

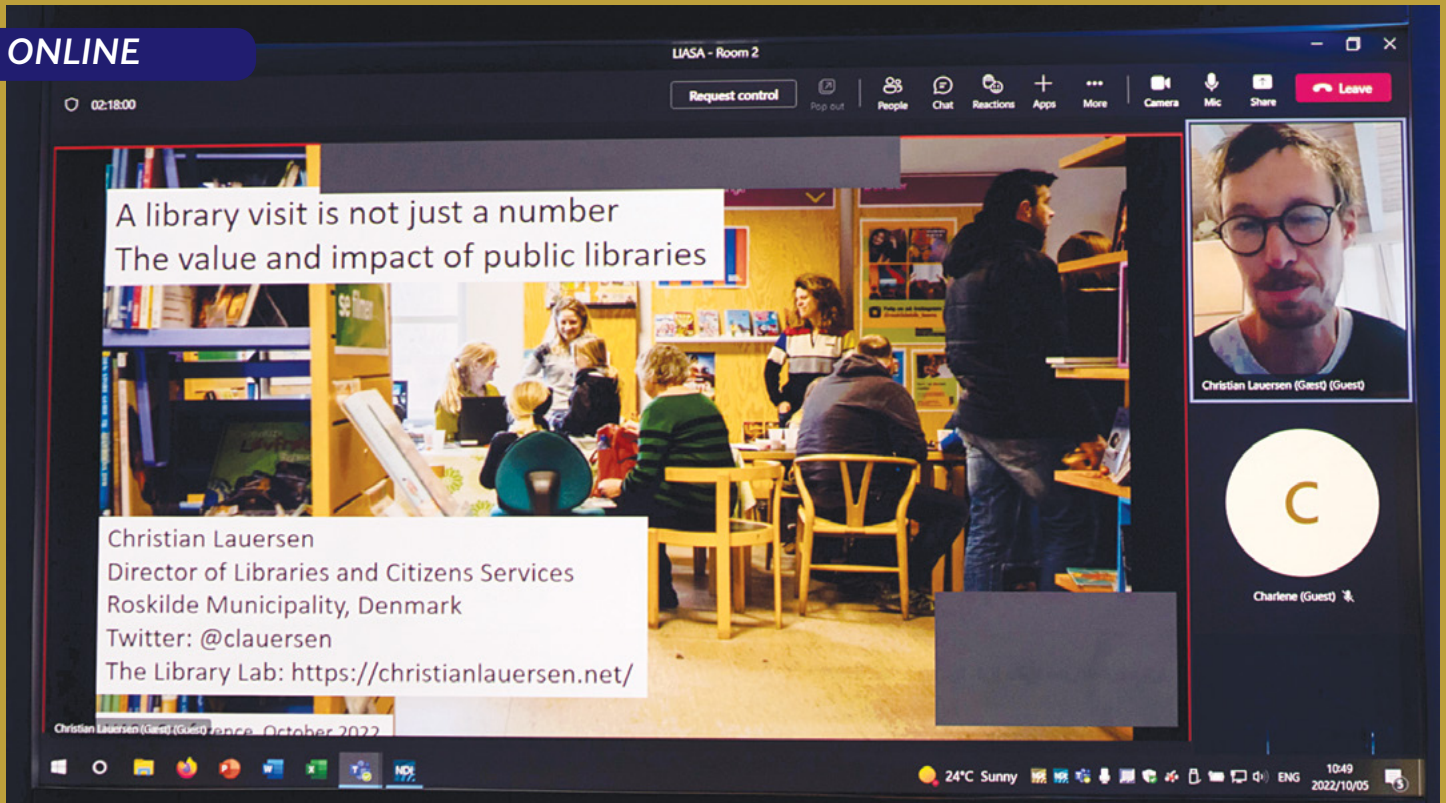
LIASA IN TOUCH

OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE LIBRARY AND INFORMATION ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH AFRICA

December 2022 • Volume 23 • Issue 4

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ONLINE



IN-PERSON



Conference MC, Dr Buhle Mbambo-Thata
University Librarian
National University of Lesotho



AWARDS

LIASA-SCECSAL Conference 2022

LIASA'S FIRST HYBRID CONFERENCE



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In the blink of an eye, we've reached the end of 2022. We all wonder where the time has gone and what we have done – after all, it feels like just yesterday when we returned to the office from the Christmas break.

During this last quarter of the year, in terms of LIASA flagship programmes, we hosted the LIASA-SCECSAL 2022 conference and celebrated International Open Access Week. Read more about these events elsewhere in this issue of the magazine.

Typically, this is also the time of year when the membership for the current year closes and the early bird membership for the next year opens.

For 2022 we registered 1307 members. A big, warm thank you to each of these 1307 members for being loyal and dedicated members! While this year we saw an increase of 12% on the 2021 totals it is still 37% lower than the

2019 total of 1797. Of a bigger concern is that there are still 161 potential members that requested an invoice or generated it themselves when they renewed but failed to make payment. The total amount of just under R100 000 owed on membership invoices could significantly strengthen an already fragile budget. Send us your ideas on how we can enforce payments on membership invoices.

At the AGM on 6 October 2022, the membership, as the highest decision making body in LIASA, approved an increase in membership fees for 2023. See below the 2023 fees as well as the early bird fees.

All members are encouraged to pay their 2023 membership dues as soon as possible to ensure they get a full year of benefits. Payments can be made via electronic funds transfer or via card. Banking details for EFT

payments as well as the secure online payment link can be found on your membership dues invoice.

If you have registered and have not received your emailed invoice, sign in to your profile on MyLIASA at www.liasa.org.za ▶ then on the My Profile tab, located on the black menu ribbon, click on Manage Profile ▶ under the second group heading titled Invoicing, Payments and History click on Invoices ▶ ensure to select the Dues tab on the green bar ▶ then change the Filter by Status option to Any Status ▶ and lastly click on the little picture icon representing an invoice to open your invoice.

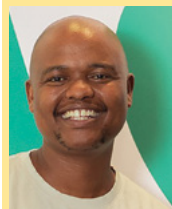
Please contact the LIASA National Office on membership@liasa.org.za if and when you need any assistance on the MyLIASA platform or if you have general membership queries.

The end of November is also a bittersweet time when we bid farewell to Kagiso who is moving on to the next phase in his career. See more elsewhere on this page. We wish Kagiso all the best in his new home town, with his new employer, and know that he has left big shoes to fill for whomever will be appointed in the Training and Development Coordinator position.

ANNAMARIE GOOSEN (PL)SA
LIASA MANAGER

MEMBERSHIP FEES FOR 2023

Membership Category	Early-bird Fees	Fees
	1 Oct – 31 Dec 2022	1 Jan – 31 Dec 2023
Individual Members	R680	R720
Institutional Members	R3 425	R3 630
Individuals not from South Africa	R1 025	R1 085
Students	R310	R310
Interns	R310	R310
Pensioners	R310	R310
Unemployed Members	R310	R310



Kagiso Lebwaba

Farewell Kagiso...

During the first quarter of 2014 a post for a Membership Officer at the LIASA National Office (LNO) was advertised. During the interviews a gem was found - a young man named Kagiso Ledwaba had the right skills, aptitude, attitude and personality, and it was clear that he would fit in perfectly with the office culture. It is now more than eight years later and it is time for Kagiso to move on to the next phase in his career after serving LIASA and the members so well in the time he has been here.

For most of his time at LIASA, Kagiso served as the Membership Officer and that is probably how

the majority of the members got to know him. In 2021, Kagiso moved into the Training and Development Coordinator role where he worked very closely with the Branches and Interest Groups in setting up registration for their webinars, assisting with marketing emails and ensuring the smooth operations of virtual events.

Over the past eight years his colleagues and friends at the LNO and the EXCOs shared in Kagiso's joys and heartaches; from losing his mother in 2018 to the birth of his daughter, Lebone, in 2019, and a low-key wedding during the COVID lockdown period.

Since the COVID pandemic forced a lockdown on the county, Kagiso has worked from his home in Polokwane and provided a physical presence of the LNO at the Limpopo Branch events. At those times when he had to be

present at the LNO in Pretoria it was a welcome reunion.

Kagiso, a University of Pretoria (UP) graduate, always maintained that he is interested in entering the academic library sector and he worked hard to prepare himself for the time when this would become a reality. Now that time has come. It is bittersweet for us to "send" Kagiso to Sol Plaatje University in Kimberley, Northern Cape, to take up the position of Information Librarian as of 1 December 2022.

While it is never easy to say goodbye, we do know that he will always be part of the LNO history and the road we walked together. Kagiso, we wish you all the best in this new venture and this phase in your career. We are confident that you will serve your new employer just as well as you served LIASA.

ANNAMARIE GOOSEN

Editor's note

Dear LIASA members

Welcome to the final print edition of the magazine. From March 2023, the LIASA-in-Touch will only be available in an electronic version on the LIASA website. Members will have to sign in on MyLIASA to access the full magazine.

This last issue for 2022 has as its main focus the LIASA-SCECSAL Conference 2022. I hope that the articles and photos reflect the uniqueness of LIASA's first hybrid conference, bring back fond memories for those who were fortunate enough to attend in person after the disruption of COVID-19, and celebrate our

resilience in the face of adversity.

In addition, as has been the case with every issue in this 25th Anniversary year, we track the 25-year timeline of a LIASA flagship programme, in this instance the LIASA Annual Conference. Naomi Haasbroek, who has been part of organising almost every conference, provides a record



Nazeem Hardy

From the President

Restructuring

Restructuring finally seems to have taken a step forward with a commitment to grapple with the constitutional issues and ultimately the structure. While some might feel that this is more of the same, it is definitely a step in the right direction in realising a new structure for the Association.

Open Access Week

For the first year in a long time, LIASA celebrated Open Access Week with a commemorative event thanks to a collaboration with CHELSA, thus putting into action the MOU signed earlier this year.

Membership Fees

The annual increase in membership fees was discussed and agreed to at the recent AGM; for 2023 the fees will increase to R720 for individual membership. The age-old question about the cost of membership will most likely occupy us for this period and into next year.

As a professional body, our membership fees are extremely low, a fact pointed out by other bodies that had been consulted over time. EXCO recently did a financial exercise to determine what membership fees would have to be in order for LIASA to be sustainable if we had no other sources of income other than membership fees, and that cost came to over R3 000 per year.

While I do not for one moment think that R720 is not a lot of money for many of our members, when compared with the estimated R3,000, it is very low. As a profession, we remain under threat and the only way to sustain the Association is to increase our membership and keep the dues as low as possible so as to attract those in the profession to join and/or renew.

LIASA/Clare Walker Professional Development Centre

One other way to build on revenue is to have the LCWPDC, commonly known as the Academy, become a viable body that actively demonstrates return on investment by offering professional development opportunities to members. To this end, we have recently constituted

a Management Committee for the Academy and would like to welcome Ujala Satgoor (former LIASA President and UCT Libraries Executive Director); Mr. Keki Madumo (CEO of the NLSA/ National Librarian); Ms. Tsakane Shiburi (Assistant Director: Regions at the City of Joburg Libraries) and Dr Ndakasharwa Muchaonyerwa (Chair of the LIS Schools Forum and Head of the Library and Information Services Department at the University of Fort Hare) to this committee.

They will join the LIASA President, President-Elect, the LIASA Manager and the Training and Development Coordinator for a 3-year term of office. The broad terms of reference for the Academy Management Committee includes the identification of training programmes; to develop a compensation structure for the Academy; to negotiate with partners in providing training; and to exercise quality assurance, in other words, accreditation for the

Academy training programmes. I wish the team well for their term.

SALW 2023

will be celebrated from 20-26 March 2023 with the theme **Libraries – telling powerful stories!**

Conference 2023

will be hosted in Cape Town. The nature of the conference, venue and dates will be communicated in due course.

In Conclusion

I wish to take this opportunity to wish everyone a safe Festive Season and for those who are celebrating, a blessed Christmas. Lastly, may 2023 be a year filled with opportunities and blessings.

May we all take the opportunity presented by the end of year holidays to recharge and re-energise ourselves to tackle the many challenges in our profession.

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

Dear LIASA members

Welcome to what is traditionally the Conference issue of *LIASA-in-Touch*. For me personally it is one year down and one more to go in my Presidency. When I sat down to compile the Annual Report with EXCO, I was surprised by how much we've achieved in this past year. I am sure that every President before me feels like they had not done much during their term as so much time is taken up with "putting out fires". It of course does not help to have impostor syndrome that fills you with doubt as you undertake this journey.

My overview of the LIASA Conference appears elsewhere in the magazine but I would like to highlight one issue in this column - namely the events that transpired at the AGM. The matter of the EXCO composition not being constitutionally compliant has probably occupied me most since then. It was never the intention to be in violation of the constitution, and while the composition of my EXCO has been known since day one of this term and completely transparent, the decision regarding its composition was based on the situation in LIASA at the time of the elections. However, I take full responsibility and remain committed to doing the best for the Association, and am as always open to listening to anyone who shares in this ideal. In order to put this matter to rest, I would like to welcome Representative Council members Ms. Fatima Darries (IGBIS Chair) and Ms. Kegomodicwe Phuthi (Free State Branch Chair) to the Executive Committee.

of LIASA Conferences from small beginnings in 1997 to an established showcase in 2022.

The deadline for the March issue is 20 January 2023. Please look out for the detailed Call for Articles which will be distributed via LIASOnline and send your contributions directly to me at: LiasaInTouch@liasa.org.za.

I wish to take this opportunity to thank our advertisers and contributors for their loyal support throughout the year.

I wish you well over the Festive Season; Christmas blessings to all who are celebrating, and may you enter the New Year restored and ready to tackle with enthusiasm the year ahead. NOHRA MOERAT PL(SA)



Honorary Membership is awarded to immediate past-President of LIASA, Ms Nikki Crowster



Voting at the AGM at LIASA/SCECSAL 2022

LIASA-SCECSAL Conference 2022

Theme and format

The LIASA-SCECSAL Conference 2022 was hosted as a hybrid conference, a first for the Association, from 4-7 October 2022. This was our first conference since the advent of the pandemic where we could be together and the staging of the hybrid event was to test the waters, but also flowed from the initial discussions when we were still under lockdown restrictions.

The theme for the Conference was “**Against all odds: Resilience of libraries in a post-truth world**” to reflect on reimagining, repurposing and rediscovering libraries in a post-truth world. It provided a framework to examine the way in which libraries have demonstrated resilience through the ages, especially when faced with crises. While we had come through the COVID-19 pandemic it was but another challenge to take on and overcome. It was therefore fitting that the theme for this year’s Conference centred on **Resilience**, both as an examination of the longevity of libraries as well as a call to LIS professionals to celebrate the many ways in which they had navigated this latest challenge. Much of the rhetoric of the past two years had focused on the challenges but with this conference we wanted to examine the successes as well.

This year’s conference had an added dimension in that it was a joint event with the Standing Committee of Eastern, Central and Southern African Library and Information Associations (SCECSAL). LIASA, as the host of



Mzansi Youth Choir

the 2022 SCECSAL Conference, decided in agreement with the Secretariat and SCECSAL Council members to host a joint conference. This included the hosting of the SCANUL-ECS Conference on Monday, 3 October, which was hosted by the National Library of South Africa (NLSA).

This year’s Conference also saw the re-introduction of our MC for the entire event, Dr Buhle Mbambo-Thata, University Librarian of the National University of Lesotho, who once again kept the Conference ticking over between sessions throughout the duration of the event, creating a vital link between the in-person and virtual attendees.

Committees

The Conference was once again organised under the auspices of a Conference Organising Committee, chaired by the President, Nazeem Hardy and President-Elect, Charlie Molepo. The Conference was an EXCO administered event, which implied

that the rest of EXCO rounded out the committee, including Linda Ntaka (LIASA National PRO), Moggadi Senyolo (LIASA National Secretary), Danie Malan (LIASA National Treasurer) and Annamarie Goosen (LIASA Manager). Other members of the organising committee included Charlene Tlhabane (Scatterlings: Conference Organiser), Lebogang Masalesa (LIASA National Office), Kagiso Ledwaba (LIASA National Office), and Naomi Haasbroek (Programme Committee Chair).

The Programme Committee that reviewed the submitted papers and drafted the programme, was chaired by Naomi, joined by Dr Neil Evans (University of Zululand), Prof Ina Fourie (University of Pretoria), Dr Bennie Phaladi (Durban University of Technology) and Dinah Mashiyane (University of the Free State).

Guest speakers and special sessions

Every conference brings its own challenges and just when

you think you have it all together, it takes a detour, leaving you winded and scrambling. This year’s event was no different, especially when it came to guest speakers. Through sheer luck, and cancellation by the keynote speaker, we still managed to put together a diverse group of special guest speakers. These included Saray Khumalo, Prof Bonang Mohale, Zephne Ladbrook and Carol Ann Davids.

Saray Khumalo, the first African woman to scale Mount Everest, wowed us by challenging us to look within and nurture the

resilience within ourselves to be able to push through to our own summit. Prof Mohale, University of the Free State Chancellor and Chair of Business Unity SA (BUSU), shared uncomfortable truths about our country and government, and inspired us to be true to ourselves and continue the work that we are doing in order to improve the lives of South Africans. In other words, to continue to be resilient.

Zephne Ladbrook, co-founder and Chairperson of the Otto Foundation, showcased the need for school libraries and the fostering of literacy with the work that they do in setting up school libraries, and encouraging us to fight the good fight.

Author Carol Ann Davids took us on a journey of how libraries inspired her and played a meaningful role in her life, again encouraging us to remain resilient.

Christian Lauersen, Director of Libraries in Roskilde, Denmark was initially meant to be one of our main guest speakers but due to other clashes within the programme, spearheaded a session on the impact of libraries by challenging us to tell stories that go beyond statistics. Former LIASA Presidents, Ujala Satgoor and Segametsi Molawa, in a special session on the future leadership of LIASA, chaired by the LIASA President, brought together most of the former LIASA Presidents on one stage to talk about this topic. We also arranged a number of sessions titled “A word from the sponsors”, offering them the opportunity to showcase their products, the work that they do and their partnership with libraries.

The various papers, presentations and Lightning Talks resulted in 56 papers and presentations being delivered together with 11 Lightning Talks.

(continued on adjacent page)



Puleng Kekana, Chief Director, Department of Sport, Arts and Culture (main sponsor)



Saray Khumalo
Keynote Speaker



Prof Bonang Mohale
Special guest speaker



Carol Ann Davids at home
Special guest speaker



Christian Lauersen in Denmark
Special guest speaker



Inge Lize Weber
Special guest speaker

The award for the best paper at the LIASA-SCECSAL Conference 2022 went to **Dr Aubrey Chaputula**, Mzuzu University, Malawi, for his research based oral presentation titled: **Libraries as a vehicle for community transformation: Assessing the impact of Kwakupokela Community Library on the well-being of community members**, while the award for the best Lightning Talk went to **Dr Lynn Kleinveldt**, Cape Peninsula University of Technology, South Africa. Her Lightning Talk was titled: **Beyond Information Literacy training: integrating research data management services into the Business and Information Administration curriculum for work-place preparedness**.

Congratulations to you both.

Selection of abstracts submitted for inclusion on the conference programme is done by reviewing and subsequent scoring according to set criteria by the Review Panel. Relevance to the conference theme and quality and standard of the abstract is critical to ensure a cohesive and valuable programme. It was particularly encouraging to note that an overwhelming number



Dr Aubrey Chaputula



Dr Lynn Kleinveldt

Criteria for evaluating papers

1. Originality and Creativity

Theoretical or practical significance of research/project
Creativity and originality of study/topic
New and unique ideas

2. Organisation (Logical presentation of ideas)

Objectives/goals are clearly stated
Appropriate and clear methodology
Results/findings are clearly presented
Thoughts and ideas flow in a logical manner, easy to follow
Results accomplish the purposes of the project

3. Presentation (Oral presentation and delivery)

Exhibits good body posture
Maintains good eye contact with audience
Clear diction and articulation
Legible, easy to read slides/supporting material

4. Expertise/Knowledge of Material (Familiarity with subject matter)

Exhibits knowledge of subject matter, research study, project
Answers questions with confidence

5. Value

Value/practical application to LIS profession
Suitable to theme of conference
Provides solutions for common problems

6. Overall Score

Special sessions included those hosted by CHELSA and IGBIS. The conference also included the NCLIS meeting on Tuesday 4 October, the SCECSAL General Council meeting on Wednesday 5 October, the LIASA AGM on the afternoon of Thursday 6 October and the Conference dinner, held later that same evening. At the AGM, the University of Stellenbosch was recognised for its continued hosting of SAJLIS on the OJS platform, and the National Library of South Africa (NLSA) was recognised for its continued support and hosting of the LIASA National Office. The Conference Dinner, as usual, saw librarians letting their hair down and turning every stereotype of what a librarian is on its head as they socialised and partied.

As has become the tradition, the event also showcased the winners of the various LIASA Librarian of the Year Awards. The SALI Trust/LIASA Lifetime Achievement Award was awarded to Dr Peter Lor, recognising his lifetime of work and contributions in the LIS field, something that he still continues to do. This year also saw changes to the national awards as explained on page 6. The winners of these awards were as follows:

- Nambitha Manqola, Digital Librarian at the University of the Free State, was named the

LIASA-Nevada LMS Emerging Librarian of the Year. A new award, Nambitha became the inaugural winner of this award.

- Manda Hough, Acting Manager: Libraries and Research at the Sol Plaatjie Municipality in the Northern Cape, was named the LIASA-UKS Librarian of the Year.
- Betsy Eister, University Librarian at the Central University of Technology in the Free State, was named the LIASA-Sabinet Influential Library Leader of the Year. This award replaced the former Executive Librarian of the Year Award.

It is the intention to eventually host a Student Award as well so that we recognise the entire spectrum of professionals in LIS. It was a privilege to once again work with Ros Hattingh of Sabinet, Neesha Ramsumar of UKS and Freda van Wyk of Nevada LMS in realising these awards.

The final day of Conference included the Closing Session where individuals were recognised for their contribution to LIASA during the past year. The LIASA President recognised the work done by the LIASA accountant, Ms Nikki Kennedy and NK Accounting Services, as well as Scatterlings, the LIASA-SCECSAL Conference organiser. While there was no President's Award this year, he acknowledged the

work done at Branch level by the Free State Branch and at Interest Group level by IGBIS, HELIG and RETIG. Recognition was also given to the programme committee members listed above as well as the Conference MC.

The Best Conference Paper and Best Lightning Talk were also awarded on the day as selected by the Programme Committee.

- Dr Lynn Kleinveldt was awarded Best Lightning Talk for her presentation, "**Beyond Information Literacy training: integrating research data management services into the Business and Information Administration curriculum for work-place preparedness**".
- Dr Aubrey Chaputula was awarded Best Conference Paper for his presentation, "**Libraries as a vehicle for community transformation: Assessing the impact of Kwakupokela Community Library on the well-being of community members**".

Honorary Membership this year was awarded to the immediate past-President of LIASA, Nikki Crowster.

When you are President, you do not get to enjoy Conference the way delegates do. There are always meetings, discussions and other behind-the-scenes matters to take care of. You experience Conference vicariously through others. In talking

of abstracts were submitted for review. The process to identify the best paper/lightning talk continues during the conference. Reviewers are present during the presentations in each session and allocate scores using the criteria below and taking the original abstract scores into account. Total combined scores from all reviewers are calculated to arrive at a final score.

Thank you to the members of the Programme Committee and Review Panel for your valuable input, time, dedication, and contribution to an engaging, professional, and valuable programme which resulted in a successful conference. It was heartening to note that all the sessions were very well attended and audience engagement with speakers were high.

Members of the Programme Committee/Review Panel were - Dr Neil Evans (University of Zululand), Prof Ina Fourie (University of Pretoria), Dr Dina Mashiyane (University of the Free State), Dr Benny Phaladi (Durban University of Technology), and Naomi Haasbroek as Chair.

NAOMI HAASBROEK

CHAIR: PROGRAMME COMMITTEE/REVIEW PANEL

to delegates and gauging their reaction, my impression was that the 2022 LIASA-SCECSAL Conference was a truly amazing event. For virtual delegates, the thrill was in listening to good papers and great speakers, taking lessons from these to implement in their own work spaces. This is of course also true for the in-person attendees, but they were afforded the enhanced experience of meeting up with colleagues after a long hiatus. For me personally, it was knowing that at the end of a long day of attending conference, delegates were expressing their appreciation for the day's proceedings. The pains and anxieties of putting together this annual showcase becomes worth it and I am looking forward to doing it one more time next year.

The LIASA-SCECSAL Conference was made possible by the generous sponsorship of the Department of Sport, Arts and Culture. Additional sponsors included Sabinet, Springer Nature and EBSCO. Exhibitors included UKS, CSX, the NLSA, SA Heritage Publishers, Qualibooks, Booktalk, EBSCO, Springer Nature, Nevada LMS, Macmillan Education, WWIS and Kibooks. LIASA is extremely grateful to these sponsors and exhibitors for their continued support for the Association and the annual Conference.

NAZEEM HARDY PL(SA)
LIASA PRESIDENT (2021-23)

LIASA 2022 Annual Awards

LIASA, with the awards' sponsors Nevada LMS, SABINET, and Universal Knowledge Software (UKS), decided to relook the annual librarian of the year awards.

The current leadership felt that the awards should be inclusive and recognise all librarians excelling at different career levels. While the two main awards of the Librarian of the Year and Executive Librarian of the Year did recognise librarians of varying age groups, both of them were more geared towards experienced professionals. With input from LIASA and the three main sponsors, a new award was created for an "emerging librarian". This award would be presented to a person who displayed characteristics that pointed to them being a role model for the Library and Information Services community; a person whose contributions could make a lasting impact on the sector and who would be an ambassador for LIASA, Nevada LMS, and librarianship for the upcoming year, including embracing the post-modern digital landscape. The Executive Librarian award was changed to the Influential Library Leader award with an emphasis on leadership because we felt that one could be a leader regardless of one's workplace position.

Emerging Librarian of the Year Award

Nambitha Manqola is the first recipient of the Emerging Librarian of the Year Award. According to the sponsor representative Ms. Freda Van Wyk, Nambitha's profile perfectly fits this award's criteria. She was selected from nominations that comprised five other nominees who, in the past five years, received a professional qualification in librarianship and have a keen knowledge and love for technology. "We were looking for a full-round personality, who understands the needs of their community and is currently embracing the digital landscape. A person who can see the holistic picture and the finer detail is at heart a natural leader, problem solver, and has a logistical mind. We at Nevada LMS believe Nambitha could make a lasting impact on the LIS sector. We look forward to working with her this year as the ambassador for LIASA, Nevada LMS, and librarianship".

The Influential Library Leader Award

The LIASA-SABINET Influential Library Leader Award aims to recognise the captains of the LIS



Manda Hough: 2022 Librarian of the Year



Betsy Eister: 2022 Influential Library Leader



Nambitha Manqola: 2022 Emerging Librarian

profession. These powerhouses are currently inspiring and building a legacy, not only for themselves but also for all LIS practitioners. The award is for individuals who have made an extensive contribution to the profession in the LIS sector, with a minimum of 15 years' experience. Their contribution can be at any professional level, including operational, management, or academic. Such individuals must have a proven track record of mentorship and strong evidence of leadership.

Ros Hattingh, CEO of Sabinet, said, "Leadership's importance, significance, and impact were common throughout the LIASA 2022 conference. The LIASA-Sabinet Influential Library Leader Award recognizes exceptional leaders in the LIS profession who inspire and build leadership in others."

Betsy Eister is the recipient of the 2022 Influential Library Leader Award and is recognised for her contribution to advancing librarians and librarianship. She is a person who fosters growth

within her team, encourages colleagues to succeed, is inspired by developing leaders, and finds fulfilment in the successes of those she has mentored. Ros has confidence that Betsy will use this award to increase her impact in the industry. Congratulations were conveyed to the other nominees; they are all inspiring leaders and have shown great passion for LIS leadership

The LIASA-UKS Librarian of the Year has remained unchanged except for the nominations process which took place at the national rather than at the branch level. Neesha Ramsumar, CEO of UKS, states, "Throughout the years, UKS has been dedicated to the work of LIASA, and through this, started sponsoring the LIASA-UKS Librarian of the Year Award 15 years ago. Our commitment to LIASA and the great work done within the library sector is a testament to our values as an organisation."

She further indicated that her heart is very close to this award and the qualities she looks for in the successful candidate is that "Librarianship should be a calling." The successful candidate needs to show how they have fought for Libraries throughout their career, sacrificed their time, and went above and beyond in their personal capacity to ensure that Libraries survive and their commitment to LIASA is unwavering.

Librarian of the Year Award

Manda Hough stood out in the interview as a worthy candidate for the LIASA-UKS Librarian of the Year Award. Manda's love for books and being surrounded by librarians sparked the incredible journey to the start of her career as a Librarian. She has shown resilience and strength throughout her career, always flying the flag of librarianship high. Her commitment, not only to LIASA but to her profession, is one to be admired. Although a tough and long road, Manda achieved what she set out to do with the support, encouragement, and leadership from colleagues, friends, and family.

Neesha further indicated that UKS will continue their constant support of LIASA and all the work it does in the library sector of South Africa. UKS is proud to be associated with an organisation that honours Librarians and their work.

CHARLIE MAPHUNTSHANE MOLEPO PL(SA)
LIASA PRESIDENT-ELECT 2021-2023

Peter Lor Honoured

One of the stalwarts of the library and information profession in South Africa, Professor Peter Lor, was honoured with the SALI Trust/LIASA Lifetime Achievement Award at the LIASA-SCECSAL Conference.

This prestigious annual award is bestowed on a librarian who has made a sustained contribution to the profession over many years with notable impact, influence and lifelong service to communities and the profession. The award was presented jointly by the SALI Trust Chairperson, Rachel More, and the LIASA President, Nazeem Hardy. Rachel More expressed appreciation for the six outstanding nominations received and in paying tribute to Prof Lor she noted that during an exceptional career he had straddled both library practice and academia in South Africa and abroad with great distinction.

Initial studies at the University of Stellenbosch, UNISA and Caen (France) were followed by a doctorate in library and information science from the University of Pretoria (UP). He worked in special and academic libraries and lectured in library science at the University of Stellenbosch and later UNISA, where he became a full professor. As Director of the then State Library from 1992, he was closely involved in developing LIS policies for post-apartheid South Africa and went on to become South Africa's first National Librarian and CEO of the National Library of South Africa (NLSA) until 2003. He was also an important figure in the establishment of LIASA in the 1990s and was a founding member with membership number 1.



SALI Trust Chairperson, Rachel More, presenting to Peter Lor the Lifetime Achievement Award plaque



A Commemorative Award

Prof Lor made his mark internationally as well, serving as Chairperson of the Conference of Directors of National Libraries (1996 – 2000) drafting guidelines for national library legislation for UNESCO, and serving as Secretary General of the

International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA) in The Hague, Netherlands from 2005 to 2008.

He was a Visiting Professor in the School of Information Studies at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee (2009 – 2011), Extraordinary Professor in the Department of Information Science, UP from 1998 to 2016, and a Research Associate there since 2017. This "Extraordinary Professor", as the University of Pretoria appointment appropriately describes him, is a prolific author with about 190 scholarly articles and book chapters in several languages and countries. A recent book by Prof Lor, "International and comparative librarianship", was published in 2019. And of course, he writes a regular column

for *LIASA-in-touch*, "Global Gleanings", drawing from the international literature of books, libraries and information.

Awards and honours bestowed on Prof Lor include honorary membership of LIASA and the Italian Library Association, an honorary doctorate from the University of Pretoria in 2008, the IFLA Medal in 2014 and an award from the American Library Association in 2020 for significant contributions to international librarianship. And now the SALI Trust/ LIASA Lifetime Achievement Award.

In accepting the award, Prof Lor said that he felt deeply honoured and touched, particularly because it coincided with LIASA's 25th birthday. He acknowledged that whatever he may have achieved was thanks to colleagues and friends in the profession, and other significant persons, foremost being his wife of 50 years, Monika. He noted that the most important component of a library is people – users, communities and staff. Those who founded LIASA did so because they wanted to ensure that people from all over South Africa would have fair and equal access to good library and information services. The best way to do this was to enhance the skills and talents of all LIS workers and to create an organisation for professional and occupational development, sharing and solidarity. Prof Lor concluded by saying that LIASA had made great strides in the past 25 years and congratulated all involved on its achievements.

JOHN VAN NIEKERK
ADMINISTRATOR, SALI TRUST



"Generation Z" are digital natives who have been born and grown up in the digital age.

As a Generation Z myself and a newly appointed intern librarian, it has been a privilege to be an employee of the University for the Free State (UFS). From March to date, I can confidently state that there is nothing I enjoy more than being a member of the Library and Information Services (LIS) professional family. Under the

"GENERATION Z" INTERN LIBRARIAN'S EXPERIENCE AS A 1ST-TIME ATTENDEE

supervision of my line manager and mentor, Ms. DM Mashiyane, I am learning and getting the tips and tricks of the profession. I will forever be grateful that I crossed paths with this fierce, educated, yet humble woman.

The LIASA-SCECSAL Conference 2022 was held at the Radisson Hotel and Convention Centre OR Tambo, Ekurhuleni, from 4-7 October 2022. I received warmth, love, and welcome from session 1: *Newcomers* which Ms. Linda Nkata chaired; what a gentle, humble and professional being. She made us feel welcomed to the LIS professional family and highlighted the importance of the professional body (LIASA).

The conference helped me learn new things and boosted my learning, knowledge, and skills through listening to talks and presentations and the overall experience of attending the

sessions. It was more than just the speakers; the key was networking with individuals who shared similar interests with me. Expressing my thoughts and developing my soft skills were not difficult in a community with the same beliefs about the profession. I heard many things in my area that I was unfamiliar with. I heard a lot about innovations like new library technologies and learned from thought leaders I had not known about before. It allowed me to talk to these people one-on-one about what they are working on so that I can enrich myself with new perspectives and knowledge and level up in my field. The conference gave me an incredible opportunity to see many of my heroes all at once, Ms. Saray Khumalo and Prof Bonang Mohale. And formally meet the nduna LIASA president, Mr. Nazeem Hardy. The best part was that I met them, conversed with them, got

to know them as individuals, and listened to them talk and share their tales. Imagine shaking hands and chatting with the real-life heroes of your youth! Furthermore, the conference assisted me in improving my resume because I can now demonstrate to potential employers how passionate I am about my career.

Witnessing such a fantastic conference was a great experience, and the luxurious venue was worth a tour; not forgetting the good food, drinks, and the splendid gala dinner where people dressed smartly and in traditional attire, embracing their heritage. All thanks to LIASA and the UFS for making me test the LIS profession's greatness and depth.

TEBOGO MAKHURUPETS (INTERN LIBRARIAN)
NEVILLE ALEXANDER LIBRARY, UFS

IGBIS share their impressions of LIASA-SCECSAL 2022 Conference



Judith Ngcobo (University of Zululand), Sarah Golby (National Library of South Africa), Mercia Moreana (University of Pretoria), Fatima Darries (University of South Africa)



Sidima Mnengi (Walter Sisulu University), Annelize Rowan (Sol Plaatje Municipality), Chareen Mathope (Central University of Technology)

IGBIS, LIASA's Interest Group for Bibliographic Standards, had the opportunity to host a session during the 2022 LIASA-SCECSAL Conference held in Johannesburg from 3 to 7 October.

The moderated conference session on a South African Code of Ethics for Cataloguing Practice was scheduled for the afternoon of Wednesday 5 October at 16:10.

For some members of the IGBIS committee this was the first time speaking at an in-person event – a daunting prospect indeed! However, our monthly virtual meetings and online events paved the way for speaking to a live audience, and it helped that the attendees did appear genuinely interested. The cataloguers in the audience were certainly curious about what we were proposing: essentially questioning the systems and standards we so closely adhere to during our work.

The technical support team was available to us with their expertise prior to and during the session, but we still missed Kagiso Ledwaba, LIASA National Office's

technical support guru, whose calming and knowledgeable presence during our online events is always a balm to anxious souls!

IGBIS Chair Fatima Darries opened the session by introducing the topic and speakers. Judith Ngcobo, our Task Team Coordinator spoke next, presenting the development of the Cataloguing Ethics Task Team, and outlining the purpose, intent, and timeline for what the task team hopes to accomplish over the course of the next year. Sarah Golby followed Judith's presentation with the theoretical background to the actions of the task team, by presenting on three key documents pertaining to ethical practice in the cataloguing profession. With the audience having a theoretical and practical sense of what IGBIS and the Task Team is hoping to accomplish, we asked for their contribution to this project. Mercia Moreana, the IGBIS Chair-Elect and Treasurer, presented a series of questions to the audience about a South African code of ethics for cataloguers and its potential importance and value to the

cataloguing community. The audience divided themselves into groups to discuss the questions and present their views and opinions. Following this, a declaration of intent was signed by attendees, indicating support of and commitment towards the development of a South African Code of Ethics for Cataloguers. The IGBIS Committee and Task Team Coordinator greatly appreciate attendees' participation and input.

In absentia was Ingrid Henrici, IGBIS Secretary, who joined us virtually. Ingrid shares her impressions of the conference from an online perspective:

"Presenting the LIASA-SCECSAL conference in a hybrid format allowed me to attend it online as I could not attend in person. The online platform is easy to follow and there were minimal connectivity issues. The fellow online attendees kept up a running commentary in the comments section and it was great to feel part of the conference even though we were not there in person. Having to make the choices of which

track to follow for the afternoon sessions was difficult as they were all interesting. The Wednesday afternoon IGBIS session was of course compulsory. I was to moderate the online platform comments and questions. As I joined the session the screen looked different, and I couldn't see or hear any of my colleagues presenting. It seems I was logged into the separate platform for questions, which was different from the running comments. I did manage in the end to find how to listen to my colleagues after half the session was over. I am glad that I attended the conference as it is always a wonderful learning opportunity and occasion to mingle with fellow delegates. Hopefully I'll be able to attend the conference in person in Cape Town next year."

The declaration and additional content from the session is available on the IGBIS microsite hosted by LIASA at <https://www.liasa.org.za/members/group.aspx?id=213577>

INGRID HENRICI & SARAH GOLBY



IMPRESSIONS FROM A CONFERENCE NEWCOMER

My name is Annelize Rowan. I am currently employed as a Conservator at the Kimberley Africana Library. I attended my first ever conference this year, which was held from 4-7 October 2022 at the Radisson Hotel and Convention Centre.

This conference to me was an exciting and great opportunity to meet librarians from all over South Africa as well as the Eastern, Central and Southern African countries and to engage in interesting library related conversations.

I also thoroughly

enjoyed the roundtable session on Cataloguing codes of ethics. I learned so much at this session. Last but not least I would like to thank my manager, Manda Hough, for giving me this wonderful opportunity to attend my first LIASA Conference. I end off with the thought-provoking words from the keynote speaker, Saray Khumalo, who said "we as librarians cannot just survive, we need to strive" So inspiring!

The paper I enjoyed the most was a talk presented by Dr Aubrey Chaputula from Malawi. He shared the story of a library worker who managed the local library. She took library books home to protect them from theft and then forget to return the material. I also thoroughly

enjoyed the roundtable session on Cataloguing codes of ethics. I learned so much at this session.

Last but not least I would like to thank my manager, Manda Hough, for giving me this wonderful opportunity to attend my first LIASA Conference.

I end off with the thought-provoking words from the keynote speaker, Saray Khumalo, who said "we as librarians cannot just survive, we need to strive" So inspiring!

ANNELIZE ROWAN
CONSERVATOR: KIMBERLEY AFRICANA
LIBRARY

Inaugural LIASA/CHELSEA Open Science Symposium



Ms Ellen Tise



Dr Nirmal Singh and Prof Daisy Selematsela



Mr Lazarus Matizirofa

The inaugural LIASA/CHELSEA Open Science Symposium was held on 24 October during the International Open Access Week for 2022.

LIASA and CHELSA initiated the event in support of the national celebrations of open access. Ms Linda Ntaka, the LIASA PRO, opened the event with a brief explanation about the purpose of the Symposium. Four esteemed speakers on Open Science presented at the Symposium.

Ms Ellen Tise, Senior Director of Library and Information Services at Stellenbosch University and Chair of the SANLiC Board, spoke about the transformational agreements with publishers as negotiated by SANLiC, and how it accelerates the growth of South African open scholarship. These negotiations are not easy, but the results and statistics shown by Ms Tise illustrate the beneficial impact it has on our academic community. There is still some way to go in changing the scientific culture of both publishers and authors. SANLiC is paving the way.

Dr Nirmal Singh from the Guru Angad Dev Veterinary and Animal Science University in India shared the incredible work and developments in Open Educational Resources (OER) done by their institution and the higher education community. As in South Africa, India has multiple (22) official languages. Dr Singh remarked on the work that still needs to be done in creating OER in local languages. Open scholarship aims to support social justice and increase access to academic resources. OER aims to provide contextual and localised academic resources. Developing or adapting OER in local languages will remove another barrier to access to knowledge.

Dr Singh also shared a wealth of existing resources for information and re-use.

Prof Daisy Selematsela, University Librarian at the University of Witwatersrand and Committee on Data of the International Science Council (CODATA) Executive, provided a history of CODATA's activities and mission to support the principle

that research data should be as open as possible and as closed as necessary, and advancing the interoperability and usability of such data (that is, research data should be FAIR). Her presentation, **How has the global South embraced the Open Science & Open Data movement**, also showed the progress that has been made in the global South: a National Open Science Policy by the Department of Science and Innovation of South Africa, and the establishment of, among other platforms and support structures, the Data Intensive Research Initiative of South Africa (DIRISA), the National Integrated Cyber Infrastructure System (NICIS) and the African Open Science Platform (AOSP).

The final speaker at the symposium was Mr Lazarus Matizirofa, Deputy Director of Library Services at the University of Pretoria, and Networked Digital Library of Theses and Dissertations (NDLTD) Board Member. His presentation dealt with the contributions that can be made by the library and

information services' sector in addressing the UN sustainable development goals (SDGs) with open science. Mr Matizirofa recommends that libraries should develop a strategic framework for open science and SDGs that brings in existing processes and programmes that support open science, for example, information discovery services, information literacy and digital scholarship.

During the vote of thanks, LIASA President -Elect Charlie Maphuntshane Molepo indicated that the collaboration between LIASA and CHELSA will continue with an annual Open Science Symposium. Many South African institutions have full International Open Access Week programmes, limiting the access to valuable information and initiatives by the broader community. With the annual symposium, LIASA and CHELSA will aim to provide a platform for the South African community to celebrate open science together.

CHARLIE MAPHUNTSHANE MOLEPO PL(SA)
LIASA PRESIDENT-ELECT 2021-2023



THE JOURNEY AHEAD

Inspired by Saray Khumalo, keynote speaker

be appointed as Senior Librarian.

Attending the virtual conference together with colleagues made the experience so much more enjoyable as we sat in the same room and could interact with one another and discuss various topics at hand. The conference had so many amazing speakers and day one kicked off with keynote speaker Saray Khumalo, who is the first African woman to reach the summit of Mount Everest. Her talk focused on overcoming challenges; it created a paradigm shift in our minds about overcoming your personal journey to reach your own Mount Everest. This resonates with each of us as individuals as we all have our own goals that we would like to achieve in our lives.

There were so many other inspirational talks and presentations and each brought their own way of serving their community and its patrons. The conference is definitely worth every cent as you get to meet and see other provinces library services. I want to encourage librarians, especially public librarians; we are making a difference in our communities. We need to make that paradigm shift, get out of our comfort zones and we have to start writing, speaking and sharing the amazing things that we are doing in our communities. Being a public librarian means we are in the business of changing people's lives. We make a difference, one storytelling at a time, one outreach programme at a time, one holiday

programme at a time. We are doing it each and every day. We should start putting ourselves out there and start by making a pledge that we follow up on. I will go first.

"My name is Amina Essa and I will be sharing my journey with other public librarians and will mentor others entering the field". Let's ignite that spark for change together. Let us build a reading nation one day at a time and continue motivating the youth to do better, be better and push forward. There are always going to be challenges, but like Saray Khumalo said "When you bend down on your knees after you succeed, make sure to pull someone up with you on your way up".

AMINA ESSA
SENIOR LIBRARIAN CCT LIS

I am writing this with so much excitement and happiness in my heart.

After my last article titled "My journey is only beginning" in the September issue of the *LIASA-in-Touch*, I was awarded a grant to attend the LIASA-SCECSAL virtual Conference and I was blessed to

UNIVERSITY OF THE WESTERN CAPE LIBRARY

Six presentations in celebration of LIASA's 25th Anniversary

Staff members from the University of the Western Cape Library delivered six presentations at the LIASA-SCECSAL Conference which was held at the Radisson Hotel and OR Tambo Conference Centre in Johannesburg.

They were supported by three other staff members attending as well. What makes this even more special for UWC Library is that two of our staff members were first time presenters at the conference. The presentations were:

Category: Impact

How technology use enhances information support services during Covid-19/post or during Covid-19

by Sibongiseni Mrwashu PL(SA), Natural Sciences Librarian

Category: Innovate (Lightning Talk)

Using a flexible, collaborative approach to enhance critical literacies in student learning: A model for all disciplines

by Shehaamah Mohamed PL(SA), Senior Branch Librarian, Dentistry



Jacques Manuels, Sipiwe Tevera, Anelisa Mente-Mpako, Sylvester Jeffries, Vuyokazi Kiva-Johnson and Errol Solomon

Category: Higher Education

Using a flexible, collaborative approach to enhance critical literacies in student learning: A model for all disciplines

by Dr Shirlene Neerputh PL(SA), Director of Library Services

Category: Impact (Lightning Talk)

Outcomes from a Digital Literacies Project: The University of the Western Cape Library's experience by Sylvester Jeffries, Senior Digital Literacies Librarian

Category: Lightning Talks

University of the Western Cape (UWC) Special Collections: Challenges and Opportunities by Jacques Manuels, Special Collections Librarian

Category: Impact

A thematic analysis of information needs emerging from the live chat virtual reference service at the University of the Western Cape Library by Anelisa Menta-Mpako PL(SA)

Our presentations were well received by the LIASA conference attendees and resulted in interesting questions being asked from the audience. We all attended numerous presentations throughout the week and found them to be most insightful. If I can speak for the team, we all gained some perspective of the challenges and resulting outcomes that most libraries are faced with in South Africa as well as the greater continent. The Cultural Gala evening was amazingly colourful and everyone embraced their cultures by dressing up. It was time for us to enjoy ourselves. Overall, it was a most rewarding experience and I would encourage everyone to attend at least one conference in their LIS career. Thank you for the opportunity, we all really appreciate it and see you all at the next one in Cape Town 2023.

ERROL SOLOMON

MARKETING AND COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR UWC LIBRARY

The UP Department of Library Services emBARKS on Animal Assisted Therapy ahead of stressful examination period

The Department of Library Services (DLS) in collaboration with TOP Dogs emBARKed on a journey to provide three animal-assisted therapy sessions to the University of Pretoria (UP) students and staff ahead of a stressful examination period on two campuses, namely Prinshof and Hatfield.

With this initiative, the DLS is prioritising the emotional well-being of all students and staff ahead of a stressful period as research indicates that human-animal interaction has a relaxation and stress reduction effect on people. The primary objective of TOP Dogs is to provide comfort and companionship by sharing their dogs with those in hospitals, care facilities, and other institutions such as schools and universities.

The therapy sessions received an overwhelming response from students and staff who graced the lawns in their numbers. Vice-Chancellor and Principal Prof Tawana Kupe, Vice-principal of Research, Innovation and Postgraduate Education Prof Sunil Maharaj, the DLS Director, Lindiwe Soyizwapi, and Deputy Directors Modisa Khosie and Anna Siwela were also present and were part of the fun and much needed warm canine hugs.



The joy of touching a therapy dog



Vice-Chancellor and Principal Prof Tawana Kupe



Prof Sunil Maharaj and DLS Director, Lindiwe Soyizwapi

Elsabe Olivier, Assistant Director: Marketing and Quality Assurance at the DLS highlighted the value these therapy sessions bring to students during the exam period. She concluded by saying "we will definitely be hosting more of these sessions going forward, especially during the mid-year and end-year exam periods".

There was also a great interest and engagement in the initiative among students on the UP Library's social media pages. Some of the comments received are captured below:

"Thank you for having us, really enjoyed every moment"

"Dog days = the best days"

"Brilliant idea! My son loved it!"

"This is so exciting!"

"I'm so excited. The only reason I came to UP"

"This looks amazing. Please bring them to Groenkloof campus"

"Thank you so much for the therapy session, it was lovely"

The DLS is very excited about the impact it's making on students and staff through these therapy sessions. Join in on the fun and watch the highlight video [here](#).

ELSABÉ OLIVIER PL(SA)

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR:

MARKETING AND QUALITY ASSURANCE

SIXOLILE DLUNGWANE

DEPARTMENT OF LIBRARY SERVICES, UP

25 Years of LIASA conferences

FROM SMALL BEGINNINGS TO ESTABLISHED SHOWCASE

Join me in tracking the LIASA Conferences over the past 25 years.

LIASA members had great opportunities to explore the country, see a variety of cities, enjoy the generous hospitality of our colleagues, but most importantly to network, debate, discuss, unpack, and share the critical issues of importance to the profession. I certainly learnt a great deal about the different provinces and the profession by attending LIASA Conferences – *have suitcase will travel*.

History was made on 10 July 1997 in Pretoria when 400 delegates adopted the constitution of the new association for LIS in South Africa at the ULIS Constituent Conference with the theme "Unity and New Beginnings".

The **First Official Conference of LIASA** took place from **15-17 November 1998**, in Bloemfontein, appropriately themed "Towards a library and information Renaissance in South Africa". 350 librarians attended this historic occasion during which the first Annual General Meeting was held and the first LIASA President and Representative Council were elected according to the adopted constitution.

The **1999** Conference was hosted by the Western Cape Branch and attracted 496 participants, 398 full-, and 98 day- registrations. A total of 32 exhibitors completed the event. One of the highlights was the keynote address by Mr Bendik Rugaas, National Librarian of Norway, who was resplendent in his traditional dress. Mr Ebrahim Rasool, leader of the ANC in the Western Cape was the guest speaker at the elegant dinner at the Lord Charles Hotel in Somerset West.

The KZN Branch invited LIASA members to Durban in **2000** for the 3rd Annual Conference with the theme: "Reach the World @your library". The keynote speaker was Ms Elizabeth Watson, at the time librarian at the Learning Resource Centre, the West Indies and President of the Commonwealth Library Association. Other foreign invited speakers were from the USA, India, Namibia, and Botswana. A Fun Run was held on the beach front, the first of an annual event that would become a tradition for LIASA Conferences for many years.

We packed our bags (approximately 700 of us) and trekked off to the Caesar's



LIASA Conference 2006: Tommy Matthee, Dr Graham Dominy (National Archivist), Naomi Haasbroek and Rachel More at the podium

Gauteng Convention Centre in Kempton Park for the 4th Annual Conference hosted by Gauteng South in **2001**. This time the theme was "African Renaissance through libraries". Although there were some concerns about hosting a conference at a casino, the well-planned programme ensured that the seats were full despite the attractions of the slot machines! Highlights at this conference were the keynote address by Prof Kader Asmal, then Minister of Education, and the launch of the South African Library Leadership Project (SALLP). The Wednesday of the conference was devoted to sessions organised by the various Interest Groups.

The friendly city of Port Elizabeth was the venue for the 5th Annual Conference in **2002**. 771 Delegates descended on the Feather Market Centre to explore the theme – "Revitalising and Creating a Vibrant Library World in the 21st Century". International invited speakers were Mr Ross Shimmon, Secretary-General of IFLA and Ms Jan Fullerton of the National Library of Australia.

It was the turn of the North West Province in **2003** as we jetted off to Rustenburg for the 6th Annual Conference. The theme "Tsoga O Iterele: Libraries

as Agents of Change" challenged all 775 of us to think out of the box.

Dr Joe Uta, Director of Library Services at the University of Mzuzu in Malawi, and President of the Commonwealth Library Association (COMLA) delivered a keynote address in which he examined the readiness of libraries in Africa to effectively meet the expectations of those who need information. A highlight at the conference was the donation of R300,000 each by three Mining Houses, totalling R900,000 for the establishment of a library, information, and educational network project "Read to Succeed" in the Rustenburg Local Municipality. This would significantly improve the lives of the local community.

From a casino in 2001 to a church in **2004**... the 7th Annual Conference was hosted by the Limpopo Branch and took us to Polokwane at the Light of the Nations International Church. Although this was an unconventional venue, it attracted 659 librarians to discuss and debate "Libraries and Democracy, the vital link" in the same year that we celebrated 10 years of democracy in South Africa. A particular highpoint was

the keynote address delivered by Dr Alex Byrne, IFLA President-Elect. Guest speakers came from Ghana, Germany, USA, Australia and Malaysia.

The theme of the 8th Annual Conference in **2005** was "Taking Libraries to the People" and was held at the Tshwane University of Technology campus in Nelspruit, Mpumalanga. A bumper attendance of 798 delegates was recorded, who enjoyed talks by keynote speaker, Mr Matos, National Librarian of Cuba, Ms Sanjiah Putri, President of the Malaysian Library Association and Dr James Daniel, President of the Nigerian Library Association.

The Saint George Convention Centre in Gauteng was the venue for the 9th Annual Conference in **2006**. A final number of 630 delegates, 26 local and 5 international speakers made this a memorable and prestigious event. The theme this time was "Libraries: Partners in Learning, Nation Building and Development". We proudly hosted some of our African colleagues as invited speakers, namely Dr Ali Mcharazo, Tanzania, Prof Anaba Alemna, Ghana, Ms Jacinta Were, Kenya, Ms Helena Assamoah-Hassan, Ghana, and Klaus-Peter Böttger, from Germany, who was sponsored by the Goethe Institut. During this conference a book donation ceremony resulted in five local Gauteng schools benefitting from generous book donations by various publishers and bookshops.

In **2007**, South Africa hosted for the very first time (and only the second time in Africa) the IFLA WLIC Congress in Durban, Kwazulu-Natal with 3,500 delegates from 120 countries. The LIASA AGM and 10th Anniversary Gala Dinner took place on 17 August 2007 at the same venue.

The 10th Annual Conference (**2008**) took us back to Cape Town with the provocative theme "Looking ahead: the Future Role of LIS". This conference had an Opening Ceremony in true Cape Town fashion, with a song "Welcome to Cape Town" performed by Grade 4 and 5 learners from the Oakhurst Primary School, followed by a video of Marc Lottering, well-known comedian relating his experiences with libraries. Prof Dr Claudia Lux, President of IFLA spoke about "Putting libraries on the agenda" and Barrie Bramley from TodayTomorrowBiz, spoke about "Mind the Gap" and the challenges of managing different



LIASA Conference 2006 delegates with Clare Walker on the far left

(continued on page 12)

generations, such as the Baby Boomers and Millennials in the workforce.

In **2009**, the 11th Annual Conference had the theme **"Library and Information Services on the Move"** and took place in Bloemfontein, Free State. The keynote address was delivered by Mr Stafford Masie, Past CEO of Google Africa. Challenges posed by the venue led to some innovative and meticulous planning. The exhibition was spread over three main venues and delegates had to swap venues over lunch so that they could visit all exhibitors. The Gala Dinner in the marquee tent did not dampen the splendour of the evening and fun was had by all.

The 12th Annual Conference in **2010** was once again held at the Saint George Hotel and Convention Centre in Gauteng, with the theme **"Libraries driving access to Knowledge"** to match Ellen Tise's IFLA Presidential theme. The Justice Albie Sachs Freedom Award (initiated and partly sponsored by the late Clare Walker) was awarded to Mr Piet Westra, former Director of the SA Library (now the National Library of South Africa). The Award was to honour the "unknown librarian" who was instrumental in providing Albie Sachs with books and reading material during his detention. The official opening was presented by the then Minister of the Department of Arts and Culture, Ms Lulu Xingwana.

In **2011**, the 13th Annual Conference was held at the brand-new conference centre in East London, Eastern Cape Province, with the theme **"Dynamic Leadership for LIS"** and an attendance of 734 delegates. Deputy Minister of Arts and Culture, Dr Joseph Phaahla delivered the Keynote Address. The Berlin Declaration on Open Access was signed on behalf of LIASA, and the South African Journal of Libraries and Information Science (SAJLIS) was migrated to an open access platform.

We travelled to Durban in **2012** for the 14th Annual Conference, contemplating **"Libraries: empowering communities, building a nation"** Ms Deshun Deysel motivated delegates by speaking about leadership and followership with her talk – "Imprints in the snow". Invited speakers included Mr Tg Bhowa from the Zimbabwe Library Association, and Mr James Ndenge from the Tanzanian Library Association.

"Libraries in Dialogue for Transformation and Innovation" stimulated debate at the 15th

Annual Conference in **2013** in Cape Town. Numbers surpassed the 700 mark, with 740 delegates and a bumper number of pre-conference workshops (11), attended by 256 delegates. Three of these were presented by international speakers and were sold out way before the start of the conference. The Keynote was presented by motivational speaker, Ms Colleen Paige, known as the "Apple Tree Lady". Mr Ned Potter from the UK presented on "Branding for the new professional".

639 delegates attended the 16th Annual Conference in **2014** at the Birchwood Hotel and OR Tambo Conference Centre. Discussions from 2013 were continued - **"Celebrating libraries in 20 years of Democracy: continuing the dialogue.."**

2015 saw South Africa hosting the 81st IFLA WLIC Conference in Cape Town – **"Dynamic Libraries: Action, Development and Transformation"**. This impressive conference attracted 3190 delegates from 112 countries of which 1449 were from South Africa.

Durban was the destination of the 17th Annual Conference (**2016**) with the theme – **"Libraries in Action: Transformation and Development towards 2030"**.

The 18th Annual Conference (**2017**) coincided with the LIASA 20th Anniversary and was attended by 685 delegates at Birchwood Hotel and Conference Centre – **"Re-envisioning the Role of Library and Information Services"**.

In **2018**, LIASA members descended on Cape Town for the 19th Annual Conference – **"LIASA: the Butterfly Effect"**. The Conference was opened by the Minister of Arts and Culture, Mr Nathi Mthethwa. Invited speakers included local authors Fred Khumalo and Athol Williams, motivational speaker Douglas Kruger and Vicki McDonald, State Librarian and CEO of the State Library of Queensland, Australia.

812 Delegates travelled to Durban in **2019** for the 20th Annual Conference to debate on **"LIS as agents of Community Development and Social Transformation"**. The keynote address was by Michael Dowling, Director of the International Relations Office of the American Library Association (ALA). His talk was titled: "The Library Ecosystem: Adapting and Transforming to Change". Other invited guest speakers were Brent Lindeque – "Finding the #GoodThings in South Africa" and Literacy4Life Advocate Marukgwane Moremogo.

In **2020** we saw the unfortunate impact of the COVID-19 pandemic that led to the cancellation of the Annual Conference. However, LIASA, resilient as always, presented the LIASA Virtual Indaba from 3-5 November with the very apt theme **"LIASA Disrupted"**.

A total of 159 virtual delegates were able to participate, of which 50% joined from home.

The programme included a keynote address by Prof Thuli Madonsela, exploring "The library as a gateway to social justice", an inspiring talk by Graeme Codrington "Leading in a changed World", and a very considered presentation by Angelo Fick on "Extinction rebellion: the role of the library in our battle for survival in the twenty-first century (Or what is the price of the ticket given the cost of living beyond the information age)". The **Khuluma Nenduna** (Talk to the Chief) session opened the conversation with the LIASA President and President-Elect unpacking "LIASA in a time of disruption".

Still under lockdown restrictions, LIASA presented the first LIASA Virtual Conference in **2021** with the theme: **"Libraries Matter: Reflecting on a Year of Change"**. 368 virtual participants attended.

The online platform provided an excellent virtual conference experience which was well received by the delegates and described as "I felt like I was physically at the venue. It felt like a normal conference, meeting all my LIASA colleagues and networking" by one of the attendees. The meeting Hub and Live Q&A provided ample opportunities for interaction with colleagues, speakers, and exhibitors.

Guest speakers included Zanele Njapha, Dr Siphiso Mahala and Sihle Khumalo, all local published authors. The programme saw the successful introduction of a new format, the Lightning Talk, a brief 5 min talk accompanied by a poster on one slide. LIASA members submitted excellent abstracts, which enabled the programme committee to compile an interesting and relevant programme.

The most recent conference held in October **2022** at the Radisson OR Tambo Hotel and Convention Centre, offered once again a "first" for LIASA – a hybrid combined LIASA-SCECSAL Conference. A very relevant theme was selected: **"Against all Odds: Resilience of Libraries in a Post-Truth World"**. A total of 626 delegates attended, 429 in-person, and 197 virtually.

A record number of abstracts were submitted, and the committee had more than enough interesting papers to enable us to put together a stimulating and relevant programme. This was very encouraging.

How exciting was it to be able to meet face-to-face again after two years of disruption! The joyous reunions and intense conversations were a pleasure to experience. All sessions were well attended and the interactions with speakers were enthusiastic and intense.

Excellent presentations by the invited guest speakers set the tone for a lively conference, from the keynote talk by Saray Khumalo to the talks by Prof Bonang Mohale, Christian Lauersen, Zephne Ladbrook and Carolann Davids.

The LIASA Annual Conference has grown in leaps and bounds and has become a fixed highlight on the calendar of librarians. The increased size and complexity of the conferences over the years soon meant that we outgrew many venues and our own capacity. We managed to secure the regular generous financial support of the Department of Sport, Arts and Culture, which has made it possible to invite high profile local and international professionals, adding exceptional value to the conference offering, as well as the availability of attendance grants. We are very grateful for the loyal support by other regular stakeholders, sponsors, and exhibitors without whom we could not achieve the high standards and value that the conference brings to the profession. There have been challenges, and ups and downs, but all the lessons learnt have borne fruit and the true resilience of South African librarians is evident. We developed a Conference Handbook along the way, brought on board professional conference organisers and can look back with much pride on the Annual LIASA Conference as one of LIASA's success stories and a contributing factor to our local, regional, and international relationships and partnerships. Most of all, it has contributed greatly to the growth and development of LIASA members, creating a wealth of networking and learning opportunities. I personally have met so many of my fellow LIASA members over the years, and when I attend a conference, it seems like coming home!

NAOMI HAASBROEK, PAST PRESIDENT
CHAIR: LIASA CONFERENCE
PROGRAMME COMMITTEE



Earlier this year, I had the opportunity to attend the IFLA 87th World Library and Information Congress in Dublin, Ireland.

Although a shortened Congress (3 days) outside its traditional conference month (August), it was nonetheless an exhilarating and thought-provoking experience. The Dublin Convention Centre is a striking building facing the River Liffey and over the three days we were treated to some great presentations, stimulating discussions and challenged to think globally in confronting the issues facing our profession.

Dublin itself is an amazing city reminding me so much of Cape Town's CBD when walking around, with similar architecture that often felt like home. It was also liberating to walk around without having to be on alert and aware of your surroundings all the time. So many discussions with South Africans, especially females, related to how traumatised we all are; we only realise it when we travel outside of our country. This is not to say that there are no social issues in Dublin, but the atmosphere is decidedly less oppressive and fearful. The first time I went exploring and saw everyone walking with their iPhones in their hands, I wanted to shout out "Are you crazy?" but quickly realised that it is the norm and very soon was doing the exact same thing, especially when following directions. While exploring, the



IFLA President, Barbara Lison

issue of homelessness is in your face like in any city, and at night, the availability of drugs and drug addicts is certainly noticeable, and yet, I could walk back to my hotel after 10 or 11:00pm, through some dark passages, without fear. Dublin is also a walker's dream as there is so much to see and explore, with houses, shops, pubs, social and recreation centres catering for all aspects of life experiences, and all within walking distance. On the Friday, after the Congress ended, I went on my own library tour, easily done by just following a map and walking around the city.

And the Congress itself?

My personal highlight was the poster sessions. The variety of topics as well as a diversity of nations made it feel as though you were visiting the posters for the first time every day. The winning poster about the Gazi Husrev-beg Library (www.ghb.ba) in Sarajevo was truly fascinating and speaking to the poster creators was awe-inspiring.

The sessions on the various manifestos were eye-opening. I managed to attend the launch of the updated IFLA/UNESCO Public Library Manifesto, the IFLA School Library Manifesto as well as the IFLA Guidelines for Library Services to Children. The updated IFLA/UNESCO Public Library Manifesto remains a much quoted and bedrock document for public library services and has now been made available at <https://repository.ifla.org/>

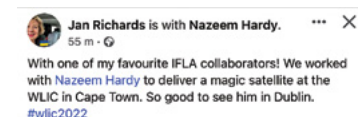
handle/123456789/2006. The School Library Manifesto (https://cdn.ifla.org/wp-content/uploads/files/assets/school-libraries-resource-centers/publications/ifla_school_manifesto_2021.pdf) was made available for comment and is reaching finalisation. Interestingly, not many people, myself included, at this session was aware that the document had been open for comments. What was also interesting to note was how we face the same issues regarding this vital sector, bar a few exceptions. Most notable were the comments from German and US colleagues who deplored the decimation of school libraries in what are regarded as advanced countries. It was interesting to learn that in Brazil there is legislation for school libraries but they do not have enough school librarians.

I was privileged to meet Dr Peter Lor for the first time in my professional career. Although I had emailed him, read about him and engaged with him about comments in the L-i-T, I had never had the opportunity to meet him in person. A brief interaction with the IFLA President also took place and meeting one of my Twitter favourites, CILIP CEO, Nick Poole, was a highlight. Nick was to have been our keynote speaker at this year's LIASA Conference, but sadly due to personal circumstances, he had to withdraw. It was also great meeting up with many librarians who had attended IFLA/WLIC 2015 in Cape Town, some of

whom I had stayed in touch with. It was gratifying to have so many colleagues still enthuse about their Cape Town experience, with quite a few labelling it one of the best IFLA Congresses that they had ever attended.

The SDGs took centre stage in many discussions at IFLA, and it reminded me that LIASA should be more strategic in our efforts regarding what is still considered an important part of the global library conversation. To this end, EXCO has recommitted to elevating the efforts by South African librarians and libraries in meeting these goals.

The environment, by extension, also played a key role in many discussions, and it was interesting to note how all the libraries that were shortlisted in the Public Library of the Year, had



I first met Jan Richards in 2015 when IFLA was hosted in Cape Town. Together with Marian Morgan, these 2 Aussies headed up the Public Library Section at the time and were our contacts when we hosted the PLS event that year. Since then I have remained in contact with them, mainly through Facebook but at times via email. It was great meeting up with them at IFLA 2022. IFLA 2015 remains a firm favourite in many delegates' memory to this day.

(continued on page 16)



With IFLA Governing Board members, former LIASA President Mandla Ntombela and AfLIA Africa Chair, Nthabiseng Khotsokoane



Global Gleanings #14

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

Along with their peers everywhere, academic authors in South Africa strive to have their work published in prestigious, peer-reviewed 'international' journals, through which they can reach a much larger audience than through locally published journals.

This is good. Science and scholarship know no boundaries. But there is a downside: the 'international' journals in which our high-flying academics publish are not always accessible to their South African colleagues. Their contributions may be overlooked locally, especially by practitioner groups. That is why, in this instalment of Global Gleanings, I'm focussing on articles published in the last year or so by Southern African academics in 'international' journals.

Responses to the COVID pandemic

COVID has cast a long shadow over library and information services – and much is still being written on how libraries have coped. Here are two articles from South Africa. A team from the Cape Peninsula University of Technology reported on the use of their library's LibGuides (<https://libguides.library.cput.ac.za/>) during lockdown, when students were not allowed on campus, illustrating that this web-based service provided much-needed online support (Becker et al. 2022). Social media have played a big role during the pandemic. Researchers at the University of KwaZulu Natal explored the use of social media for research, teaching and learning by post-graduate students of Information Studies. Smartphones were major access tools, but various challenges inhibited use of social media for academic purposes. These included the high cost of internet access and smartphones, and poor internet connectivity (Kutu, Olajide, and Kutu 2022).

Heritage

Counter-archives may be a new term for many of us, but most of us are (or should be) familiar with at least one example, the South African History Archive (SAHA, see <https://www.saha.org.za/>). These archives offer alternatives to the better-known governmental

or state archives, or those of social media corporations, which are not always trusted to give complete and fair coverage of controversial events and issues of importance to minority or marginalized groups. Counter-archives present an alternative to the formal institutions. Bhebhe and Ngoepe (2021) examined how two of these counter-archives, the Sinomlando Centre for Oral History and Memory Work in Africa (see <https://sinomlando.org.za/>) and the SAHA, are building and using their archives.

Another kind of archive preserves the audio-visual records produced by public broadcasters. These records are vulnerable. Many of them are in obsolete formats, and they need constant attention to ensure that they do not deteriorate and become unreadable. A study examining the preservation of records of three of the local radio stations of the South African Broadcasting Corporation (SABC) in the Limpopo Province found that conditions of both preservation and access left much to be desired (Ngoasheng, Ngoepe, and Marutha 2021). This is worrying. The preservation of heritage is critical to the memory of a people or community, and memory is key to the maintenance of their identity. To adapt a phrase, "The price of identity is eternal vigilance".

Indigenous knowledge

Indigenous, traditional, or local knowledge is a priceless part of our heritage. Recently an informetrics methodology was used to distinguish between these three concepts. It turns out that of the three labels, 'traditional knowledge' is the one used most. There is little overlap in their use, which varies by country and geographic area. This is unfortunate as it reduces communication among researchers and others interested in the topic (Onyanha 2022).

A recent article provocatively titled "Indigenous healing in South Africa: looking for a tree of truth in the forest of illusions" warns us that the use of social media has opened up the field to exploitation by bogus healers and criminal elements, in part because the 'indigenous healing space' in

this country is poorly regulated (Maluleka and Nkwe 2022).

The question of what role our libraries play and should play in the preservation of, and access to, indigenous knowledge has been under discussion for several decades.

Professor M. Mhlongo of UNISA has been conducting research on how indigenous knowledge can be integrated into our public library services. Her latest article reports on a study of four provincial library services. Interviews conducted with the heads of these services showed that indigenous knowledge should be integrated in public library services, but that this was not yet happening. She proposed a framework identifying stakeholders and their responsibilities, and what outcomes should be sought (Mhlongo 2021).

Records management

To conclude this overview of recent research articles, I must mention an article on the legislative framework relating to the use of artificial intelligence for the management of records at the South African Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (Modiba 2022), and another on challenges affecting records management at Statistics South Africa (Tintswalo et al. 2022).

A challenge

Interesting research is being carried out in LIS/Information Science departments at our universities. I fear that not enough of it comes to the attention of LIS practitioners to inform and enrich our practice. Are the academics and the practitioners not in danger of drifting apart? If any heads of department and thesis supervisors are reading this, how about getting your students to write short, intelligible reports on their research for LIASA-in-touch?

Tailpiece

To reward those who managed to read up to the end of this column, here is a poster presented at the 2022 IFLA World Library and Information Congress in Dublin, Ireland.

A team of three French librarians conducted a survey to determine empirically whether the

old stereotype that librarians are women with their hair in a bun, glasses, a cardigan, and a cat is true. They decided to focus on the cat. The research question was, "In France, to what extent do librarians represent a larger than average proportion of cat people?" They found that 79% of librarians are women, 73% identify as cat people, and 56% have a cat, as against 16% who have a dog. One respondent commented, "Dogs come after being called...cats take the message and call you back later". The presenters made some interesting methodological comments (Delaune, Gaffet, and Papon-Vidal 2022).

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(continued on page 20)



'Dogs come after being called out, cats take the message and call you back later.'
Anonymous Librarian, Aix-en-Provence, France

Are Librarians Cat People?

#WLIC2022
#LibCat

FRENCH LIBRARIANS
71% are cat people
whether exclusively or not

FRENCH LIBRARIANS
53% Have a cat
33% compared to the general French population(1)

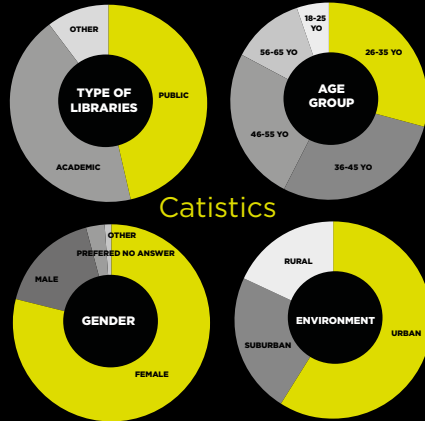
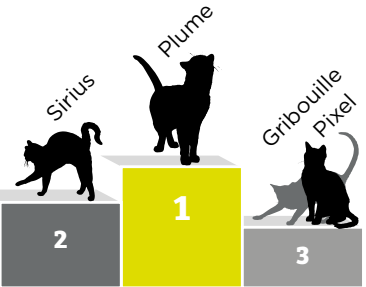
FRENCH LIBRARIANS
16% Have a dog
25% compared to the general French population(2)

FRENCH LIBRARIANS
79% are Women

73% are Cat People

56% have a Cat

1179 answers



How to Engage Librarians in Your Research

What we learned from this survey: you want your survey to go viral even though it deals with sustainable development or cataloging standards? **Just ask people about their pets!**



Librarians Are Fussy

Librarians love cleanliness so much that they prefer cats to dogs **'because dogs drool'** and **'their bad smells are an issue for mutual love.'**



Librarians Are Superheroes

Among all the reasons to decide to adopt a cat, 11% declared the purpose was to rescue a cat from a shelter or **they just couldn't say 'no'** when a cat came to them. 42% of librarians adopted their cats in shelters or found them on the street.

'I wanted a dog. My partner wanted a cat. We adopted a cat.'



Librarians Are Lazy

10% decided to go for a cat because they are autonomous, independent and self-sufficient. 4% 'hired' a cat to do their rodent work.



Cat Wealth Distribution

4% of librarians own 13% of the represented cats (meaning 25 librarians own alone 125 cats).



Librarians Can't Fight Fate

In 55% of cases, French librarians had cats before they started working in libraries. It's only a short step from there to saying that they are predestined for the job!



Librarians Lack The Right Words

The top three reasons are: special interest/love for cats (22%), having companionship (14%), out of habit (13%). But mostly, librarians couldn't always explain why they like cats, often it's just **'the way it is'...**

QUESTION

From the Library of Alexandria, to contemporary libraries that offer sessions of purring therapy, cats inhabit libraries. That is why from time immemorial librarians have been associated with cats.

Who has never been confronted with the cliché of the librarian—hair in a bun, glasses and cardigans but most importantly cats?

We have chosen to question the stereotype of the cat librarian, among the French population.

In France, to what extent do librarians represent a larger than average proportion of cat people?

METHOD

To collect the data, we conducted and shared a survey on social networks, via professional mailing lists and among our institutions. The survey was open between May, 2nd and June, 9th 2022 and we gathered 1179 answers.

The study doesn't aim to be complete representation and surely contains some biases, as we could only reach people linked to these networks and as we assume that most people answered because of a prime interest in animals (therefore excluding non-lovers of animals). Also, we apologize, we still don't know if cats like to live with other animals (turtles, dogs, snakes, horses, rabbits, etc.).

WHAT YOU THOUGHT WE ARE DOING

- Having fun with research
- Evaluating a possible introduction of pets in our libraries since librarians are so chatty, they don't mind talking to their pets, that's why they would like to continue this conversation at work
- Inviting you to continue to spread the survey in your country's library community
- Wondering how many people had a picture of their cat as their desktop wallpaper

WHAT WE WERE REALLY DOING

- Questioning stereotypes
- Looking for 'guide' cats in libraries
- Questioning library work/career options in relation to clichés
- Asking ourselves about the psychological and sociological reasons for the over-representation of librarians as cat people

NEXT STEPS

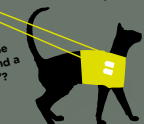
Spreading this survey was an opportunity to collect data about librarians and cats to start engaging a deeper study on the weight of stereotypes in our own representation of this occupation. More than 300 respondents agreed to be interviewed in the coming steps.

If YOU want to spread the survey among librarians in your country, in order to compare our results, please ask us for the survey. See you next year, for the continuation of our work!

What impact do clichés have on those wanting to enter the library field?

Is there a connexion between this female-dominated profession and being a cat person?

Will it ever be possible to find a 'guide-cat'?



References



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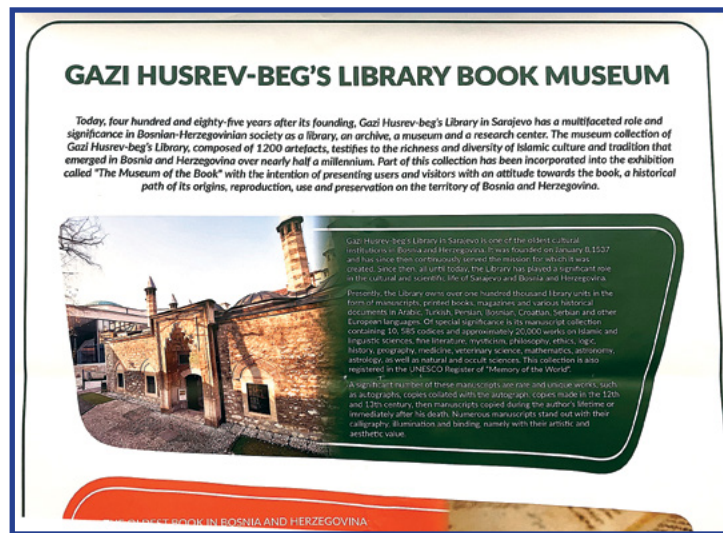
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sustainability and environmental features as being key to their re/design. The Ogre Library, for example, has plant life as one of its features in the library and it was gratifying to note that this had already been done in Dunoon Public Library in Cape Town, a project in which I had been involved.

The issues surrounding the IFLA Secretary General took centre stage as well and on 31 October we were informed that the matter had been resolved by mutual consent, with the services of the SG ending on 31 December 2022.

I missed the opportunity to visit the Trinity College Library but on my own personal tour managed to visit the Chester Beatty on the recommendation of an Australian friend. What a mind-blowing experience it was. It was established in Ireland in 1950 to house the collections of mining magnate, Sir Alfred Chester Beatty. The present museum, on the grounds of Dublin Castle, opened on 7 February 2000, the 125th anniversary of Beatty's birth and was named European



Part of the IFLA Winning Poster detailing the Gazi Husrev-Beg's Library Book Museum in Sarajevo. The library was founded in 1532 and contains over 100 000 units and is also part of the UNESCO Register of the "Memory of the World"

Museum of the Year in 2002. The Chester Beatty is one of the premier sources for scholarship in both the Old and New Testaments and is home to one of the most significant collections of Western, Islamic and East and South East Asian artefacts. The

museum contains a number of priceless objects, including one of the surviving volumes of the first illustrated *Life of the Prophet* and the *Gospel of Mani* believed to be the last remaining artefact from Manichaeism (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chester_

Beatty_Library). Words actually cannot describe the wonders housed in this library/museum.

Lastly, some personal observations. While not everyone will agree with me, I found the lack of voices from Africa quite alarming at times, especially in spaces where I thought they mattered. While there are South African colleagues and LIASA members active in IFLA in many roles, we need to get better at reporting on the issues that affect us as an Association and profession.

In his regular Global Gleanings column, Dr Lor challenges us to write critically about the issues that affect our profession in addition to the news articles about our library programmes and events that we most frequently submit to the *LIASA-in-Touch*. I urge those colleagues who are active in IFLA committees and sections to heed the call.

NAZEM HARDY PL(SA)
LIASA PRESIDENT (2021-23)

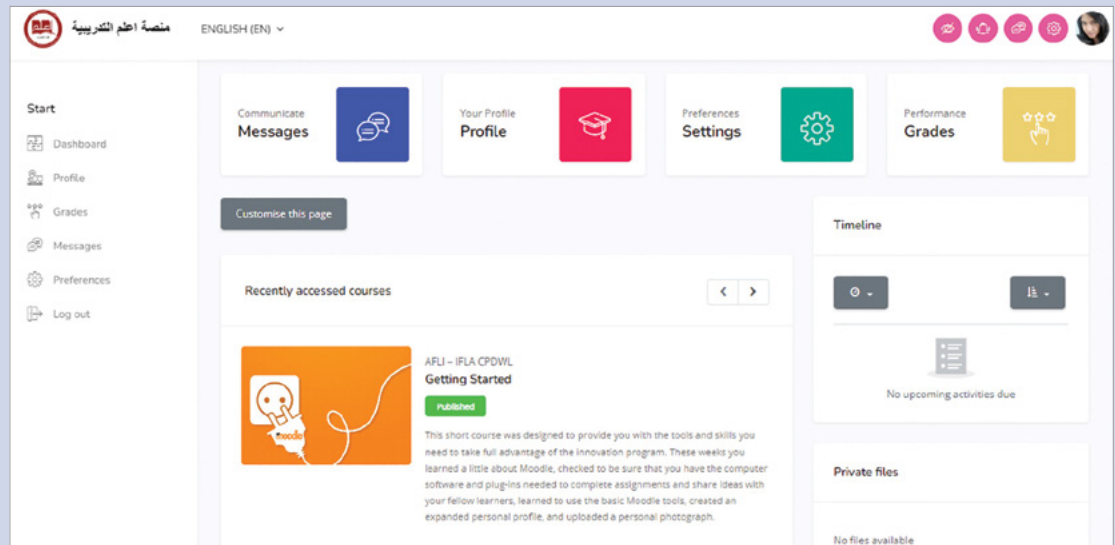
MY AFLI-IFLA INNOVATION COURSE EXPERIENCE

Earlier in the year there was a call for public librarians under the age of thirty-five years that have been working as public librarians for at least five years, to apply for a short Innovation online course offered by the International Federation Library Association and Institutions (IFLA) and the Arabic Federation for Libraries and Information (AFLI).

I hesitantly applied for the course as I was busy with my studies and I was not sure if I would be able to handle the workload if I were to be selected. I ended up being one of two South Africans selected for the course.

The course took place over three months from April to July 2022 and it consisted of two modules; "How to use the Moodle app" and "Innovation". It looked at the term innovation and if it is important for libraries to implement innovation. It tackled the challenges during COVID-19 and the best solutions used to overcome the pandemic as well as looking at what libraries would be like in the next ten years.

Despite the stress, it was a wonderful experience. I was able to get into contact with other library professionals from countries such as Egypt, Kenya and Malaysia to name a few. I got to see what other libraries are

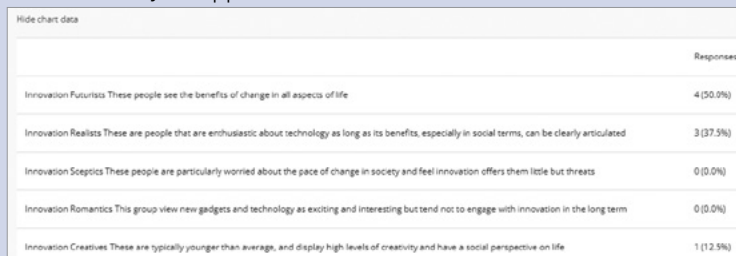


Moodle App

doing and test where my library is sitting on the innovation scale. My deduction from this course is that we are on par with other countries. Innovation is something that can be done by everyone and the type of innovator that you are, for example, a realist or futurist, and if you are creative, will determine your approach to innovation.

Overall, it was a good introduction to innovation and I was privileged to be a part of it.

KIM ALBERTYN
LIBRARIAN, WYNBERG LIBRARY



IS YOUR LIBRARY READY FOR INNOVATION?				
	Always	Sometimes	Rarely	Never
1. Your Name:				
2. Name of Your Library:				
3. Innovative libraries and organizations share the characteristics listed below. Rate your library or organization in each of these areas.				
Innovation is a means to achieve the library's strategic goals.				
Innovations are customer-focused.				
There is a clearly defined process for presenting innovative ideas to be reviewed and acted upon.				
All staff are expected to be aware of community and library trends.				
Innovative ideas are implemented -- not just discussed.				
Everyone understands that failure is a possibility. The focus is on learning from every experience.				
There is an environment of trust throughout the library.				
Individual staff members feel empowered.				
Collaboration within your unit and with staff members from other units is encouraged.				
There is collaboration with people and groups outside the library.				
All employees are explicitly expected to find new ways of doing things.				
Change champions and future leaders are identified and encouraged.				
All staff are kept informed about the progress of current and recent innovations.				
Other (Please specify)				

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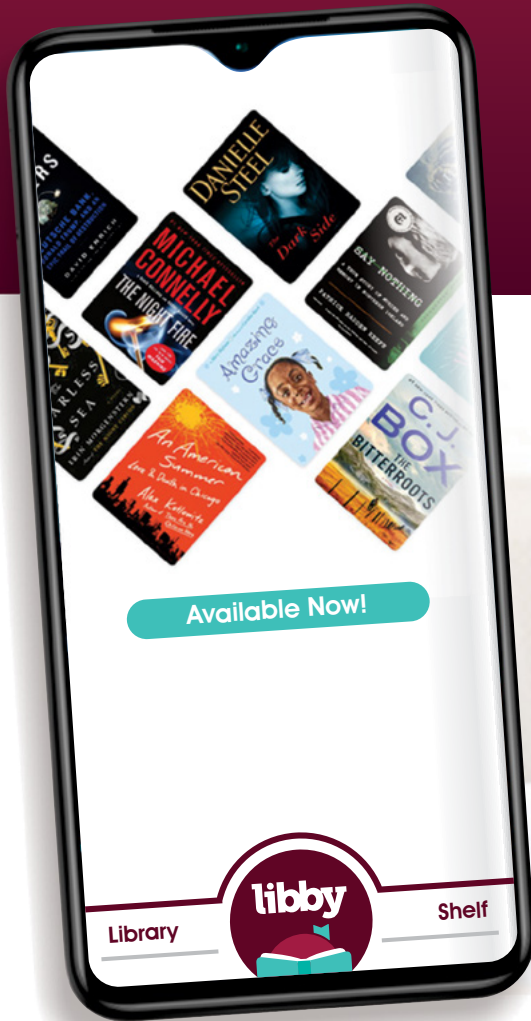


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#IGBIswithLeaders: Robert Moropa on leadership and self-development

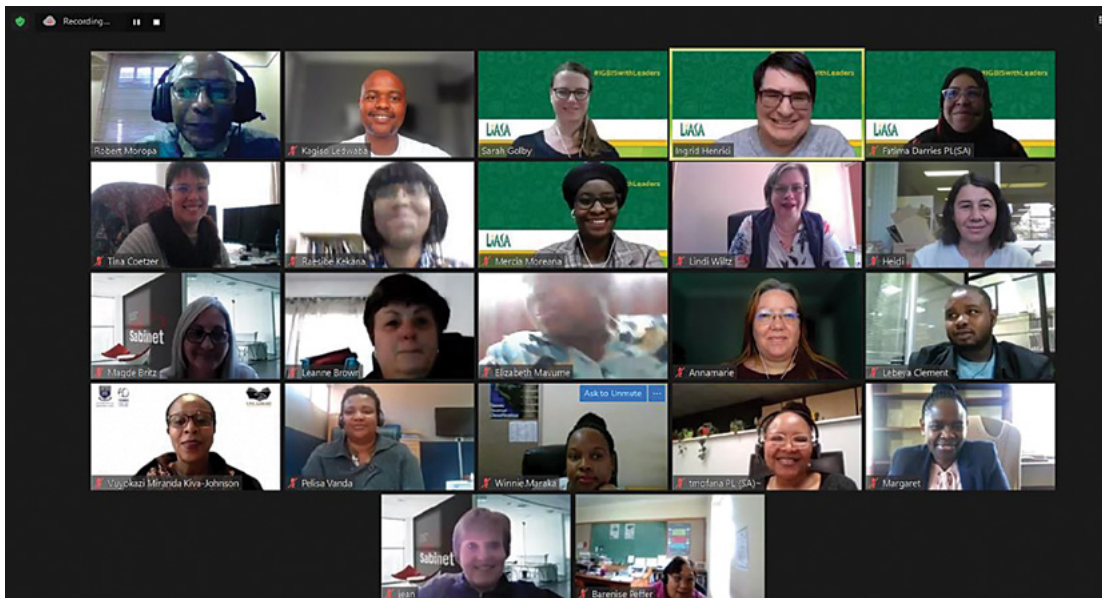
IGBI, LIASA's Interest Group for Bibliographic Standards, had the good fortune to host Robert Moropa as the fifth guest in the #IGBIswithLeaders series of Conversations with LIS Leaders.

On Thursday 25 August Mr Moropa joined us for an hour, highlighting key career moments and speaking eloquently on leadership and personal development.

Robert sketched his career trajectory in academic libraries, beginning in 1978 when he graduated with his B.Bibl. degree at the University of Fort Hare. Mr Moropa catapulted into leadership at the University of the Transkei (UNITRA) when he stepped up from Assistant Librarian to Deputy University Librarian, and thereafter to University Librarian. Following posts at Setlogelo Technikon and the University of South Africa (UNISA) during the 1990s, Mr Moropa arrived at the University of Pretoria (UP) Library Services. He stood as Director from 2006 until his retirement.

Mr Moropa faced adversity and criticism throughout his career, particularly during apartheid. He motivated himself by way of his rejection of how he and others were characterised by apartheid proponents and their belief in the inferiority of people based on skin colour. He did not allow the external environment, governed by inequitable systems and policies, to discourage him from aspiring to leadership positions that seemed improbable in the context of systemic discrimination. He developed determination in the face of prejudice and used every opportunity to learn and grow.

Mr Moropa participated in the unification and formation of the Library and Information Association of South Africa (LIASA) in the 1990s. Following Ellen Tise's two terms in the presidency, Robert was elected LIASA president for the 2002 – 2004 term.



What is Mr Moropa's secret to his career success? During the second half of the session, Robert spoke to his strategy: focusing on positive self-talk and concentrating energy where he can influence or effect change. He distinguished between circles of influence and circles of concern. The circle of concern includes those issues over which individuals can have little effect or influence, for example, the economic environment, and others' perceptions and behaviour. The circle of influence encompasses where individuals can effect change: spiritual well-

being, personal growth, and how we relate to others and perceive ourselves.

Oftentimes, you may find yourself focusing on the things around you, rather than what is within you. Robert emphasised the need to shift focus to the circle of influence and be conscious of your self-talk, and to encourage rather than denigrate yourself. His recommendation is to write down the thoughts you entertain about yourself: do you find they are often negative and disempowering? Start stepping up for yourself!

Mr Moropa explained that

there is opportunity to exert some control over the immediate environment. His advice is to disconnect from anyone doing you harm and rather work to surround yourself with people who motivate and challenge you. Evaluate the media you consume; what you read and listen to should contribute to your development and growth.

During the questions and answers segment, Mr Moropa was asked how he thinks he was perceived by colleagues during his career journey. He considered that his leadership style is one of facilitation, but he does not shy away from being decisive. People will sometimes be opposed to your views and challenge your decisions. As a leader it is important to have a vision and work with your team to make that vision a reality.

All the Conversations with Leaders events are available for viewing on the LIASANews YouTube channel. Watch Robert Moropa's conversation at <https://youtu.be/KVpy16thJPw>

SARAH GOLBY
IGBI PRO
2021-2023

SLYSIG MPUMALANGA PRESENTS A SEMINAR

On 14 October, Mpumalanga LIASA/SLYSIG presented a seminar under the theme: 'Transforming School Libraries and Information Services through e-learning platforms' at Bella Donna Guest house, Ermelo.

The main purpose of the seminar was to celebrate LIASA's 25th anniversary and International School Library Month; it was well attended.

The seminar was graced by LIASA President-Elect Mr Charlie

Molepo who briefly explained the importance of e-learning and digital resources and encouraged teachers to join LIASA. The five speakers from Missing Link, MDOE-CIE Nal'ibali, Oxford University Press (OUP) and Stimulus Maksima presented their e-learning platforms where teachers can access e-books. Two teachers, Pinky Mabuza from Vuka Primary and Nonhlanhla Ntuli from Ezakheni Combined Boarding School showcased their

work and shared good practices and the role of school libraries in promoting reading for enjoyment.

Teachers received bags from LIASA and OUP containing a pen and writing pad. We would like to thank the LIASA National Office and Oxford University Press for their generous support.

NOMPUMELELO SHONGWE
SENIOR EDUCATION SPECIALIST: SCHOOL
LIBRARY & INFORMATION SERVICES
MPUMALANGA DEPT OF EDUCATION
GERT SIBANDE DISTRICT



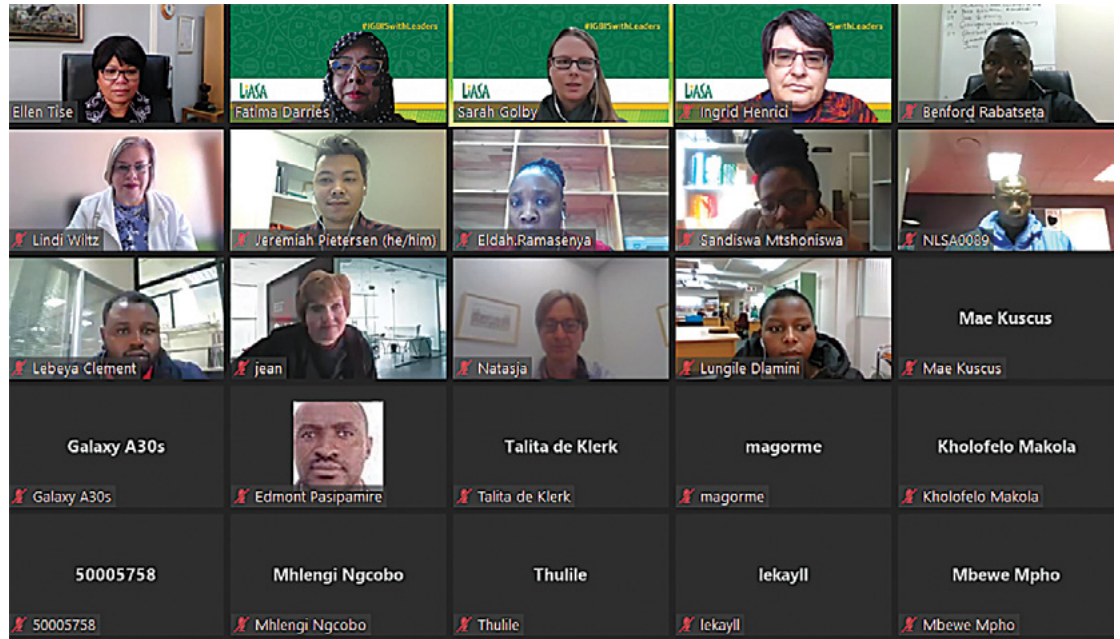
#IGBISwithLeaders in conversation with Ellen Tise

On Tuesday, 12 July 2022, the IGBIS held the 4th conversation with leaders with Ellen Tise, the first LIASA President. IGBIS continues the series of conversations with LIASA presidents in 2022, in celebration of 25 years of LIASA.

With the series, IGBIS hopes to engage, inspire, and embolden professionals to bravely take up leadership positions in LIASA and in the broader library and information communities. With the 2023 LIASA elections coming up, we hope that bright LIS professionals will be motivated to be inspirational leaders and to take up portfolios in LIASA leadership structures.

Ellen Tise is the Senior Director of Library and Information Services at Stellenbosch University since January 2006. She previously held the positions of University Librarian at the University of the Western Cape and Deputy University Librarian at the University of the Witwatersrand. Ms Tise holds a BBibL. Honours degree from the University of the Western Cape and a Master of Philosophy in Science and Technology Studies from Stellenbosch University.

Among other notable leadership roles, Ellen served as the first President of the Library and Information Association of South Africa (LIASA) from 1998 to 2002 and President of the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA), for the term 2009 through 2011. She served as Chair of the Board of the National Library of South Africa from 2012 through 2015 and on the OCLC Board of Trustees during 2014 through 2018. She has just started a second two-year term as Chair of the Freedom of Access to Information and Freedom of



Ellen Tise speaking to a full house

Expression Advisory Committee of IFLA. She is a recipient of several awards for distinguished leadership and outstanding contributions to librarianship, including honorary membership of LIASA and an honorary IFLA fellowship. She has published various articles in professional journals and is a regular speaker at national and international conferences. Ellen is also a regular contributor to the quarterly magazine, *LIASA-in-Touch*.

Ellen Tise shared that she was the first person of colour at the University of Free State and that being alone and the person in charge at the satellite library hugely shaped her career. Because she had to decide for herself what to do.

- More lessons shared by Ellen:
- If there is an opportunity and you have never done it before, you can learn and become the best at it.

- Have a curious mind, read and learn outside of what you are used to
- When you are in leadership, recognise that you cannot do everything on your own.

Ellen Tise spoke of accidental leadership, being in the right place at the right time. She described how her willingness to take the opportunity led to accidental leadership and into the IFLA Presidency. Participative leadership is what serving in LIASA teaches, says Ellen Tise. This requires good communication and listening skills, and an inclination to share power. Strategic leadership is required for developing strategic processes, people, and culture, and requires effective networking. Networking, especially across sectors and functions in LIS is what LIASA offers its members. She also spoke of intentional

leadership. Intention is what makes people effective as leaders. Every person in LIS has the potential and should apply themselves to lead at every level of the organisation. But all this rests on you taking the decision to lead, to do your best, or to do as little as possible. A clear up-front intention on what it is that you want to get out of your position and your career, is your decision.

These conversations are open and free for all to attend virtually. Use the hashtag #IGBISwithLeaders on the IGBIS Facebook group at <https://www.facebook.com/Liasalgbis> and on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/Liasalgbis>.

If you have missed the conversation, it has been posted on the LIASANews Youtube channel at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y-tpREM2kW4&t=12s>

25 YEARS OF LIASA CONFERENCES (continued from page 12)



Local organising committee - LIASA Conference 2003, Rustenberg

(continued from page 14)

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South African Librarians' Day Celebration

A PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN LIASA GAUTENG NORTH AND CITY OF TSHWANE

The LIASA Gauteng North Branch (GNB) Chairperson, Mahlodi Moroamodishi opened the South African Librarians' Day (SALD) celebration.

The theme of the event was "Celebrating the 25th Anniversary of LIASA: Re-Imagine your Energized Future as Librarians!" She stated that librarians of the past decade played a very crucial role, and their efforts and talents paved the way to the developments we see in our libraries and communities. However, to remain relevant to the current agenda, librarians need to evolve, reimagine, reposition and up-skill themselves in line with the ever-changing needs of the library user population. It is for this reason that we celebrate this milestone, the 25th Anniversary of LIASA and the role that librarians played and are still playing in developing an informed nation.

Ms Lerato Pitso from City of Tshwane presented on Professional Coaching. It begins with the title "Reimagine Your Energized Future and Career as Librarians". She discussed the professional coach vs any self-qualified coach and the benefit of coaching. She defined coaching as a helping modality for librarians to reach their truest potential. The benefit of coaching on a personal level assists with a positive mindset; self-awareness; enhancing relationships; builds confidence; overcomes personal obstacles; create better goals; learn what you are missing; reflect on your values; feel motivated to do more and reflect on your career. She further stated that it empowers individuals and encourages them to take responsibility, and increases employees and staff engagement. It improves



LIASA GNB Chairperson, Mahlodi Moroamodishi



LIASA President-Elect, Charlie Molepo



Lerato Pitso



Dr Steyn Mokgwathi

individual performance and helps identify and develop high potential employees. Furthermore, it helps identify both organisational and individual strength and development opportunities; it helps motivate and empower individuals to excel;

and demonstrates organisational commitment to human resource development.

The LIASA President-Elect, Charlie Molepo, presented on "The Importance of Repositioning Ourselves as Librarians Post-COVID 19". He emphasised how librarians were affected pre- and post-COVID-19. He questioned librarians on how we reposition ourselves and then stated that librarians need not wait for a specific event in order to do this but that it should be a continuous process. Mr Molepo emphasised that librarians should embrace indigenous knowledge in order to see why

institutions need data knowledge managers. He explained that indigenous knowledge needs to be documented and preserved, emphasising that the future of libraries is technology and encouraged librarians to preserve indigenous knowledge for future libraries and generations. He indicated that LIASA has an Academy to train librarians and that they should embrace the opportunity to up-skill themselves. He encouraged librarians to join LIASA.

Dr Steyn Mokgwathi from Tshwane Leadership and Management Academy (TLMA), City of Tshwane, presented on "Unleashing Customer Service Excellence". He explained unleashing excellence as a habit, practice and process that provides organisations with practical tools and step-by-step guidance aligned to the organisation's individual service needs. Unleashing excellence shows one how to develop a service philosophy and standard that becomes the non-negotiable service expectations everyone in the organisation is expected to adhere to. He explained that when leaders/managers fail to acknowledge employees who deliver superior service, those employees begin to think, "why bother going the extra mile". He further indicated that unleashing excellence provides guidelines for implementing three types of recognition to ensure excellence is celebrated and awarded. He further indicated that TLMA offers these kinds of training workshops which addresses customer service excellence.

MAHLODI MOROAMODISHI
LIASA GAUTENG NORTH BRANCH CHAIR

THE UNIVERSITY OF PRETORIA'S DLS CONTINUES TO IMPACT STUDENTS' LIVES



The University of Pretoria Department of Library Services (DLS) values its users and is continuously

innovating its services to improve staff and students' library experience.

As such, the "Rate Us" platform is an effective tool that the DLS uses to receive feedback from library users on their experience – good or bad!

The Marketing and Quality Assurance staff member caught up with Lesego Raseroka, a third year LLB student, to hear how the library is making a difference in his life. Read his story below.

"I am Lesego Raseroka a recent (UP) BA Law graduate, currently a third-year LLB candidate. When I was admitted

to study Law in 2019, I was caught in a dilemma as to whether I should pursue a career in Law or Humanities. The wealth of resources in the DLS – particularly the e-Resources – helped me make an informed decision about where my greatest interest lies between my two options.

The DLS offers library training which has been integral in how I have accessed and utilised the available library material. This has helped me remarkably in finding the resources I needed to pass my tests and assignments over the years. Furthermore, having access to many journals and books,

particularly the online versions, has assisted me in my research and my choice in furthering my studies in law.

As I am preparing for my dissertation, I am looking forward to using the library services for research purposes which will be a tedious task. However, owing to the available services, the superb information specialists, and the librarians, this task will be achievable in due time. Experience has taught me that you are never alone with the DLS at UP."

LESEGO RASEROKA

The National Library of South Africa commemorates International Literacy Day

The National Library of South Africa (NLSA) in partnership with Uhlunga Publishing, Usiba Loluntu, Book Dash, Western Cape Department of Cultural Affairs and Sport (DCAS), City of Cape Town's Libraries, Western Cape Department of Education and Isivivana Library celebrated International Literacy Day on 22 September 2022 at the Isivivana Library in Khayelitsha in the Western Cape.

Introducing the purpose of the day, Sonto Moleme, Director: Bibliographic Services and Collections Management at the NLSA remarked, "Since 1967, International Literacy Day celebrations have taken place annually around the world to remind us of the significance of literacy. Being literate not only gives one dignity but it is also a human right and advances the literacy agenda toward a more literate and sustainable society."

Under the theme "Transforming Literacy Learning Spaces" the NLSA and partners organised a Reading Fair, an initiative that saw various reading activities take place in the official South African languages to promote a culture of reading.

The Reading Fair was well attended by nine primary schools from the surrounding areas including Hopolang Primary School (PS), Parkden PS, Lehlonoholo PS, Yomelela PS, Inkanini PS, Xolani PS, Caradale



Sonto Moleme, Director: Bibliographic Services Collections Management



Author, Momelezi Kanyiwu of the Matthew Goniwe High school dressed as the LiBee mascot



Booknic, the City of Cape Town library service's mascot read to the learners



Winners of the spelling bee and unprepared reading with Sonto Moleme and Fanele Platjies



Learners participated in educational games

PS, Sokhanyo PS and Noluthando School for the Deaf.

The Western Cape Provincial Library Services and Book Dash donated books to the children that attended the event for them

to take home and read at their leisure.

Our guests of honour included a young author who inspired learners to take a leap of faith and write their own stories as well

as raising awareness about the value of reading and writing, and attending book clubs engaged in reading activities including spelling bees and unprepared reading. The activities also accommodated deaf and hearing-impaired learners. Children's books in English, IsiXhosa and Afrikaans were selected for this segment.

PHAKAMA MATOTI
CHILDREN'S LITERATURE
PROGRAMME CO-ORDINATOR,
NATIONAL LIBRARY OF SOUTH AFRICA

12TH FUNDA MZANTSI CHAMPIONSHIP A ROARING SUCCESS

The National Library of South Africa (NLSA) in collaboration with George Municipality and the Department of Correctional Services (DCS) held the 12th Funda Mzantsi Championship from 3 to 7 October 2022 on the theme **Developing Creative Minds**.

The project was initiated as part of the NLSA's mandate to inculcate a culture of reading amongst the citizenry and in response to the results of the reading survey conducted by the South African Book Development Council in 2007 that revealed that South Africa is not a reading nation.

This year's competitions were held physically in George, Western Cape for the first time after going virtual due to the COVID-19 pandemic in the past two years. A total of 640 book club participants from communities across all nine provinces and the DCS six correctional services regions battled it out for victory in four categories: impromptu reading, book review, debate, and spelling bee, in the eleven official languages.



NLSA core programmes executive director seated next to Hon. Judge Hlophle and the George municipality deputy-mayor

As a build up to the national competitions, municipalities conducted mini elimination rounds coordinated by the Provincial Library Services across all nine provinces. The municipal competition culminated in Provincial eliminations that resulted in the selection of six book clubs per province to represent it in the national leg in George.

In his address, the National Librarian and CEO of the NLSA, Mr. Kepi Madumo, reiterated the importance of collaboration between different stakeholders

in society to advance a culture of reading in our communities. He said that through partnerships, the stakeholders involved "are harnessing the potential power of libraries by integrating rehabilitation activities within the national literacy efforts, at regional and national level that help achieve the literacy targets set out in the 2030 agenda of sustainable goals". He further encouraged the participants to go back to their communities and recruit more members to join their book clubs and prepare for future competitions.



PANSALB representative Lukhanyo Sikonyela

The National Commissioner of the DCS, Mr. Makgothi Thobakgale said "the Funda Mzantsi championship is at the heart of the DCS educational programme. Behind the DCS bars are brains that are stimulated through the Funda Mzantsi Championship's theme of developing creative minds. Inmates have become playwrights, actors and published authors. Throughout the week, inmates will be participating on the journey of reintegration into society".

Amongst the adjudicators were language practitioners from
(continued on adjacent page)

DUT Library launches smart Makerspace



Sean Carte (Librarian: Digital Services), Prashanth Sivsaran (Web & Systems Support Officer), Dr Malefetjane Phaladi (Director: Library Services), Romeo Matumba (Librarian: Marketing & Communications), Dr Nonhlanhla Khumalo (Writing Centre Manager: Midlands), Lindiwe Gumede (Midlands Site & Information Service Coordinator), Dr Joe Molete (Centre Director: Midlands), Sarah Khan (IT & Systems Librarian), Academic staff member from the Midlands, David Thomas (Manager: Academic Services), Silindile Qwabe (Executive Secretary: Midlands Director), Sagren Moodley (Manager: Information Resources & Systems).

The Durban University of Technology (DUT) Library launched a dynamic Makerspace with cutting-edge technology at the Indumiso Campus on 30 August 2022.

Mr Romeo Matumba, Librarian: Marketing and Communications was the programme director during this special event.

"Create, collaborate and inspire" is the slogan developed specifically for Makerspace by the Library Innovation Working Group for this ground-breaking innovation. The Makerspace is meant to be a shared space where the DUT community can create, collaborate, and inspire greatness using modern technology.

Dr Joseph (Joe) Molete, DUT's Midlands Campus Director, explained during his welcome and opening remarks that the Library Makerspace is a pilot project that will be replicated in other DUT libraries. "We are elated about the launch of this project, and it shows the level of commitment from the team. Many projects are in the pipeline to be launched soon and they are going to make our institution and the community to be better and more innovative", stated Dr Molete.

Dr Malefetjane Phaladi, DUT's Director of Library Services,

explained the Makerspace facility as a social and technological space for creative and innovative initiatives to thrive. He stated that users of the smart library, whether students or academics, can work on creative projects collaboratively, individually or with library staff. Dr Phaladi added that these spaces commonly provide the university community with equipment, technology, and social connections that may not be available otherwise.

"The purpose of the Library Makerspace is to stimulate creativity, innovation and entrepreneurship. For this reason, the Library Makerspace is a natural extension of the library as a knowledge sharing and creative space. The facility is very central to the concept of smart, fit-for-purpose libraries using the latest technologies to deliver innovative and creative services and products to the users of the library. The Makerspace facility is well-aligned with the ENVISION2030 strategic perspectives on Systems and Processes and Society. As the DUT Library Management, we are grateful for the executive management support in funding this Makerspace project out of the strategic priorities fund. Such a gesture goes to show the Library's

strategic value proposition in the academic project", explained Dr Phaladi.

Mr Sagren Moodley, DUT's Library Manager: Information Resources and Systems, explained how the library anticipates the successful implementation of Makerspace as well as the benefits of this exciting and innovative space. He also mentioned new projects the library plans to launch soon including a new Postgraduate Commons at the Indumiso Library to support growth on Midlands' campuses, a new learning commons for undergraduate students at the BM Patel Library, and the implementation of RFID-

enabled self-service at all sites.

"Integration of these modern spaces within the curriculum or co-curriculum will promote lifelong learning and help to develop 21st-century skills and mindsets. By achieving this, we can truly provide the distinctive educational experience to which we aspire", said Mr Moodley.

Mrs Lindiwe Gumede, Site and Information Service Coordinator briefly described the library's amenities and services and thanked all the stakeholders engaged in the project's implementation as well as those who attended the launch.

ROMEO MUVHULAWA MATUMBA, LIBRARIAN: MARKETING AND COMMUNICATIONS, DUT



Siza Radebe and Nhlanhla Nhleko (Managers: Campus Library & Sites), Melusi Mhlongo (Manager: Protection Services), Sihle Mbanjwa (Senior Psychologist: Counselling & Health), Dr Emmanuel Matlala (Lecturer: Finance & Information Management) and Ayanda Thwala (Library Computer Technician)

SALI TRUST PURSUES FRAUD CASE AGAINST DAY CARE CENTRE DIRECTOR

The S.A. Library and Information (SALI) Trust has over the 24 years of its existence disbursed almost R1,5 million to a diverse range of projects from literacy and reading to library improvement and research by masters and doctoral students.

There are standard reporting requirements, including submitting supporting documents for expenditure on projects. Disappointingly, in 2020, a suspected fraudulent invoice was noticed by a trustee in a report from the Banareng Day Care Centre in Limpopo that had received a

grant for the purchase of books. A quotation for books was copied to create an invoice under the name of a different company and submitted as expenditure. The matter was carefully checked to confirm suspicions and repeated efforts made to retrieve the funding but without success. Consequently,

in 2021, a fraud charge was laid with the SAPS against the Director of the Banareng Day Care Centre, Mr Letsoalo, and the case came to court in 2022 where efforts are again underway to recover the funding through mediation.

JOHN VAN NIEKERK
ADMINISTRATOR, SALI TRUST

national and provincial language services, university lecturers and language educators, who were tasked with the responsibility of finding the 2022 Funda Mzantsi Champions participating in each of the eleven official languages.

The winners of the categories in each language walked away

with trophies, certificates and medals. The overall winners of the language categories received vouchers to the value of R1500 and R2000, as well as tablets, sponsored by the Gauteng Provincial Department of Sports, Arts and Culture, and Recreation.

The whole event was streamed

live on the NLSA Social Media platforms, and SABC 2 and SABC 404 profiled the event on their programme, Full View on 5 October 2022.

Pan South African Language Board Mr J. J Dantile pledged technical support to future Funda Mzantsi Championship

programmes. South African Library for the Blind also offered support in ensuring that the visually impaired community take part in future championships.

TSHEGOFATSO RASEKGOTOMA
CLASSICS COORDINATOR

Unisa Library Western Cape celebrates National Book Week



MC Mr William Boonzaaier



For the first time since the COVID-19 lockdown of 2020, the Unisa Library Western Cape hosted a hybrid event on 12 September 2022 in keeping with the changing landscape as a result of the pandemic. It focused on academic integrity, plagiarism and copyright.

These issues are a real problem among university students, particularly at undergraduate level, where students may not understand the reasons for

acknowledging sources. There are also many reasons why students choose to plagiarise or cheat, ranging from the more genuine lack of knowledge to outright dishonourable intentions. Collectively, the most frequently stated reasons students choose to plagiarise, or cheat, include the desire to get a good grade, fear of failing, procrastination or poor time management, disinterest in the assignment, belief they will not get caught and confusion

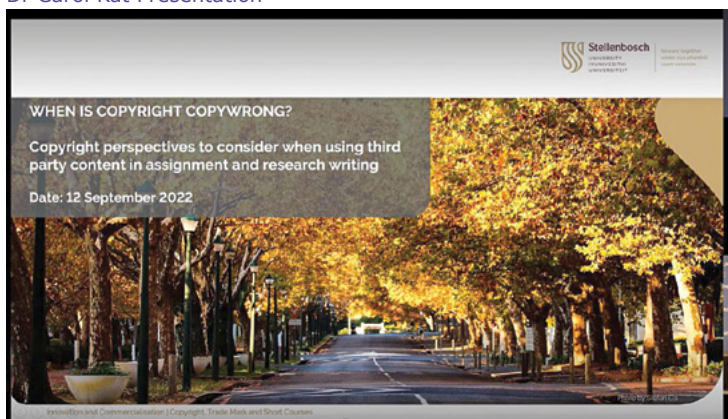
about what constitutes plagiarism or current university policies.

Our first presenter, Professor Sunelle Geyer from the College of Law at Unisa presented on "Academic Integrity: why our work must be referenced and original." This dynamic presentation took viewers and attendees through the concepts of referencing and academic integrity with a fresh perspective on the skills needed to accomplish academic assignments.

presentations, a question was asked about the sharing of textbooks by students. Ms Kat confirmed that this was indeed a breach of the Copyright Act, and students at Stellenbosch who had been caught doing this were given community service at an academic publisher, to allow them to understand the work that goes into writing, publishing, and printing a book.

The event ended off with Prof. Geyer reminding Unisa students to make use of the online library which provides access to e-books as well as thousands of journals. Just as the vote of thanks was being presented, the Unisa campus lost power due to loadshedding. However quick thinking allowed us to finish our event on the Teams cell phone app. COVID-19 has taught us to be nimble! The Unisa Western Cape library considered this event a success and looks forward to more hybrid events on campus.

Dr Carol Kat Presentation



Prof. Geyer was followed by Dr Carol Kat, the Head of Copyright, Trademarks and Short Courses at the University of Stellenbosch. The title of her presentation was "Copyright: why students infringe the law." She explained the Copyright Act and how it applies to both books and images. Also discussed were students who pay other students to write their assignments. Universities now have access to an "authorship investigator" that picks up different writing styles.

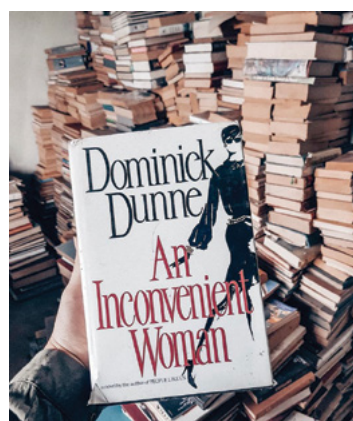
During the question-and-answer session after the

MS MICHELLE EMDIN BIEDERMAN
ACTING DIGITAL LEARNING ADVISOR

THE UNIVERSITY OF PRETORIA'S DLIS CELEBRATES SELF-CARE MONTH

The month of September is known as Self-Care Awareness Month and reminds us of the importance of taking care of ourselves first and foremost. The University of Pretoria's Department of Library Services (DLS) encourages its students and staff to make self-care a part of their daily routine, whether it be through taking a walk, getting a massage, or reading their favourite book!

To honour and promote self-care - in true library style - the DLS held a #UPSelfCareGiveaway competition which encouraged students and staff to share their favourite self-care books on social media to stand a chance



Gift Boxes won 1st place with the book titled "An Inconvenient Woman"

to win some awesome vouchers! The competition received an overwhelming response, which gave the judges a tough time. Ultimately the winners' pictures were chosen on their creativity,



Maphoshane Bopape won 2nd place with the book titled "Red Apple Dreams"

aesthetics, and cleverness. We would like to congratulate all our winners.

Although September has passed, we would like to encourage everyone to make



Thandeka Mahlangu won 3rd place with the book titled "Flowers on the Moon"

every day a self-care day. The kindness we show towards ourselves will manifest in a kinder world.

SIXOLILE DLUNGWANE
STUDENT ASSISTANT WRITER

Sol Plaatje University Library celebrates Heritage Month in Style

The Sol Plaatje University (SPU) Library and Information Services team held a physical event to celebrate heritage month.

The programme was fun-filled with items such as students' poetry sessions, dramatic works by the SPU drama club, and a readers' circle where students read aloud from books in vernacular. The literature shows that reading improves writing skills and has a positive impact on students' academic success. We had a presentation from Bathabile Dladla, the Kimberley Book Club founder, who also encouraged students to read for leisure.

Moreover, as part of the event, SPU LIS introduced an SPU readers' podcast, where different



books are reviewed by students and Library staff. The purpose of the podcast is to raise awareness of some of the titles available for leisure reading, cultivate a reading culture, introduce different genres

of literature that the library holds, and develop book review skills for staff and students. The project aims to reach out to academic staff as well.

Students and staff members



Kimberley Book Club founder Bathabile Dladla

attended the event wearing their traditional attire representing different tribes and cultures; this event also promoted diversity.

SOL PLAATJE UNIVERSITY LIS TEAM

UNISA KZN DONATES BOOKS TO WESTVILLE CORRECTIONAL SERVICES

The Unisa KZN Library has partnered with the Westville Correctional Services to develop a strong working relationship.

The aim is to enhance student support and learning experiences for academic advancement. Access to information and books are an integral part of the rehabilitation process for offenders. We have noticed an increasing interest in reading and learning among offenders and we as librarians want to encourage further educational upliftment. As part of this initiative, the Unisa Library has donated books on different subject areas to enhance their current library collection. This hand over was done at the Westville Correctional Centre at



Staff from the Unisa Durban Library and officials from the Westville Correctional Centre

a formal event on 20 October 2022. A total of 350 books were received by the Durban Correctional Service officials.

The event also included a collaborated orientation initiative by other Unisa support services. We are proud to raise awareness

and serve this much needed part of our community.

PRESHA HEMRAJ AND BRENDA GOVENDER
BRANCH LIBRARIAN UNISA KZN

READING IN THE PARK AT BATHO TOWNSHIP, BLOEMFONTEIN



LIASA FS Branch Members with LIASA President-elect, Charlie Malepo (far left) and the stakeholders at the Launch

The LIASA Free State (FS) Branch identified the need to build a culture of reading in the community of Batho Township in Bloemfontein.

Two members of the Branch were part of the Batho Location Facebook group discussions when the need for a local library was mentioned. Since building a library was not feasible at the time, the idea of reading in the Batho Park was born.

The FS Branch collaborated with the University of the Free

State (UFS), Central University of Technology (CUT), Free State Departments of Education and Sports, Arts, Culture, and Recreation (DSACR), and the Mangaung Metro Municipality to launch the Reading Park in celebration of literacy month in September 2022.

A book drive was initiated to start a collection for the community. CUT, the UFS, DSACR and LIASA sponsored books, and the Batho community was also urged to bring a book for the

collection. At the launch, learners from Batho Township performed and DJ Stacey (Stacey-Lee Khojane from the UFS's English department) gave a motivational speech. LIASA President-Elect Charlie Molepo spoke on the importance of reading, and the Batho ward councillor spoke about the possibility of building a library for the community.

All the representatives of the various stakeholders pledged their support to the Reading Park. Cathy Dlodlo, former OFM radio

manager, sponsored a container for the books to be kept safely at a designated spot in the park.

The Free State Branch is proud of this initiative and looks forward to continuing to support the development of a reading culture in the Batho community.

KEGOMODICWE PHUTHI PL(SA)
CORNELLE SCHELTEMA-VAN WYK PL(SA)
HESMA VAN TONDER PL(SA)

UNIVERSITY OF THE FREE STATE

LIASA Northern Cape



"Say cheese!"

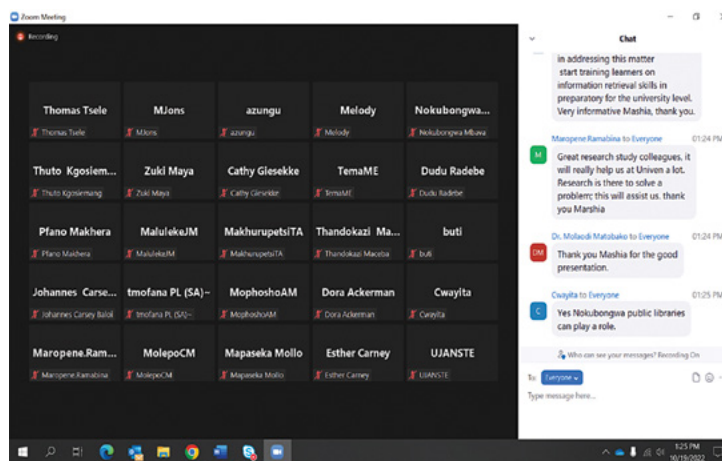
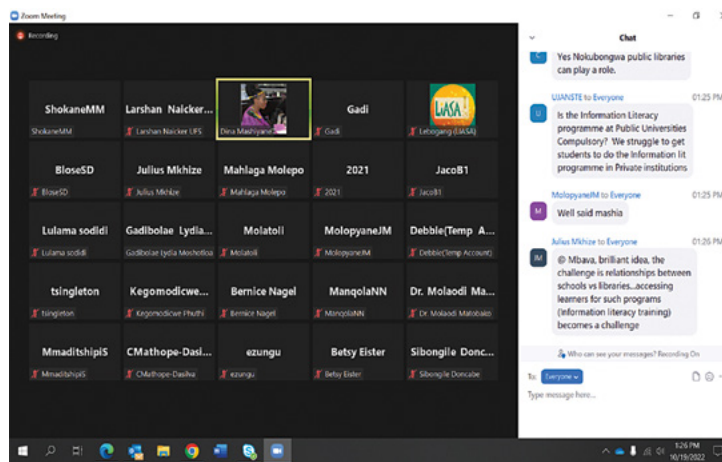
LIASA NC Branch Committee

The Northern Cape Branch held their Annual General Meeting on 27 September 2022 at the South Campus of Sol Plaatje University where Mr Kgasane Gift Seemela was introduced as the newly elected Chair-Elect. He accepted the position after the Chair-Elect,

Ms Boitumelo Masilo, resigned to take up a new position at the University of Pretoria.

The current Northern Cape branch committee now consists of:

- Chair: Ms Manda Hough
 - Chair-Elect: Mr Kgasane Gift Seemela
 - Secretary: Ms Bernice Nagel
- MANDA HOUGH PL(SA)
CHAIRPERSON: LIASA NC



LIASA Free State Research Showcase

On 19 October 2022, the LIASA Free State branch hosted the first ever annual Research Showcase which aims to give opportunities to LIASA Free State members to present their Honours, Masters, and Ph.D. research papers under the theme "Advancing the scholarship of library and information science in the Free State."

Hosted by Dina Mashiyane (Assistant Director at the University of Free State (UFS) Library) the webinar got underway with a moving and informative statement on the purpose of the day by Mahlaga Molepo (Faculty Librarian at UFS), which amongst many issues addressed, touched on the importance of embracing the scholarship of Library and Information Science. Mr. Molepo called LIS scholars to broaden the scope of their research by analysing other domains in Library and Information Science.

The four presenters on the day of which two were first-time presenters in a conference setting, then took the audience through their journeys in completing their research projects on diverse topics in User Studies:

- Dr Margaret Matobako (Ph.D.): Emergence of knowledge commons in Thabo Mofutsanyana district municipality libraries, Free State, South Africa (Unisa)

- Ms Mashia Shokane (Masters): Awareness and usage of online public access catalogues by undergraduate students at the University of Venda (University of Limpopo)
- Ms Tebogo Makurupetsi (Honours): Establishment of school libraries: a case study of a secondary school in Limpopo province (University of Limpopo)
- Ms Chareen Mathope – DaSilva (Masters): An investigation into the use of electronic resources by postgraduate students in the Department of postgraduate studies in Education at the Central University of Technology (University of the Western Cape).

The LIASA Free State Branch Research Showcase is centred around four pillars, namely:

- Promoting a culture of research
- Encouraging further studies beyond the undergraduate level
- Contributing to the maturity of the discipline (Library and Information Science)
- Advancing the scholarship of Library and Information Science in the Free State region.

SIHLE BLOSE

FACULTY LIBRARIAN: LIBRARY & INFORMATION SERVICES – HUMANITIES, UFS



Bookbinding workshop: sewing book spines



Casing in of text block into the book cover

Africana Library Trust Workshops

The Kimberley Africana Library recently held another successful bookbinding workshop. Thirteen delegates from different institutions such as museums, the NLSA as well as public libraries attended. Mr George Wentzel, master bookbinder was the facilitator.

BERNICE NAGEL PL(SA)
ACTING MANAGER: KIMBERLEY
AFRICANA LIBRARY

LIASA Mpumalanga Branch Roadshow



Charlie Molepo, Nompumelelo Shongwe, Thembi Mathenjwa, Michael Mavimbela and Rebecca Senyolo



LIASA Mpumalanga Branch did not receive nominations for the 2021 Branch Executive Committee.

The Branch was therefore put in abeyance and the President and the National Office will look after the branch until 2023. The President-Elect visited Mpumalanga on 6 July and he requested members to

volunteer as coordinators for the four education districts around Mpumalanga. A roadshow was held in three districts (Bohlabelo, Ehlanzeni and Gert Sibande) from 16 to 18 August; there was a strike at Nkangala so they did not manage to visit that district.

The LIASA President-Elect Charlie Molepo and national Secretary Rebecca Senyolo

gave an outline of the benefits of belonging to a professional body (LIASA). Mr Molepo also presented a circular that was compiled by M S Q Mashego, Acting Chief Education Specialist: SLIS, which was addressed to principals stating that they should allow teacher-librarians to attend LIASA activities. He urged attendees to join LIASA.

As coordinators we would like to express our appreciation for their efforts to revive our Association in Mpumalanga.

NOMPUMELELO SHONGWE
SENIOR EDUCATION SPECIALIST: SCHOOL
LIBRARY & INFORMATION SERVICES
MPUMALANGA DEPARTMENT OF
EDUCATION
GERT SIBANDE DISTRICT

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LIASA Higher Education Libraries Interest Group (HELIG)

HELIG continues to provide its members with ongoing professional educational opportunities with webinars arranged and hosted by either the National Committee or Branch Convenors.

August was a busy month with three activities. The first of these was a session of the HELIG Journal Club which looked at the article "Crisis Librarianship: An Examination of Online Librarianship Roles in the Wake of the COVID-19 Pandemic" by Karen Nourse Reed, Brittany Kester, Karen F. Kaufmann, Lindley Homol, Camielle Crampsie, in the Journal of Academic Librarianship, 48(4) 2022 <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.acalib.2022.102530>.

The article was selected by Molly Chikafa, Eastern Cape convener, and the session facilitated by Molly and Ingrid Thomson

The last HELIG Coffee talk, prior to the AGM, was on where academic libraries fit into fast-changing top technology trends. Technologies are advancing so rapidly, that in a matter of days, a key technology such as AI that was ranked at the top until 15 July 2022, moved down 4 places, according to Simplilearn (<https://www.simplilearn.com/top-techn...>) since 19 July 2022. This means that the roles in the organisation are constantly transforming. As Simplilearn (2022) puts it, "an IT professional in 2022-23 will constantly be learning,

unlearning, and relearning (out of necessity if not desire)". Considering that technology continues to evolve at such rates, it will have implications for libraries adapting to accommodate new applications of technology for learning, research, and information provision.

The talk was facilitated by Jonathan Nyebeleza, HELIG North-West Branch Convener, and Dr Lynn Kleinveldt of Cape Peninsula University of Technology and HELIG Chair.

HELIG Gauteng South and University of Johannesburg (UJ) Library hosted a conversation on Library Data/Statistics Collection and Analysis where conversations and experiences about library statistics were shared with the

audience. There were a range of guest speakers including Prof Maria Frahm-Arp, Executive Director of UJ Library. Other speakers were Nomya Mahlangu (UJ), Jeremiah Pietersen (Stellenbosch University), Kenny Tsukudu (Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University [NMMU]), Carine Basson (North West University), Rafiekah Abrahams (NMMU) and Happy Mphahlele (UJ).

The HELIG AGM was held on Friday 16 September 2022. This was well attended.

As always, events have been recorded and these recordings are available on the LIASANews YouTube channel.

INGRID THOMSON PL (SA)
HELIG NATIONAL PRO

Love is your colour!

At a flamboyantly colourful event, the annual City of Cape Town LIS Service Recognition Awards grabbed the attention of nominees, nominators, long service award recipients and guests alike.

A red carpet was rolled out to make guests feel special and a photo booth set up for photographs afterwards. Attendees arrived dressed in all colours of the rainbow, further cheering up the brightly decorated hall, which was draped in table cloths, tie-backs and a centrepiece all of different colours

Ronel Viljoen, Community Service and Health Portfolio Committee Chairperson welcomed all the guests and was followed by Zukiswa Mandlana, our new Executive Director for Community Services and Health, who looked stunning in her bright pink jacket. "Love is your Colour," she said and the audience agreed wholeheartedly,

Long service recipients were followed by the recognition awards section of the programme. The department congratulates these worthy recipients.

Drum roll please... and the winners are:

- **Personal Achievement Category - Team:** Tracey Muir-Rix and Angelo Drage
By writing, illustrating and printing a children's book Tracey Muir-Rix and Angelo Drage created and successfully completed a project that was a first for the department.
- **Individual:** Nuhaa Portland
Nuhaa went beyond the call of duty and took on initiatives that demonstrate that one can lead in whichever position one is in.



Professional Team Category: Specialised Operations



People Individual Category:
Luinda Lilley

- **Individual:** Ronel Cloete
Ronel went beyond the call of duty and took on initiatives that demonstrate that one can lead in whichever position one is in. The integrated Race for Survival Programme which Ronel implemented was a great success.
- **People Category - Team:** ETD Team. The ETD team always has a positive attitude and exhibits excellent customer service. Glowing evidence received from numerous colleagues and the actual nomination clearly illustrated the many proactive and outstanding ways that the team promoted employee development.
- **Individual:** Luinda Lilley
In her interactions with her peers, LIS libraries and Province, Luinda Lilley always conducts herself in a highly professional manner and has

excellent social skills which she puts to good use.

- **Best Facility Category - Team:** Fisantekraal Library
Fisantekraal Library serves a community with many societal challenges. The staff strive to become a one-stop shop for patrons, ensuring all needs are met through uncompromising client service delivery including taking services to those who are unable to visit the library due to distance.
- **Outstanding Service Category - Team:** Scottsdene Library
Despite severe challenges in the community, Scottsdene Library is a shining star of service delivery receiving outstanding and positive feedback from the community for services rendered.
- **Individual:** Thabang Khumalo
Thabang always goes the extra mile and ensures excellent service by going beyond the call of his normal duties.
- **Best Collaboration Category - Team:** Library People
In collaboration with many LIS libraries, sections, musicians and individual staff members, the Library People team created a high-quality music video. A first of its kind project for the LIS and for the City, the video has been shared extensively on LIS and City

social media platforms.

- **Leadership Category - Individual:** Yvette du Preez
Yvette du Preez showed excellent leadership qualities by going above and beyond the call of duty and in developing other staff members.
- **Best Innovation Category - Team:** Delft Library
The Delft Library team found innovative and effective ways of bringing much needed services that address poverty to a community with various social issues.
- **Administrative Team Category - Team:** Human Resources
Human Resources are a very dedicated team that continued to offer an uncompromised customer service for the department during very difficult times.
- **Professional Team Category - Team:** Specialised Operations
The Specialised Operations team contributed by delivering top quality customer services for the department and for LIS communities.
- **Operational Team Category - Team:** Durbanville Library
The Durbanville Library team worked beyond the call of duty and always put their patrons first by hosting author events in the evenings to accommodate their working community.

National Book Week at Helderberg Libraries

To celebrate National Book Week, Helderberg Libraries organised their second book fair from 5-10 September 2022.

There were 16 events at eight of the ten libraries in the area. The libraries included Somerset West, Strand, Gordons Bay, Lwandle, Macassar, PD Paulse, Kuils River and Melton Rose. The authors ranged from well-established authors to self-published authors and covered fiction, non-fiction and children's literature.

Lwandle and Sir Lowry's Pass libraries arranged a workshop in partnership with Nkuthalo Publishers on how to get your book published.

Authors that participated in the event were Joanita Richter, Juanita Oostendorp, Kelly-Eve Koopman, Sarah Summers, Julian Jansen, Charmaine Daniels, Norman McFarlane, Elsa Winckler, Mogamad Salie, Shireen Paulse, Marita van Zyl Burger, Wendy



Brigitte de Mink, Rosebud Tsobane (member of Undercover Heroes), Pearl Ngobeni (Librarian @ Kuils River), Nadia Boezak (Started Undercover Heroes Organisation), Anthea Josephus (member of Undercover Heroes), Duane Carter (Author) and Patricia Blouw (Assistant Librarian @ Kuils River)

Maartens, Troula Goosen, Marjorie van Heerden, Erla-Mari Diedericks, Hans Pienaar, Garth Newman and Yumna Sadan. Well-known Marjorie van Heerden, Wendy Maartens, Troula Goosen and Gordon van der

Spuy were at Gordon's Bay Library for storytelling followed by a discussion of their work. Marjorie introduced the children to book illustration and taught the children how to draw an elephant. The children were fascinated by this

session and thoroughly enjoyed it. All the interviews have been published on the various libraries' Facebook pages and can be accessed there. The event was a huge success.



Gordon's Bay Library: A, Dlothi, N.Stallenberg, Marjorie van Heerden, Wendy Maartens, Troula Goosen, P. Mbinda, K. Carl and O. Bikithsi



Somerset West Library: Madri Victor and Erla-Mari Diedericks

Tambourines shook and ululations echoed as the room erupted when the winners in each category were announced. No one was more vocal than Sub-Area Head, Linda Ntaka, who nominated three of the libraries in her area, all of whom were winners in their respective categories. How amazing is that!

The judges have once again done an amazing job, painstakingly going through each nomination and scoring accordingly. At the end of the day, there should always be only one winner per category, however, in one particular category there were, in fact, two winners (that can happen).

Ultimately, all staff members who work in libraries are winners, because, despite our many challenges, we still manage to provide a wonderful service. Congratulations to all award winners and here's looking forward to next year's ceremony.

MERLE COLLINS

HEAD: MARKETING AND COMMUNICATIONS
CITY OF CAPE TOWN, LIS

ETHEKWINI LIBRARIES HOSTS AMERICAN STUDENTS TO SHARE KNOWLEDGE



The Durban Don Africana and Central Reference services library hosted a group of nine students from different parts of the USA from 18 July to 5 September 2022.

They were part of the Fulbright Hayes Zulu group project programme. Their main objective was to learn about the country, its culture, the languages, and the people's diverse lives. To

strengthen their knowledge, a local lecturer and prominent local people as well as colleagues shared information with them. They were also exposed to various cultural ceremonies and arts and crafts that promote our country's culture. They visited other areas such as Richards Bay and Gauteng to be exposed to our diversity. They were overwhelmed by

the spirit of ubuntu shown by the citizens and employees. Some of them promised to come back to Durban for work purposes and furthering their research studies. This programme will be conducted annually.

SBONGILE DONCABE PL(SA)
DON AFRICANA AND CENTRAL REFERENCE
LIBRARY



Winning school (Northcliff High)



Participating schools

MobiReadathon @ Joburg Libraries

Young Adult (YA) is the group that is very reluctant to use the library; perhaps their reasoning is that they are so much into technology and that South African libraries, being in a developing country, are still in the infancy stage technologically.

The aim of the programme was to show learners (YA) that 2020 saw libraries advance from print material to more digital content.

The initial plan of the programme was to work with Grade 10 learners. However, due to the time the idea was presented, librarians opted for the Grade 8s. Four schools participated. Learners were not going to use printed books thus e-Readers were provided to them. Each school was given five e-Readers with five books loaded. A teacher's guide was left at each school with the necessary documents (proposal, titles of books uploaded on eReaders and an entry form).

Reviews

Three books were to be reviewed (*Willow Moss and the lost day* by Domonique Valente; *Lemony Snicket's Series of unfortunate*

events and *Point Blanc* by Antony Horowitz). Most schools adhered to sending reviews and these were submitted via Google forms.

The purpose of the reviews was to allocate marks so that schools would get to the finals on points. That proved to be challenging and the reviews were omitted. This part of the programme could be beneficial in keeping track of learners on whether they were reading the books. The following were the guidelines for the reviews:

- Must be between 300-500 words
- Brief synopsis of the book, covering the plot, characters and the main themes.
- What you liked or didn't like about the book.
- Whether you would recommend the book.
- Give the book a rating out of 5.

Quiz

The other two books (*Fault in our stars* by John Green and *Children of blood and bone* by Tomi Adeyemi) were used for quiz questioning. Schools were given 30 seconds to think of the

answer or the question would be passed to another school. Also, if the school gave the wrong answer, the question was passed to the next school. The passing on of questions was done to be fair to every school by having the staff member keep track of which school should get the question. When the question was passed on, the school getting it was given only 15 seconds to give an answer.

Team round

Greenside and Northcliff High Schools got into this round with a tie of 36 points. De La Salle Holy Cross and Oceans Private were also in a tie of 30 points.

Questions were posed to all the schools. There were four buzzers for each school with different colours. The school that pressed the buzzer would have to answer and get it right. If they got it wrong, they would lose 5 points. Sudden death could affect their original points from the quiz round; conversely, it could boost the ones with the low scores if they got the answers right.

MobiReadathon winner 2022 was Northcliff High with 86 points.

All learners were given medals and certificates for participating.

Challenges

- Most schools were reluctant to enter the competition as they were approached late.
- Marketing of the programme to libraries was minimal.
- Teachers not referring to the guidelines that were given to them.
- e-Readers malfunctioning or learners formatting all information

Recommendations

- Teachers to refer to the guidelines provided to them to ensure they keep up with the deadlines.
- Staff responsible for reading the books should adhere to deadlines as expected
- If the City is giving out digital devices, they must be checked at two week intervals to ensure that they are working properly to prevent malfunctioning of the devices.

MBALENHLE KHUMALO, CITY OF JOHANNESBURG LIBRARIES

DIGITAL LITERACY IN LIBRARIES SERIES

City of Johannesburg Libraries contributing to Smart Citizenry

As part of digital transformation and to ensure that citizens are not left behind in the digital economy, Joburg Libraries continue to support communities through various activities focused on digital literacy.

Joburg Libraries Digital Literacy in Libraries Series profiles some of the library activities done in regions to empower citizens with digital skills and these will be highlighted on our www.cojelearning.org.za website and LIASA news.



Computer workshop at Eldorado

City of Johannesburg (CoJ) Library and Information Services responded to the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA) 2022 Manifesto on Public Libraries' Mission, which states that public libraries have a responsibility

for: initiating, supporting and participating in literacy activities and programmes to build reading and writing skills, and facilitating the development of media and information literacy and digital literacy skills for all people at all ages, in the spirit of equipping

an informed, democratic society. Digital Literacy is defined by the American Library Association as the ability to use Information and Communication Tools (ICTs) to find, evaluate, create, and communicate information, requiring both cognitive and

MOBIREADATHON READING PROGRAMME SELECTED AT TAIWAN READING FESTIVAL!!

City of Johannesburg (COJ) Library Services submitted a poster on an innovative reading development programme called Mobireadathon to a Taiwan Reading Festival.

This was in response to a public request by the National Central Library of Taiwan, NRC, for international libraries to submit their innovative reading programmes through Posters that will be displayed during the two days festival in December 2022.

<https://guide.ncl.edu.tw/event/nclposter/>

The COJ Mobireadathon Poster was selected among the 14 posters from 12 countries with Johannesburg representing Africa. The selected 14 posters are from ten countries and 12 libraries, as follows: Argentina, Germany, Greece, Korea, Malaysia, Serbia, Singapore, South Africa, United Arab Emirates and USA

About the Festival

The "Taiwan Reading Festival" is a national event organized by the National Central Library (NCL) of Taiwan (R.O.C.) aimed at promoting reading for all and will be held from December 3rd to 4th at the Chiang Kai-shek Memorial Park in Taiwan.

According to the festival organisers, in considering the value of international culture and best practice experiences exchanges, the NCL decided to have a special International Poster Zone to display posters on various themes related to reading, of other libraries from different countries around the world. Selected posters will be also be displayed online at the official Website of the NCL's "2022 Taiwan Reading Festival."

The committee believes that the reading promotion examples



Mobireadathon finals in Soweto



Randburg learners preparing for competition



Mobireadathon Winners

from different countries shared at this International Poster Zone could immensely broaden the horizons of librarians and encourage reading for Taiwanese citizens, thereby significantly helping to fulfil the utmost goal of libraries.

About Mobireadathon

Mobireadathon is a reading development programme aimed at introducing high school youth to reading and writing tools available on mobile devices. Schools compete regionally, reading selected stories either uploaded onto e-readers or using their own mobile devices such as smart phones, tablets, or laptops to read selected stories from recommended platforms such as FunDza.mobi or the www.cojelearning.org.za libraries website

This programme was first piloted in 2022 from March to May through an NGO called Push at Kliptown, and 51 learners from various high schools participated. It was extended as a second pilot to Region B high schools where twenty learners from four high schools (including three private schools) participated in the finals held on 14 October 2022 at Randburg Library. During these finals Northcliff High School took first prize! First runner up was Greenside High School. Second and third place went to Oceans Private School and De La Salle Holy Cross College High School. The programme will be expanded to all the regions' public high schools.

This reading development programme is also an attempt to address some of the challenges

brought on by the COVID 19 pandemic where libraries and schools have had to adapt and embrace technology for learning, reading development and information services in general. Digital transformation in libraries also challenges libraries to repackage traditional programmes or introduce new programme that involve the use of technology. The idea is to not only engage learners in a reading activity using technology, but also introduce them to Mobile Literacy (how to use their smart devices productively to find books and to even write stories later) and how to navigate digital platforms to find reading material.

JEFF NYOKA
E-LEARNING MANAGER
CITY OF JOHANNESBURG LIS

technical skills. Libraries in regions are encouraged to organise digital literacy programmes or activities that will result in library users gaining new, or improving on, existing digital skills, either through resource sharing, or through collaborations with external partners such as NGO's and companies that can train communities, or they can come up with their own innovative ways of helping communities learn new digital skills.

Some of the CoJ libraries that have organised digital literacy programmes include Eldorado Park Library that invited women to learn basic computer skills at their eLearning classroom. These unemployed women are introduced to Microsoft Office packages and parts of the



Randburg librarian Njabulo Mdunge

computer. Randburg Library also works with youth introducing them to photography and using photos for digital content; they also offer computer lessons focused on hardware. Noordgesig Library regularly organises groups of children to introduce them to tablets, where they learn how to download educational apps, how



Using tablets @ Noordgesig Library

to find e-books, and engaging them in interactive reading games using apps. Sandton Library eLearning classroom continues to provide space and a few laptops for the users to access online courses and other digital content as part of lifelong learning.

These activities contribute to bridging the digital divide and



assisting communities who do not have access to ICT tools. It is envisioned that in a year's time, most Johannesburg libraries would have engaged their library users in some form of digital literacy activity where they gain or improve digital skills.

JEFF NYOKA

Resource Sharing Project – Mitchell’s Plain Town Centre Library

Attention all you Mitchells Plain library users! Town Centre Library’s music collection has recently been refreshed with more than 300 additional compact discs.

What’s more, the CDs are now arranged in helpful categories and displayed in colourful user-friendly trays. Remember, public libraries in Cape Town are a free service and, therefore, you are encouraged to come in to Town Centre Library to explore these wonderful resources free of charge!

For many years, Town Centre Library has provided residents in the Mitchells Plain area with free music services, however, today’s library users need and want more from the libraries they visit. Even though budgets are small during these challenging times, public libraries everywhere must still find new ways to provide a wide range of different types of materials and continually upgrade services.

With this in mind, the Cape Town Library Service has designed



Library staff members with the CDs at Town Centre Library: Hadjira Sydow, Luke Townsend, Babalwa Nqiwa & Rachel Kepkey

resource-sharing projects to relocate CDs in order to create so-called “music hubs” and to strengthen collections in regions where music services may be lacking. At the end of 2021, Langa Library received 400 CDs from the Central Library, Cape Town, and now, a further 320 CDs have been transported to Mitchells Plain,

thus bringing more beautiful music to people in the vicinity.

The next time you visit Town Centre Library, you will find over 1500 CDs that have been attractively arranged into visible categories. Genres of music that are available include jazz and blues, reggae and African music, Latin & World music, as well as,

rock, pop and classical music. Town Centre Library is just waiting for you to start exploring the world through music.

As Babalwa Nqiwa, Principal Librarian at Town Centre Library says, “In sync with the times, the library service has evolved from a traditional one to a makerspace environment where people connect with information and spaces. To this effect, Town Centre Library has provided a tranquil space where patrons can listen to CDs of their choice while browsing. This gives them an opportunity to explore the collection and enrich their music knowledge. Town Centre staff are delighted to say, the Music Hub is ready for you, our most valued patron!”

You do not need a visa when you travel through music – all you need is to use Town Centre Library!

LUKE TOWNSEND
PROFESSIONAL OFFICER: MUSIC SERVICES
CCT LIS



FABRIC PAINTING @ WYNBERG LIBRARY

Building on the impact of partnerships and volunteers resulted in the commencement of what started as a craft club and evolved into a vibrant and dynamic Fabric Painting Club.

Wynberg Library has talented and artistic people as a part of its community. We started the club in 2018 when we collaborated with one of our long-standing patrons, Mrs Hajiera Enous, who voluntarily dedicated her time every Wednesday, sharing her knowledge of crafts selflessly with the community.

The aim of these classes was to empower the attendees with skills that they could use to create something beautiful. The idea was that the participants could learn lifelong skills by painting

handmade items, with the potential of selling them, thus starting their own business / home industry. The Friends of Wynberg Library generously supplied all the materials to make this vision possible.

Unfortunately, the classes came to a halt during lockdown, as Wynberg Library had space restrictions and no dedicated space for outreach programmes, but classes were recommenced this year with a bright and cheerful group of people of all ages. We were also fortunate enough to have an additional talented volunteer, Mrs Nazzima Kippie who added to the creation of even more beautiful items by the participants.

Demonstrations are given

where participants learn different techniques such as stencilling and shading on fabric using special fabric paints. This fabric is then sewn into different items such as bags, aprons, traycloths, pillowcases, tablecloths and runners. Participants who in the beginning thought that they would not be able to create anything, did, however, with time and patience, create articles that could easily be sold in any craft market.

We aim to make as many items as possible to exhibit during a planned Market Day at Wynberg library in December 2022

ANITA RAMJEE
LIBRARY ASSISTANT (PART-TIME)
WYNBERG LIBRARY

WRITERS’ WORKSHOP @ WYNBERG LIBRARY



Writing tips and tricks with authors @ the Writing Workshop



Cliffodene Norton, Marie Dry and Debbie Viviers

The University of Pretoria's (UP) Department of Library Services (DLS)



Boitumelo Masilo



Nomthandazo Dyantyi



Marriette Mapheto



Lesego Makhafola

The University of Pretoria's (UP) Department of Library Services (DLS) has appointed three new Information Specialists: **BOITUMELO MASILO** and **NOMTHANDAZO DYANTYI** in the Humanities Faculty Library and **MARRIETTE MAPHETO** in the EBIT Faculty Library.

Boitumelo holds a Master of Information Science degree, a Postgraduate Diploma in Library and Information Science, as well as a BA in Health Science and Social Services. Prior to joining the DLS, she served as an Information Librarian at Sol Plaatje University.

Marriette holds an Information Science Honours degree and a Postgraduate

Certificate in Higher Education. She previously worked for the Southern Business School now known as STADIO Higher Education as a Librarian and a part-time Lecturer before joining the DLS.

Nomthandazo holds a Library and Information Science Degree and served as a Librarian Information Literacy Trainer at Rhodes University prior to joining the DLS.

Also newly appointed is **LESEGO MAKHAFOLA** as the Senior Coordinator: Research Commons at the UP DLS. She previously served as an Information Specialist and holds a Master of Information Technology degree.

ELSABE OLIVIER PL(SA) UP DLS

The University of the Western Cape



JANUSZ SKARZYNSKI was appointed as the Faculty Librarian of Arts at the University of the Western Cape Library. He started working in Cape Town public libraries in 1997 while completing

his B.Admin. After working his way up the ranks, he took the plunge and enrolled in the PGDipLIS course at UCT. That experience inspired him to undertake research projects in Cape Town's public libraries which gave him the opportunity to present at local and international conferences, and a chance to work on collaborative projects, like the Poverty and Inequality Initiative and the Mistr Urban Futures. He ultimately completed his MPhil (Research) at UCT. At the same time, he had taken over the running of Fish Hoek Public Library and launched the only public library hosted book festival in South Africa. In 2019 he was offered the opportunity to work with an NGO to establish a community library in an informal settlement. Here he could apply the principles of community engagement and collaboration to establish a library that quickly became a cornerstone of the community. In his spare time, when not working on his MG, he mentors students and high school learners, runs grade 12 classes for adults and assist with feeding programmes in two communities.

ERROL SOLOMON, UWC LIBRARY

City of Johannesburg Library and Information Services



KGOORI AUBREY MAKGAHLELA has joined City of Johannesburg Library and Information Services as a Manager: Cataloguing at the Bibliographic and Distribution

Services. He was previously Assistant Director: Technical Services at Northwest Provincial Library (Mmabatho). He has vast experience in cataloguing and classification having previously worked as Principal Librarian at Northwest Provincial Library and Mogale City Local Municipality as a cataloguer.

MARYNA MOOLMAN, COJ LIS

Snippets/Other



INGRID THOMSON PL(SA) has been elected to the Wikimedia ZA Board for the 2022/2023 term of office. Wikimedia ZA (South Africa) is a non-profit membership driven organisation that

exists to support and represent Wikimedia project volunteer editors and open knowledge advocates. Wikimedia ZA is the South African chapter of the global Wikimedia movement, and officially recognised as such by the Wikimedia Foundation.



On behalf of the Sabinet Board of Directors, Management, and Staff, we would like to thank Prof **MARIA FRAHM-ARP**, Executive Director of the Library and Information Centre,

University of Johannesburg, for having served on the Sabinet Board for four years and for her wisdom, engagement, and commitment to the organisation. We are pleased to announce that Ms **UJALA SATGOOR PL(SA)**, Executive Director: Libraries at the University



FATIMA DARRIS PL(SA) is appointed to the Management and Governance Sub-committee of the Executive Board of the Digital Preservation Coalition, from March 2022. The Digital Preservation

Coalition exists to secure our digital legacy by enabling members to deliver resilient long-term access to digital content and services, through advocacy, community engagement, workforce development, capacity-building, good practice, and good governance. The Management and Governance sub-committee ensures that the Digital Preservation Coalition is a sustainable, competent organisation focussed on member needs.



of Cape Town, has been elected to the Sabinet Board of Directors. We are excited to have her join the Sabinet Board and she brings extensive industry expertise and perspectives to the company to further our vision.

JEANINE LIEBENBERG, SABINET



Stellenbosch University's Library and Information Service would like to congratulate **ZISIWE MNOTHOZA**, Assistant Librarian: Acquisitions Division, on finishing her fourth Comrades Marathon. Zisi, as she is affectionately known, started running the Comrades Marathon in 2017 where she finished well within the cut-off time in 10 hours 21 minutes. Since then, her times have improved with her best being in 2022 when she finished in 9 hours 18 minutes. The Library is very proud of Zisi's achievement and hope it will serve as an inspiration to others.

SIVIWE BANGANI PL(SA), US LIBRARIES



SUSAN MARSH

Faculty Library Manager: Veterinary Science is retiring after over 40 years of service. Her journey with the DLS started as a graduate in the Merensky Library's Cataloguing and Classification department in 1981. She then fulfilled various roles within the DLS and was appointed as the Faculty Library Manager in 2009.



DIANA GERRITSEN

Management Assistant, retired in early September. She has been with the DLS since 1995 and worked with three DLS Directors during her tenure. She has represented the Department well and provided excellent leadership.



MAGGIE MOROPANE

Information Specialist, has retired after 15 years of service. Her journey with the DLS started as a part-time library assistant at Merensky in 1994 and she was appointed permanently in 2007 as an Information Specialist at the Groenloof library.



ALETT NELL

joined the DLS in 2005. In 2009 she was permanently appointed to the Humanities Faculty Library as an Information Specialist. We wish them all the best for their retirement and thank them for their contribution to the DLS.

ELSABE OLIVIER PL(SA) UP DLS.



ERIKA VAN STADEN

Bids farewell to City of Cape Town LIS

When I started my career in libraries, I could never have imagined the journey I have been on for the last 46 years. I started out as a second-year librarian student at the Germiston Carnegie Public library, moved around the country and eventually ended up being the senior librarian at the Strand Library. I have also been able to contribute my knowledge, experience and energy to libraries such as Benoni Public library, the Transport Services Special Library, Johannesburg University Library, Lephahale Public Library and the Phalaborwa Public Library.

Public libraries have evolved throughout the years but the diversity and challenges it poses have remained the same. In essence, public libraries still have to fulfil recreational, educational, cultural and informational roles in the community. Electronic developments such as E-books, PressReader, Talking Books, DVDs, CDs, etc. have all made a positive difference to the services we offer, however, human contact and professional, excellent, friendly, knowledgeable, comprehensive service to the public has remained the same.

To my colleagues, I want to thank you all for enriching my life and my career. I wish you well and keep up the good work we are doing in the City of Cape Town libraries. I will miss the staff, the public and the challenging library environment, but this is only goodbye and not farewell.



LIASA/SCECSAL 2022 Gala night!



Fashionable delegates



Frouwien Bosman, Nazeem (LIASA) and Zephne Ladbrook of the Otto Foundation



Live entertainment on Gala night!



The National Library of South Africa (NLSA) @ LIASA/SCECSAL 2022



Going traditional on Gala night!



The National Council for Library and Information Services (NCLIS) @ LIASA/SCECSAL 2022

CELEBRATING THE GUARDIANS OF INFORMATION LITERACY

As a recognised leader in the South African Library and Information Services sector, Sabinet proudly supports both LIASA and the librarians who are embracing their role as significant leaders in a post-truth world.

The **LIASA-Sabinet Influential Library Leader Award** recognises exceptional leaders in the LIS profession who inspire and build leadership in others.

Congratulations

LIASA-Sabinet Influential Library Leader 2022

Keitumetse Betsy Eister, Library Director at the Central University of Technology in Bloemfontein is recognised for her contribution to advancing librarians and librarianship. She has fostered growth within her team, encouraged colleagues to succeed, is inspired by developing leaders, and finds fulfilment in the successes of those she has mentored.

Congratulations to all the other nominees.

You are all inspiring leaders and have shown great passion for LIS leadership.



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