

The logo for LIASA, featuring the letters 'LIASA' in a stylized, outlined font. A small yellow and orange circular emblem is positioned above the letter 'I'.

LIASA

A stylized white owl logo with closed eyes, positioned above the main text.

LIBRARIES

FOSTER SOCIAL COHESION

South African Library Week | 18-24 MARCH 2024

The Library and Information Association of South Africa (LIASA), in partnership with the Department of Sport, Arts and Culture is celebrating South African Library Week (SALW) with the theme Libraries Foster Social Cohesion from 18 – 24 March 2024.

The week will be launched at the South African Library for the Blind in Makhanda in the Eastern Cape on Friday, 15 March 2024.

The theme underscores the crucial role libraries play in uniting communities as they serve as hubs where people from diverse backgrounds can come together to exchange ideas, and to learn and engage in cultural and intellectual activities.

By providing access to information, technology, resources and programmes, libraries broaden horizons, connect individuals, and foster a shared sense of purpose and identity. They also provide safe spaces for marginalized communities to address social and development issues, share experiences and thus promote social cohesion.

The Department of Sport, Arts and Culture defines social cohesion as “the degree of social integration and inclusion in communities and society at large, and the extent to which mutual solidarity finds expression itself among individuals and communities”.

Libraries as community institutions are central to achieving this ideal.

As part of the celebration of South African Library Week everyone is encouraged to visit libraries and learn about how Libraries stimulate social cohesion by fostering inclusivity.

They tailor their services to meet community needs, promote lifelong learning and support literacy development. Libraries play a critical role in fostering social cohesion through supporting initiatives and programmes that seek to assist in meeting the sustainable development goals, and in this way address global and national developmental challenges. They provide access to information and contribute to addressing socio economic disparities, climate justice and environmental awareness, among others. Libraries actively contribute to nurturing social cohesion by offering educational programmes that strengthen the social fabric of communities.

Through these programmes, libraries promote an understanding of diverse cultures, histories, local history, and traditions; encourage tolerance, and enhance literacy skills which are all essential for social cohesion. Libraries bridge the digital divide through providing access to information and communication technologies and engaging communities through social media and online platforms.

They empower individuals and communities by building inter-connected and inclusive society.

SALW24 LAUNCH

Library and Information Association of South Africa



Friday , 15 March 2024

South African Library Week 2024

Programme Director: Ms L Ntaka, LIASA PRO

- 08:00-08:30
Briefing Session
- 08:30 -09:30
Library Tour & Walk
- 09:30 - 10:00
Guests signing in, including online via Zoom
- 10:00 - 10:05
Welcome and Opening Remarks
Ms L. Ntaka
- 10:05 - 10:10
National Anthem
- 10:10 - 10:20
Welcoming
Makana Mayor Ms. Y. Vara
- 10:20 - 10:30
Choir – Victoria Girls High School
- 10:30 – 10:55
Purpose of the day
Mr N. Hardy, LIASA President
- 10:55 – 11:10
Visual Impaired Awareness
Mr L. Soxunjwa
- 11:10 - 11:30
Fikizolo Primary Traditional Group
- 11:30 - 11:45
Message of Support
Mr X Yekani, SALB Board Chair
- 11:45 – 11:50
Poet - **Ibanathi Makhasi AKA Dlakuthi (Learner)**
- 11:50 – 12:00
Message of Support
Mr K. Madumo, CEO and National Librarian
- 12:00- 12:05
Choir Victoria Girls High
- 12:05 – 12:30
Ms N. Mafu, Deputy Minister of Sport, Arts and Culture (TBC)
- 12:30 – 12:35
Vote of thanks and closing
Ms M. Senyolo, LIASA Secretary





sport, arts & culture

Department:
Sport, Arts and Culture
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

LIASA



SOUTH AFRICAN
LIBRARY FOR THE BLIND



EBSCO

Sabinet

Facilitating *access* to information