

Newsletter of the Standing Committee of the IFLA Africa Section

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2015 Standing Committee (SC) nominations and elections



The result of the recent Standing Committee of IFLA Africa Section. The following elected Officers will serve from 2015-2019.

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IFLA World Library and Information Congress

81st IFLA General Conference and Assembly

15-21 August 2015, Cape Town, South Africa



We are large counting few weeks to welcome you in Cape Town, South Africa, for the long awaited IFLA World Library and Information Congress from the 15- 21 August 2015. The convergence of the world Librarians and Information workers, in South Africa, is a significant occurrence, hence the National Committee and the IFLA conference team have worked tirelessly to ensure that you have a rewarding and enjoyable conference in the “Mother City”. The full conference programmer including speakers and presentations is available at the IFLA website <http://conference.ifla.org/ifla81/>

Ujala Satgoor
NC Chairperson
LIAS past President

Segametsi Molawa
NC Chairperson
LIASA President

IFLA AFRICA FOCUS AT WLIC 2015

No.	Event	Session No.	Date and Time	Venue
1.	IFLA Africa SCI	061	16 th August 8:00 – 10:100	Foyer Auditorium 1 (Basement)
2.	IFLA Africa Poster Session • Poster No = 127	Session 1: 094	17 th August 12:00 – 14:00 Day 1	Exhibition Halls 3 and 4
	• Poster Theme: Access to Information and Development	Session 2: 131	18 th August 12:00 – 14:00 Day 2	Exhibition Halls 3 and 4
3.	Africa Census	127a	18 th August 11:45 – 12:45	Auditorium 1
4.	IFLA Africa SCII	175	19 th August 11:30 – 13:00	Room 1.61/1.62
5.	IFLA Africa Open Forum Them: Access to legal Information and Legislative data in Africa: The Role of Libraries and Librarians	114	18 th August 9:30 – 11:30	Auditorium 1
6.	ATINA – Mind the Gap! Bridging Access to Information and Knowledge Gaps in	Session 138	18 th August 13:45 – 15:45	Auditorium 1

Preservation and Conservation workshop in Kenya

The National Library of South Africa (Preservation Services) in partnership with the PAC Centre for English-speaking Africa of the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA) and the Mount Kenya University (Kakamega Campus) presented a two day Preservation and Conservation workshop for participants from Anglophone countries in Africa. The workshop was held in Kenya from 3-4 February 2015 at the Kenya National Library Service in Nakuru. Topics included disaster planning and recovery, integrated pest management, de-acidification treatment, climate control and preservation policy development. A practical demonstration was done of building a wind tunnel for the drying of wet books when damaged during flooding. The strategic directions for the IFLA Preservation and Conservation Strategic Programme for 2015-2017 were discussed. The workshop was attended by senior staff and decision makers from academic, national and public libraries and archives in Mombasa, Nairobi, Nakuru, Pretoria and Johannesburg.



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UNISA and the IFLA Regional Office for Africa host 8th Annual Public Lecture on African Librarianship in the 21st century



'Africa needs more Library associations for progress and excellence' – This is the sentiment echoed by recently retired South African National Librarian

Mr John Tsebe when he delivered his lecture in the series 'African Librarianship in the 21st century' at Unisa in May. The lecture also reflected on the need for African unity during the commemoration of Africa Liberation day on May 25th 2015. "Africa depends on its library and information professionals for further growth," he added.

Tsebe highlighted the need for more collaboration between African libraries to develop, and added that more work is required in each country to raise the standards of libraries on the continent. He was speaking days before the inauguration of the African Library Association (AfLIA) held in Accra, Ghana recently. AfLIA is a direct result from the African Library Summit, a Unisa Library initiative that saw over 250 African and international library leaders gather to share ideas, first hosted in 2011 and again in 2013 – in order to address issues affecting African librarianship in the 21st century, as well as to create sustained networks among peers – under the visionary leadership of Unisa Library Executive Director Dr Buhle Mbambo-Thata, who gave the welcome address at the Public Lecture.



In his response to the lecture, Prof Stephen Mutula, Dean and HOS Social Sciences at UKZN, highlighted the importance of initiatives that will produce a generation of highly skilled professionals in the LIS sector.

The UNISA/IFLA Regional Office for Africa Public Lecture series seeks to address the broader issue of *African Librarianship* in the global context. Initiated in 2008, the Public Lecture Series seeks to provide a platform for eminent African Librarians to deliver lectures on a range of issue on African and International Librarianship.

“The Public lecture provides the library and information community an opportunity to engage with librarianship from an African perspective, stated the IFLA Regional Office for Africa manager and event organizer MS Lindi Nhlapo.

All previous lectures are posted on the Unisa Institutional Repository:

<http://uir.unisa.ac.za/handle/10500/3338>



UZ Libraries Embrace Assistive Technologies to Enhance Library Services for Users with Special Needs

In November 2010, the University of Zimbabwe (UZ) Libraries responded to a proposal for the use of Free Open Source Software (FOSS) disability tools presented by Electronic Information for Libraries (EIFL). After being given the mandate to pilot the Disability Tools Project from February to September 2011, the Library identified the FOSS tools that would best meet the needs of students with visual disabilities. The tools were installed on computers in the Main Library and Disability Resource Centre (DRC) Computer Laboratory as well as on students' laptops. A partnership between the Main Library and DRC was therefore formed so as to effectively reach out to students and to provide training.

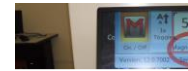
Following the installation of the FOSS tools and the training of the users, the Library embarked on a marketing drive of the tools and in the process it was realised that this initiative was not good enough for the totally blind users as they still relied more on other students to assist them.

As the Library continued to make efforts for the provision of equal access to all users including those with special needs, more effective solutions were identified and acquired. This led to the establishment of the Special Needs Corner in the Main Library. This facility provides space, computers and a windows screen reader -Job Access with Speech (JAWS). JAWS is a windows screen reader developed for computer users whose vision loss prevents them from seeing screen content or navigating with a mouse. It provides speech and Braille output for the most popular computer applications on a PC.

Further partnership with a local bank, Commercial Bank of Zimbabwe (CBZ) Holdings Limited, resulted in the acquisition of an assortment of more assistive technology devices, and ultimately, the setting up of the DRC Library as a branch that provides customized services for users with special needs. The following assistive devices and equipment are now accessible in the Main and DRC Libraries.

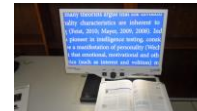
- **MAGic Screen Magnification Software:**

It increases the size of text images on a monitor to allow low vision Persons to access and use computers.



- **Merlin Ultra Desktop Magnifier:**

Designed for individuals with low vision to improve text and Colour images.



- **Ruby Handheld Electronic Magnifier:**

This is a portable magnifying device that provides Powerful on-the-go magnification to enable low vision persons To read text and view images.



- **Open Book and Portable Pearl Reading Camera:**

The PEARL combined with Open Book brings blind and Low vision user's instant portable access to printed material with an array of human-sounding voices.



- **Book Sense/Recorder:**

A portable digital audio device which can play digital books, audio files, text files, DAISY content and MP3. The device can be used to record various items in MP3, such as lectures, or music from the FM radio.



- **Braille equipment:** The equipment includes an Index Braille Box, Braille Embosser and Braille Stapler. This equipment can work in Conjunction with Open Book and Pearl Reading Camera to convert printed material to Braille.



- **Talking Scientific Calculator:** This is for use by blind persons in their statistics and other mathematical-related courses.



Users with special needs in the UZ Libraries have found the assistive devices quite useful as they can now independently access Library information resources. Through training, blind students are now able to use JAWS to do online research. The PEARL Camera combined with OpenBook is also enabling blind students to convert print text to accessible formats such as audio and braille.



Figure 1: In the DRC Library, blind students receive training on accessing Library e-resources using JAWS



Figure 2: A blind student uses PEARL Camera and Open Book to convert print text to audio

The UZ Libraries will continue to make efforts to identify and mobilize resources to acquire more assistive technologies as it seeks to empower users with special needs to access information and knowledge.

UZ Library: Centre of Pride and Excellence

Please note we can give you a link with testimonials from students

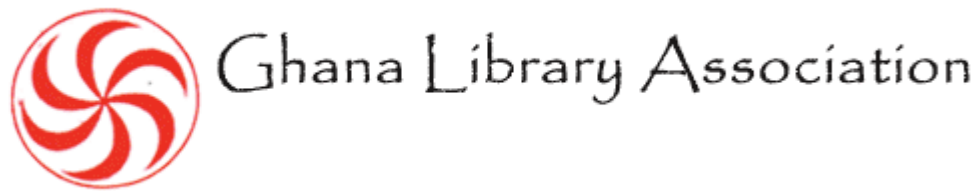


Recognition of LIASA as a Registered Professional Body

“It gives me great pleasure to share the wonderful news we received from the SAQA Directorate: Registration and Recognition confirming the approval by the SAQA Board, as per the requirements of the NQF Act, Act 67 of 2008, the recognition of LIASA as a professional body and the registration of the professional designation, Professional Librarian . We will be applying for the second designation applicable to LIS support staff. “ Segametsi Molawa

In December 2014 the South African Qualifications Authority (SAQA) approved the recognition of The Library and Information Association of South Africa (LIASA) as a professional body as well as the registration of the professional designation, Professional Librarian. The recognition was awarded as per the requirements of the NQF Act, Act 67 of 2008. The recognition will allow LIASA to:

- Set and ensure standards for professional practice:
 - Professional Librarian
 - LIS related qualifications
- Award designation based on proven competencies
 - Develop
 - Award
 - Monitor
 - Revoke
- Maintain a list of members in a form acceptable to SAQA
- Manage CPD of practitioners
 - Promote CPD
 - Monitor CPD



Reading Projects

The Ghana Library Association (GLA) continues to expand on its Flagship Reading Project initiated in 2013 in the Greater Accra Region of Ghana. The purpose is to improve the reading habits of pupils in public basic schools through reading clinics, reading clubs, debating clubs etc. The Association has teamed up with teachers of the schools to achieve this purpose.

This year, some GLA members in the Northern and Upper East Regions have given the Project a boost by adopting schools and periodically visit them when calls for visits are advertised.

So far, two such visits have taken place in the Greater Accra, Northern and Upper East Regions. The visits:

On 13th February 2015, some volunteers visited La Nkwantanang Cluster of Schools in Accra, SDA and Police Barracks Primary Schools in the Tamale Metro in the Northern region and the Wa Model Primary School in the Upper East Region of Ghana.

Please show pictures from Accra, Tamale and Upper East.

Accra Reading Clinic in Pictures



Reading in Session



Pupils reading aloud



Pupil answering questions

Tamale In Pictures





Reading Clinic in Pictures From Wa



Pupils reading



Pupils interacting with a Volunteer

On May 27th 2015: Volunteers from the Association organized a successful reading clinic at the Nawaria E/A Primary School at Nyankpala in the Tolon District of the Northern region in Ghana. Several teachers participated in the programmer.

Pictures of reading activities



FIGURE 1: VOLUNTEER READING TO PUPILS



FIGURE 2: PUPILS LISTENING AND WATCHING STORY TELLING



FIGURE 3: PUPILS ENJOYING THE STORY TELLING SESSION



FIGURE 2: PUPIL READING A STORY BOOK



Figure 6: Teachers and Volunteers listening to Pupil reading

Conferences / Workshops

First Maiden Webinar

The Association successfully organized its first maiden webinar on Advocacy on 14th April 2015. The facilitator was Dr. Helena Asamoah-Hassan (Executive Director- Africmatian Library & Information Associations & Institutions AfLIA). Thirty-five (35) members participated in the workshop.

The following international conferences were successfully organized in Ghana:

- ➔ The Fourth International Conference on Digital Libraries and Archives (ICADLA-4) was organized from the 28th – 29th May 2015 at the Institute of African Studies at the University of Ghana, Legon. The theme was ***“Strategic Framework and Action Roadmap for Africa’s Digital Libraries and Archives.”*** There were seventy (70) participants. There was a pre-conference workshop from 26th-27th May 2015 on the theme: Preservation and Digitization. The facilitator was Simon Tanner for Kings’ College London, UK. There were forty (40) participants. Excerpts of photos from the workshop can be seen at the Facilitator’s blog <http://simon-tanner.blogspot.co.uk/2015/06/digital-futures-workshop-2015-ghana.html>

The 3rd African library summit and first AfLIA Conference was organized from the 31st – 2nd June 2015 at the GIMPA Executive Conference Centre in Accra. It was on the theme ***“African Libraries Rising – leadership and innovation for Development”***. About 150 participants were at the conference.

Upcoming Events

The following workshops are due to take place in July 2015 for members of the Associations:

- A. Ethical use of information
- B. Running an academic institution library

Passing on of Some Colleagues of the Ghana Library Association

During the period, the Association lost three of its dedicated members and a ‘friend of the Library’. These are:

- ➔ Mr. Joseph Laryea Boye – Western Regional Librarian, Ghana Library Authority and Western Regional Representative of the GLA -10th December 2014
- ➔ Mr. Adu Daasebere – Assistant Librarian at the University for Development Studies, Tamale - 5th January 2015
- ➔ Professor Ebenezer Laing – “Friend of the Library” – Participated in most of our activities - Sunday, 19th April, 2015.
- ➔ Mr. Oscar Zando – Assistant Librarian , University for Development Studies 4th June, 2015



AFRICA-L

Africa Section mailing list:

The aim of the list is to facilitate communication with library community within the African continent. The objective of the Section amongst other things, seeks to promote and strengthen Library Associations, the Profession and Library/ Information Services in Africa; The Section seeks to create and maintain links with other Sections of IFLA, as well as related bodies/organizations for the benefit of the profession and services in Africa.

Messages intended for distribution to the list should be sent to: africa-l@infoserv.inist.fr

REGISTER @ [Web interface](#):
<http://infoserv.inist.fr/wwwsympa.fcgi/info/africa-l>

Note: AFRICA-L is a closed list (restricted to subscribers). Anyone interested in the goals and activities of Africa Section may apply to join.

ATINA-L

ATINA-L is the public discussion list for the ATINA SIG

The purpose of Access to Information Network - Africa is to aid, assess and promote free public access to government information and information about governments, as well as freedom of expression and democracy across the African continent, through Libraries and library professionals. The group will seek to achieve its objectives through sponsoring IFLA conference programs, through a public e-mail Discussion list for African library professionals, and through collaborative online work as well as action projects funded by development aid.

Messages intended for distribution to the list should be sent to: [Web interface](#) atina-l@infoserv.inist.fr

- Administrators: [Abraham Azubuike](#) and [Denise Nicholson](#)

Note: ATINA-L is a closed list (restricted to subscribers), but anyone interested in the goals and activities of ATINA may apply to join.

Submit an Article for Next Month's Newsletter

You are invited to submit articles to be featured In the [Africa Section Newsletter](#)

You may submit text in a language other than English. However, it will have to be accompanied by an English summary so that those who don't speak your language can get the gist of it. Pictures with caption are welcomed.

If you want to see what others have written so far, please go to [Africa Section Newsletter](#)

Please send your contributions to the Information

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