



**Office of the LIASA President**

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**23 April – WORLD BOOK AND COPYRIGHT DAY – LIASA support for the UNESCO initiative**

**Background**

**23 April** is a symbolic date for world literature. It is on this date in 1616 that Cervantes, Shakespeare and Inca Garcilaso de la Vega all died. It is also the date of birth or death of other prominent authors such as Maurice Druon, Haldor K.Laxness, Vladimir Nabokov, Josep Pla and Manuel Mejía Vallejo. Therefore it was a natural choice that this date would be used by UNESCO for the World Book and Copyright Day on which to pay a world-wide tribute to books and authors, to encourage everyone, in particular young people, to discover the pleasure of reading and to gain a renewed respect for the irreplaceable contributions of those who have furthered the social and cultural progress of humanity. Since its launch has shown itself to be a great opportunity for reflection and information on a significant theme and, ties in with the LIASA stance on collaboration and partnerships to advance development. At this time, UNESCO together with role players in the book industry that include libraries, publishers and booksellers select the World Book Capital which will continue to promote the purposes of this day.

*LIASA is in full support of the South African Copyright Amendment Bill and notwithstanding the known challenges with aspects thereof, calls on the President to sign this Bill without further delay. LIASA is committed to all fairness and asserts the right of all affected parties, thereby urging them to work together to find appropriate and satisfactory solutions when Draft Regulations to the Bill are published in due course.*

**Books: A Window into the World During COVID-19**

Now more than ever, at a time when globally most schools are closed and people are having to limit time spent out of their homes, the power of books can be leveraged to mitigate the isolation that is needed, to reinforce ties between people, and to expand our horizons, while stimulating our minds and creativity.

During the month of April especially but also all year round, it is critical to take the time to read on your own or with your children as ways to relax and to strengthen concentration. It is a time to celebrate the importance of reading, to foster children's growth as readers, and to promote a lifelong love of literature and integration into the world of work.

**Celebrating World Book and Copyright Day**

Through reading and by celebrating World Book and Copyright Day, we collapse space and time and connect with people even while being physically distant. We can travel thanks to imagination. Since the start of April, UNESCO has been sharing quotes, poems and messages to symbolize the power of books and encourage reading as much as possible. By creating a sense of community through the shared readings and the shared knowledge, readers around the world can connect and mutually help curb loneliness.

We invite students, teachers, and readers from around the world, as well as the whole book industry and library services, to testify and express their love for reading. We encourage you to share this positive message with others through #StayAtHome and #WorldBookDay.

**Executive Committee Members:**

Ms N Crowster (President), Mr N Hardy (President-Elect),  
Ms S Welman, Ms R Senyolo, Mr S Mokhabukhi, Mr T Morajane,  
Ms L Ntaka, Mr W van der Walt

LIASA is a SAQA recognised Professional Body  
in accordance with the NQF Act 67 of 2008  
Professional Body Number 920





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The more people we can reach, the more people may be helped.

**Key Documents - <https://en.unesco.org/commemorations/worldbookday>**

- [UNESCO resolution \(28th session of the General Conference of UNESCO\): Proclamation of World Book and Copyright Day \(Paris, 25 October -16 November 1995\)](#)
- [Universal Copyright Convention](#)

See the South African Government's statement at <https://www.gov.za/WorldBookandCopyrightDay2020>

Nikki Crowster

LIASA President 2018 - 2020

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