



ANNUAL REPORT: AUGUST 2007 TO OCTOBER 2008

1. INTRODUCTION

The past year was started on a very high note with the hosting of an extremely successful 10th Anniversary celebrations and more importantly the 73rd IFLA Conference between the 19th and 23rd August 2007.

These two activities were organized extremely professional and showcased the following:

- Organizational capability of LIASA and WLIC organizing committee
- The value and strength of our partnerships especially with the Department of Arts and Culture (DAC) under the leadership of Minister Pallo Jordan
- The wealth of our diverse cultures and beautiful landscapes
- The Intellectual capacity of our leaders eg Justice Albie Sachs, Minister Pallo Jordan etc

As part of the 10th anniversary celebrations the Representative Council decided to acknowledge 10 individuals and 10 partners for their contributions towards the building and development of LIASA and the LIS profession in South Africa.

| INDIVIDUALS | PARTNERS |
|----------------------|----------------------------------|
| Dr Pallo Jordan | National Library of South Africa |
| Prof Seth Manaka | Department of Arts and Culture |
| Dr Kay Raseroka | SABINET |
| Dr Peter Lor | SWETS |
| Ms Ellen Tise | EBSCO |
| Mr John Tsebe | Mortenson Centre |
| Mr Bob Wedgeworth | Carnegie Corporation of New York |
| Mr Rosh Shimmon | Mellon Foundation |
| Ms Clare Walker | Finnish Library Association |
| Ms Blyth Van Niekerk | Red Pepper |

The individuals received a trophy and Honourary membership certificate and our partners received a framed certificate of acknowledgement, all sponsored by Engen.

The focus for the year included:

- Continue building the organisation with emphasis on membership and the administration e.g. updating membership database
- Consolidation and improving services to members
- Enhancing partnerships and developing new ones where possible
- Capacity building through training and development of members at branch level
- Enhancement of communication with members

These focus areas resulted in the following activities:

- NATIONAL LAUNCH OF SA LIBRARY WEEK 2008, Kruger National Park
- IMPLEMENTATION OF LIASA / SABINET TRAINING
- CONFERENCE 2008 AT THE CAPE TOWN INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION CENTRE (CTICC)
- ELECTIONS OF NEW LEADERSHIP

- PARTICIPATION IN NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SERVICES (NCLIS)
- NATIONAL LIBRARY OF SOUTH AFRICA (NLSA)

This report gives an overview of activities of LIASA for the period August 2007 until October 2008

2. Representative Council & Executive Committee

| | | |
|---------------------------------|---|---|
| Tommy Matthee | President | Executive Committee |
| Rachel More | President Elect | Executive Committee |
| Karin Kitching | Treasurer | Executive Committee |
| Naomi Haasbroek | Secretary | Executive Committee |
| Ingrid Thomson | Public Relations Officer | Executive Committee |
| Dora Ackerman | Additional member – Branch and Interest Group Convenor | Executive Committee |
| Marina van Wyk | Additional member – Constitutional Committee | Executive Committee |
| Ujala Satgoor / Rebecca Senyolo | Additional member – CEPD | Executive Committee – resigned - Dec 2007 |
| Lucille Webster | Additional member – Membership Committee | Executive Committee |
| Amanda Viljoen | Chair: Mpumalanga | |
| Joshua Mokoena | 2 nd Rep. Mpumalanga | |
| Ingrid Henrici | Chair Northern Cape | |
| Thea Cloete | 2 nd Rep. Northern Cape | |
| Todani Dau | Chair: Limpopo Province | |
| Mihloti Mayevu | 2 nd Rep: Limpopo | |
| Fatima Darries | Chair: Western Cape | |
| Alvina Matthee | 2 nd Rep. Western Cape | |
| Koki Mokwatlo | Acting Chair: Eastern Cape | |
| Zuki Peter | 2 nd Rep. Eastern Cape | |
| Lucille Webster | Chair: KwaZulu/Natal | |
| Christine Dubbeld | 2 nd Rep. KwaZulu/Natal | |
| Dora Ackerman | Chair: Free State | |
| Elizabeth Francis | 2 nd Rep. Free State | |
| Ernest Bampoe | Chair: North West | |
| Vacant | 2 nd Rep. North West | |
| Busi Dlamini | Chair: Gauteng South | |
| Rebecca Senyolo | 2 nd Rep. Gauteng South | |
| Ujala Satgoor | Chair: Gauteng North | |
| Robert Moropa | 2 nd Rep. Gauteng North | |
| Marina van Wyk | Chair: Public & Community Libraries Interest Group | |
| Roselle Jansen van Rensburg | Chair: Inter Library Loan Interest Group | |
| Patrick Ngulube | Chair: Research, Education & Training Interest Group (including Students) | |
| Victor Ndaba | Chair: Higher Education Interest Group | |
| Zandile Gxwati | Chair: School & Youth Services Interest Group | |

| | | |
|-------------------------------|---|--|
| Myra Boyes | Chair: Special Libraries Interest Group | |
| Steve Nkuta / Laddy Mckechnie | Chair: Support Staff Interest Group | |
| Lindi Nhlapo | Chair: Acquisitions interest Group | |
| Madely du Preez | Chair: Bibliographic Standards Interest Group | |
| Lesiba Ledwaba | Chair: Libraries & Information Communications Technologies Interest Group | |

Ex –Officio:

Marie Roux

Dennis Ocholla

Acting Editor-in-Chief: LIASA-IN-TOUCH

Editor: SAJLIS

3. LIASA NATIONAL OFFICE (LNO)

The LNO is still hosted in the Unisa Building at 263 Skinner Street, Pretoria. The LIASA national office will shortly be hosted in the new National Library of South Africa (NLSA) building. The official opening of the new building was on 1 August 2008.

It is hoped that the LIASA national office would be able to relocate early in 2009. This is expected to encourage further good relationships with the NLSA as one of our main partners.

Staffing

The LIASA national office continued to play an important role in complimenting the elected leadership who are all volunteers, as well as executing the operations and decisions of the Representative Council and Executive committee. Mrs Ina van Straten has been promoted to Office Administrator until the end of the year and continues to perform the duties of the Membership Administrator, reporting to the National Secretary. A Library Science student has been working on a contract basis to assist the Office Administrator. This implies however that a number of vacancies exist in the national office, including that of Membership Administrator and Office Manager. These positions should be filled as soon as the financial situation of the association improves.

4. FINANCES

A detailed report of the LIASA finances is attached. A perusal hereof elicits issues of concern and it is vital that members support LIASA initiatives and contribute towards its financial sustainability, which is dependent upon membership, and profits from the annual conference and the sale of corporate products.

4.1 GRANTS

The operating costs of LIASA are mainly covered by membership fees but we were successful in securing financial support from our partners and donors which include:

4.1.1 HOSTING OF 73RD IFLA

- Department Arts and Culture – 2007 – R3,96 million towards the WLIC/IFLA Conference, including grants to support delegates
- Sabinet R500 000 – grants for WLIC/IFLA Conference
- National Research Foundation – R 400 000 – grants for WLIC/IFLA Conference
- Swets – grants for WLIC/IFLA Conference
- EbscoHost – grants for WLIC/IFLA Conference
- Libraries for Africa – grants for WLIC/IFLA Conference
- US Embassy - grants for WLIC/IFLA Conference

4.1.2 TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT

LIASA succeeded in obtaining the following grants:-

- Carnegie Corporation of New York - \$ 500,000 over three year period ending December 2007. We successfully negotiated for the grant to be extended to December 2009.
- Sabinet R500 000 for training in cataloguing, interlending and management

4.1.3 10TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS

- Sali Trust – R 20 000 to support production of DVD for 10th Anniversary celebrations
- Engen – R 50 000 for the Honourary Awards

4.1.4 National Lottery Development Trust Fund (NLDTF)

An application for funding (2007) to the amount of R642 000 was submitted to NLDTF to be used for:

- LIASA National Office
- LIASA - in - Touch
- SAJLIS
- Conference 2007

LIASA has received confirmation of a successful grant application, but the association, like many other organisations who applied, are still waiting for the transfer of the funds.

4.1.5. Department of Arts and Culture (DAC)

DAC continued to be a reliable partner and supported us as follows:

- WLIC/IFLA Conference 2007 supported with an amount of R3,8 million.
- South African Library Week was once again hosted under the theme "From local to global @ your library" with a generous support of R 50 000.
- LIASA Conference 2008 supported with an amount of R500 000 which has paid for international speakers, and grants to enable members to attend the conference.
- In addition to this the Minister, Dr Pallo Jordan, also started disbursing R 200 000 000 as part of the promised R 1 billion in 2007.

4.1.6 SABINET

Sabinet made a very generous donation of R500 000 towards training and professional development. Three types of workshops were identified for implementation i.e. Cataloguing, Interlending and Leadership & Management. The workshops of our various branches are used by LIASA to reach out to our members and assist in revitalising the branches.

So far 8 branches have successfully received the leadership and management training in 2008. A total of 240 delegates from Gauteng North, North-West, Kwa-Zulu Natal, Gauteng South, Northern Cape, Limpopo, Free State and Eastern Cape have been trained.

The Mpumalanga and Western Cape branches will receive their training early in 2009.

The interest groups training is also underway. Three workshops for Interlibrary Loan staff have been scheduled to 2008. The first workshop was conducted in Gauteng attended by 21 librarians. The second one was conducted a Pre-Conference at this conference, targeting delegates from Western Cape. The third workshop will be held in North-West. The other branches will receive their training during 2009.

- In addition to the above SABINET also continued to support the LIASA Librarian of the Year award which was awarded at the Gala Dinner to Dora Ackerman.

5. MEMBERSHIP MANAGEMENT AND RECRUITMENT

Currently (October 2008) our membership statistics reflect a total of 1399 paid up members. This is a decrease of approximately 5 percent between 2007 (1477) and 2008. The biggest challenge faced by LIASA is the retention of existing members. This phenomenon can be ascribed to various factors which include:

- Apathy
- The laborious process of renewing membership
- Lack of activity in certain branches and Interest Groups
- Inability to participate in LIASA activities due to lack of staff at centres where members work and thus it becomes "difficult" for members to pay membership knowing that they are unable to access all the benefits LIASA offers.

The abovementioned challenges seem to be common problems with a number of Library Associations throughout Africa and indeed the whole world. We however continue our efforts to overcome these and other challenges relating to membership.

6. COMMUNICATION / PR

Communications is critical to the sustainability and growth of the Association and we are constantly exploring technology to improve communications. We are now using SMS to contact members, especially for those who do not have access to email and internet. The advantage of using the SMS facility is that it is cheap and members can reply. The facility is available for branches and interest groups to use.

Several interest groups and some branches have set up blogs as another means of communication. For those who have Facebook (an internet social network), there is now a LIASA group. We are one of the few library associations in the world to have a presence on Facebook.

LIASAONLINE remains our main email communication, hosted by SABINET. However, the listserv will shortly be hosted by Octopus.

LIASA-in-Touch (LIT)

The LIT continues to prove itself as an effective and attractive medium of communication to and for our members. It has become the showcase for LIASA and for librarianship in South Africa, thanks to the sterling work of Nohra Moerat, the editor of LIT. Nohra resigned at the end of December 2007. Marie Roux was appointed acting editor and has been appointed editor of LIT for the period 2008 – 2010. I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge with much thanks, the contribution to acknowledge with much thanks, the contribution of graphic designer Mudhni Grimwood, who has made enormous contributions to the design and quality of the publication. He was worked very closely with both Nohra and Marie.

Members are urged to contribute to the content of the LIT – let us celebrate our successes and innovative programmes in our libraries.

SAJLIS

One issue of SAJLIS, our research journal, has been published this year. A second issue should appear later in the year. SAJLIS needs to be published twice a year in order to retain its accreditation with the Department of Education.

LIASA WEBSITE

The LIASA website is regularly updated and has become a very important information resource for the WLIC/IFLA Conference.

MEDIA COVERAGE

LIASA enjoyed media coverage this year, especially in the broadcast media, and particularly during the IFLA Conference. We enjoyed coverage on a number of radio stations both regional and national including SAFM and Radio Lotus during South African Library Week.

@ YOUR LIBRARY CAMPAIGN

During the IFLA Conference in Durban, LIASA joined the IFLA World Campaign for Libraries.

LIASA officially joined The Campaign for the World's Libraries at IFLA/WLIC 2007 to bring the campaign to South Africa by signing the trademark agreement. The Campaign for the World's Library is a public education campaign of the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions, the American Library Association and libraries around the world to speak loudly and clearly about the value of libraries and librarians in the 21st century. It is designed to showcase the unique and vital roles played by public, school, academic and special libraries worldwide. The Campaign uses the slogan **@your library** (and its official translations)

7. LIASA CONFERENCES

There was no LIASA conference in 2007 as we were hosting the WLIC/IFLA Conference.

The 2008 LIASA conference is currently being hosted by the Western Cape and is being held in Cape Town. The theme is "**Looking ahead: the changing role of LIS**".

The 2009 LIASA conference will be hosted by the Free State and will be held in Bloemfontein. The dates are 28 September – 2 October 2009 and the theme is : "**Library and Information Services on the move .**"

A bid was received from Gauteng South branch for hosting the Conference in 2010, to be confirmed by AGM 2008.

8. SALW 2008

The South African Library Week theme for 2008 was 'From local to global @ your library' . The launch of SA Library week was hosted by the Mpumalanga branch in partnership with the Kruger National Park, SANParks, Parliamentary Millennium Programme and Department of Arts and Culture. The Minister of Arts and Culture and his department, like in the past, continued to support the event financially to the amount of R 50 000,00. The Minister was to be represented by Dr Graham Dominy, National Archivist, who was unable to attend, and was, in turn, represented by Mr Puleng Kekana, at the time Head of Meta-Information in the Department.

The LIASA- In -Touch also covered reports on library week programmes hosted throughout South Africa.

South African Library Week 2009 will be celebrated during the week of 16th – 22nd March 2009 with the theme "Access for all @ your library". This needs to be confirmed by the incoming Representative Council. KZN Branch has offered to host the national launch.

9. BRANCHES

History has proved that branches that render services to members tend to be stronger than those who are faced by various challenges. These challenges include leadership capacity, finances, distance and apathy among members.

The Branch and Interest Group co-ordinator continued motivating and encouraging branches in need of help. The LIASA President's Award will again be awarded this year as a mechanism to encourage branch leaders and

members to continue building their branches. Branch reports submitted will be used as yard stick to determine the winning branch who will receive a roving trophy and R 5 000 cash. The winner will be announced later during this AGM.

10. INTEREST GROUPS

Interest Groups with the exception of a few has shown significant growth. PACLIG, LiSLIG, SLYSIG and IGBIS have been very active through the past year in presenting papers and workshops.

11. COLLABORATIVE RELATIONSHIPS AND PARTNERSHIPS

11.1 International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA) – WLIC 2008

LIASA continued to honour its commitment as member of IFLA. President Elect, Ms More attended the 74th IFLA conference hosted in Canada. LIASA will also be honoured by the presence of both the President, Ms Claudia Lux and President Elect of IFLA, Ms Tise at the 10th Annual conference of LIASA in Cape Town.

11.2 Finnish Library Association (FLA)

We continued building our relationship with our partners, Finnish Library Association. We continued building our relationship with our partners, the Finnish Library Association. President Tommy Matthee co- presented a paper with Marjatta Lahti of the Finnish Library Association entitled “Co-operation across continents: case of Library and Information Association and Finnish Library Associations” during WLIC/IFLA 2007. President-Elect Rachel More visited Finland on invitation of the Finnish Library Association during May 2008. She attended a Seminar during her visit and had a very fruitful one-day meeting with the FLA. A new Memorandum of Cooperation between LIASA and the FLA was signed. It was decided that the FLA should be invited to the 2009 LIASA Conference as part of the cooperation agreement and in view of the LIASA visit that took place in 2008.

11.3 National Council for Library and information Science

LIASA is represented on the National Council for Library and Information Services (NCLIS). Several members of the National Executive are on NCLIS in their personal capacities and the President serves ex officio. NCLIS is currently hosting public consultative meetings for input on a national transformation charter for libraries and information services.

12. EDUCATION, TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT

June 2008 - Commencement of Carnegie Corporation training programme; Commencement of LIASA training supported with SABINET grant.

12.1. CICD

The initial support by Carnegie Corporation of New York for infrastructural support of LIASA ended in March 2004, but LIASA was fortunate to obtain a grant of \$500 000 to establish a Centre for Information Career Development (CICD) programme for the:-

- Establishment of a resource centre and training database
- Education and Training of the ten Interest Groups with the focus on public libraries
- Support to Carnegie model libraries by facilitation training in the US at the Mortenson Centre(Illinois University)

Some difficulties were experienced after the resignation of the Project Coordinator early in 2007. This resulted in the temporary suspension of the project. The Carnegie Corporation accepted our request for a grant extension until end of 2009 and revised timelines of the project.

The implementation of the CICD training started in July 2008 with the training of 30 academic librarians on Institutional Repository. The second training was offered to 20 members of Free State Branch on Advanced Internet Searching. This training will be rolled out to all Branches in 2009.

A pre-conference Workshop on Library Marketing and advocacy was held during this conference attended by 33 delegates.

We acknowledge the contributions of the President Elect and her CICD team for the revival of this project worth about R1,7 million.

13. VOTE OF THANKS

LIASA as non-profit association relies heavily on the voluntary service of its members and the financial support or otherwise from partners or sponsors. Looking back at the last year the situation has been no different and therefore we owe a sincere thanks to the following individuals, institutions, partners for their outstanding support :

- The members of the Representative Council; Executive Committee; Branch and interest Group committees; Editors of the L-I-T & SAJLIS and our sponsors.

- The staff at the LNO, your support and involvement within LIASA continues to act as a mainstay for our members.
- Our partners and families of all LIASA office bearers, your forbearance of the demands of LIASA upon your quality time is appreciated

14. CONCLUSION

LIASA despite the challenges faced continue to be the professional connection of the LIS professionals. The association still face many challenges as we strive to realise the dream of LIASA and its members. Our biggest challenges before us include :

- Strategic review of LIASA
- Status of our Profession
- Relocation to a new office with the National Library in 2008
- Implementing the continuing education and development programme (CICD) with the rollout of training programmes to members
- Building a LIASA beyond 2008
- Strengthening of our existing partnerships and search for new ones

On a personal note I wish to extend my profound thanks and appreciation to the members for granting me the honour to lead LIASA. The term as President was extremely rewarding both personally and professionally and I particularly treasure the challenges we faced since this granted me the opportunity to learn and grow.

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T Matthee
LIASA President 2006 - 2008