

African Library and Information Associations and Institutions (AFLIA)



Connecting Africa's Libraries and Information communities
website: www.aflia.net

Formation and Background

- In May, 2011, a presentation was made at the 1st African Library Summit held in Muldersdrift, South Africa, by Dr. Helena Asamoah-Hassan. (Mbambo-Thata et al :The new African librarian- Perspectives from the continent. 2011, pp.34-35).
- The presentation among other things tuned the minds of participants towards the formation of a Continent-wide African Library Association which will provide a platform to discuss issues and further the cause of the library and information sector in Africa.
- The IFLA Africa Section was tasked to set up an Exploratory Committee and mandated to report back its findings to them.



Background ...

- The Exploratory Committee recommended the formation of the African Library and Information Associations and Institutions (AfLIA) which was accepted by the IFLA Africa Section.
- An Interim Committee was selected at the Mid Term Meeting of the IFLA Africa Section in February, 2013 in Abuja, Nigeria to manage the affairs of AfLIA for two years.
- AfLIA was formally launched on Friday, 5 July, 2013 during the 2nd African Library Summit hosted by the University of South Africa (UNISA) in Pretoria, South Africa.



Background

- A General meeting of members was held at the 3rd African Library Summit and 1st AfLIA Conference in Accra, Ghana on 2nd June 2015.
- The draft Constitution was amended and approved by members and a newly elected Governing Council took office till May 2017 when there will be another election.
- AfLIA is managed under the general guidelines of the Constitution and its Bye-Laws.



The Governing Structure...

- The governing body of the Association is the Council.
- It has the power to act on behalf of the Association, in all matters except those reserved in the constitution for members at an Annual or Special General Meeting.
- AfLIA has a Secretariat based in Accra, Ghana with an Executive Director, 2 permanent and 2 part- time staff.
- In addition, there are Committees and Sections of the Association as provided in the Bye -laws.



The Governing Structure...

The Governing Council is made up of...

- President
- Vice President
- Immediate Past President
- Executive Director
- One elected representative from each of the regions / language groups of the African continent
 - 1. Central Africa
 - 2. East Africa
 - 3. North Africa
 - 4. Southern Africa
 - 5. West Africa

Recognition and Respect for Linguistic diversity in Africa

- **1. French Speaking West Africa**
- **2. Portuguese Speaking Africa**



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The Governing Structure

The Governing Council is made up of

- Chairpersons of the various sections of AfLIA as follows:
 - Academic Libraries
 - Library and Information Education / Training Institutions
 - National Library Consortia
 - National Libraries
 - National Library Associations
 - Public /Community Libraries
 - School libraries
 - Library Institutions in the Diaspora



Who We Are

- AfLIA is an independent international not-for-profit organization.
- It was established in 2013 and registered as an international non-governmental Organisation (NGO) in Accra, Ghana, West Africa in October 2014.
- AfLIA pursues the interests of :
 - Library and Information Associations,
 - Library and Information Services,
 - Librarians and Information Workers and the communities they serve in Africa.



Vision, Mission and Core Values

Vision

- The trusted voice of the African library and information community in Africa's development.

Mission

- To empower the library and information community to actively promote the African Development Agenda through dynamic services that transform livelihoods.



Core Values

1. -Integrity
2. -Transparency
3. -Accountability
4. -Innovation
5. Creativity
6. -Customer focused
7. - Access to Information as a Human Right

Objectives

Key Strategic Objectives (KSO) are the following:

- To support the library and information profession that anticipates and responds to the needs of communities in Africa.
- Put the library and information profession on the national and continental agendas.
- To drive high standards in library and information services and professional practices.
- To Promote libraries especially public libraries and information centres as vital institutions that enhance people's lives through equitable access to knowledge, information and innovative services.
- Embrace the principles of freedom of access to information... enshrined in the Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and Article 9 of the African Charter of People's Rights.



What AfLIA Does...

- **Advocacy:**

Advocate for favourable library policies to be included in National Development Policies

- **Partnership:**

AfLIA currently has the following partners and in the process of forging new ones:

- Global Libraries of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF)
- International Network for the Availability of Scientific Publications (INASP)
- Electronic Information for Libraries Network (EIFL)
- Goethe Institute Regional Office in South Africa



What AfLIA Does

- **Capacity Building**

- **Conferences**

- AfLIA Conference – every 2 years, next one in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia in May 2017 [Hopefully in collaboration with the African Union (AU) and the United Nations – Economic Commission for Africa (UN-ECA)]

- Public Library Summit – every 2 years, last one was held in Swaziland in at April 2016 after the occasion of the SCECSAL Conference

- **Pre-conferences**

- different workshops for different library groups to strengthen their skills and to develop future leaders in the LIS profession



What AfLIA Does

- **Training workshops continued**
 - e.g. **INELI- Sub-Saharan Africa (INELI-SSAf)**
 - First Convening took place in Entebbe, Uganda in July 2016
 - Moodle Platform created and innovators working on online courses
 - 32 innovators from fourteen Countries with 8 Mentors all from Africa
 - 2 more convening and 1st Cohort ends in 2018
 - Look out for announcement for 2nd Cohort
- **Publications**
 - Quarterly e- newsletters
 - e- conference proceedings on website
- **Topical issues of library interest on website**



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Why a Continental Lib. Ass. for Africa?

- Need for a single voice in Africa to pursue the interests of library and information associations, library and information services, librarians and information workers and the communities they serve in Africa
- Library advocacy by Africans to Africans in the right places
- Managing our library development affairs ourselves since we know how to do it better.



Why a Continental Library Association for Africa?

- Collaboration with National and Public libraries and National Library Associations to put innovative public library services on their Agenda.
- Collaboration with the several foreign players in library development on the continent to speak with each other.
- Developing more library leaders for today and tomorrow.

Currently playing the leading role in assisting libraries in Africa to realise the demands of the UN 2030 and AU 2063 Agenda, Cape Town African Ministers Declaration and IFLA IAP



Who We Work With

AfLIA works with the following:

- Libraries and National Library Associations in Africa
- Governments and Government Agencies responsible for Libraries in Africa
- African Regional and Economic Bodies and African Union (AU) and United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA)
- Global Partners and related organisations



Membership...

- AfLIA is a membership driven Organisation.
- Membership is open to all Libraries , Library Associations and Library related organisations / institutions in Africa.
- There are no individual memberships.
- Membership of AfLIA is by subscription which is due on 1st January of each year.
- Membership Fee is determined by the Governing Council and paid annually by categories of members, which may be subject to revision at any General Meeting of members of AfLIA.



Membership

- The Secretariat notifies a member when subscription is due for renewal.
- A member who is 12 months or more in arrears of fees is automatically suspended from membership and has no voting rights until reinstated by the Council.
- Reinstatement shall be at the discretion of the Council, upon payment of all arrears .
- For membership, please send a mail to membership@aflia.net OR download the membership Form on the AfLIA website, complete all sections of the Form, scan and send to membership@aflia.net



Conclusion

- AfLIA is the voice of Libraries and the Information Profession in Africa.
- AfLIA serves as a platform to discuss issues and further the cause of the library and information services (LIS) sector in Africa.
- AfLIA is a membership driven organisation so
- **Please become a member TODAY !!**



AfLIA !!! created in Africa by Africans and for Africans



References

- The new African librarian - Perspectives from the continent. Selected papers from the African Library Summit, Muldersdrift, 11-13 May 2011. Edited by Buhle Mbambo-Thata, Jenny Raubenheimer and Gerhard van der Linde. pp.34-35