co.za](http://www.sabinet.co.za) [info@sabinet.co.za](mailto:info@sabinet.co.za)

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# 4th Industrial Revolution

# The future?

Using Advanced Analytics,  
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Internet of Things

Trend of digitisation and  
automation of value chains  
using cyber physical systems

## 01 Device connection

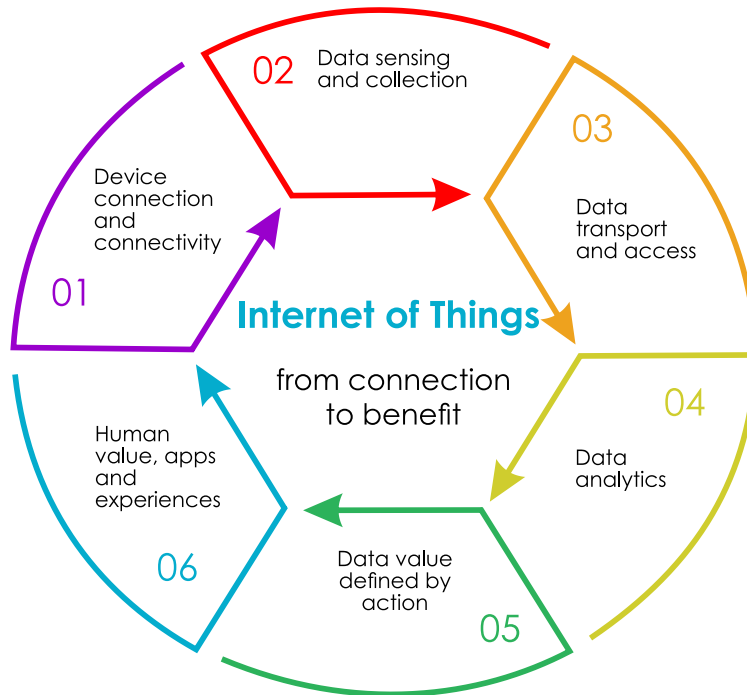
IoT devices  
IoT connectivity  
Embedded intelligence

## 02 Data sensing

Capture data  
sensors and tags  
Storage

## 03 Communication

Focus on access  
Networks, Cloud edge  
Data transport



## Data Analytics 05

Big data analysis  
AI and cognitive  
Analysis at the edge

## Data Value 05

Analysis to action  
APIs and progresses  
Actionable intelligence

## Human Value 06

Smart applications  
Stakeholder benefits  
Tangible benefits

A concept that most "things" are connected and can exchange information



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*Wishing you a Happy Holiday Season*

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E: [training@uks.co.za](mailto:training@uks.co.za)

W: [www.uks.co.za](http://www.uks.co.za)