

ANNUAL REPORT: OCTOBER 2008 TO SEPTEMBER 2009

1. INTRODUCTION

Leading such a dynamic and vibrant national professional Association which has just entered its second decade of existence is indeed a huge responsibility and challenge. This entry into the second decade poses a great opportunity to re-evaluate and reposition our strategies in order to ensure that we continue to add value within the sector. LIASA remains the official voice of the LIS sector in South Africa, a partner in the national agenda for the growth and development of the nation.

LIASA has achieved many successes over the last decade, but also faced some challenges. These include a declining membership, members' apathy, lack of growth in Branches and Interest Groups, financial problems and lack of capacity in the LIASA National Office.

To address these challenges the President and Representative Council adopted a theme for their term of office, namely: "Repositioning LIASA for growth and development".

2. REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL AND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

NAME	PORTFOLIO
Executive Committee	
More, R	President
Haasbroek, N	President-Elect
Kitching, K	Treasurer
Henning, J	Secretary
Senyolo, R	PRO
Satgoor, U	GN Branch Chairperson / SC: Membership
Moropa, R	GN Branch Second Representative / SC: Constitutional matters
Hardy, N	WC Branch Chairperson / SC: Branch & Interest Groups
Van der Walt, F	Chairperson PACLIC / SC CEPD
Maritz, F	Manager: LIASA Office
Goosen, A	Project Manager: CICD
Bampoe, E	NW Branch: Chair
Bekwa, P	GS Branch: Second Representative
Botha, M	Chairperson: LASIG
Boyes, M	KZN Branch: Second Representation
Davis, A	Chairperson: ILLIG
Davis, G	Chairperson: RETIG
Jobo, T	FS Branch: Second Representative
Kotsokoane, N	Chairperson: HELIG
Ledwaba, L	Chairperson: LICT
Mahlangu, N	GS Branch: Chairperson
Mckechnie, L	Chairperson: SSIG
Moeketsi, J	NW Branch: Second Representative

Mokhabukhi, S	L Branch: Chairperson
Mostert, E	Chairperson: LiSLIG
Mvunelwa, J	EC Branch: Chairperson
Ngulube, P	SAIJIL
Ndhlovu, TC	L Branch: Second Representative
Niemand, M	Chairperson: SLYSIG
Ntombela, M	KZN Branch: Chairperson
Raju, R	WC Branch: Second Representative
Ramugondo, R	FS Branch: Chairperson
Roux, M	LIASA-in Touch
Van Eeden, W	Chairperson: IGBIS
Vubela, P	EC Branch: Second Representative

3. LIASA NATIONAL OFFICE

LIASA HOUSE

The LIASA National **Office** moved to LIASA House on the Pretoria Campus of the National Library of South Africa (NLSA) at 228 Proes Street Pretoria on 13 July 2009. The expanded facilities and the partnership with the National Library will enhance the operations of the office and can also accommodate future meetings of LIASA and save on venue costs. The agreement with the NLSA that the facilities will be free of charge (LIASA to pay own operational costs) and the close proximity of the office to the NLSA will also enhance collaboration between the NLSA and the Association. It is also in line with practices in various other countries whereby the National Libraries house the National Association offices.

STAFFING

In 2008, the need to increase the **capacity** in the LIASA National Office was identified as an important aspect to ensure effective administration of the Association and support for members. The former Administrative Assistant, Ms I van Straten applied for early retirement due to ill health. Subsequently, it was with great sadness that LIASA learned about the untimely death of Ms Van Straten in a car accident. May her soul rest in peace.

In 2009, Ms F Maritz was appointed as Office Manager and Ms E Jugmohan as administrative assistant. These appointments are one year contracts with an option to renew. A temporary staff member, Ms A Foster was appointed on a three months contract to assist with the conference grants and awards.

Ms A Goosen was appointed as the Project Manager for CICD on a one year renewable contract.

The commitment and hard work of the staff members have made a huge difference to the operations of the Office in particular and the Association in general.

4. LIASA INDABA

As stated in the acceptance speech of the President at the 2008 AGM, the **LIASA Indaba** was held as decade review and to map out a way forward for the Association. The Representative Council, leaders in Library and Information Sector and other Stakeholders engaged in an interactive Indaba that was held on 30 January 2009. All LIASA members were also invited to submit concerns, passions and visions of LIASA prior to the Indaba for discussion and consideration. A summary on the outcomes of the Indaba was published and members were again requested to submit recommendations on these.

The following strategic priorities were identified:

- Statutory Recognition;
- Membership and Branches;
- Funding;

- Marketing and Public Relations.

These priorities were then integrated in the agendas of the Representative Council and Executive Committee.

5. FINANCES

Audited Statements for the financial year 2008 has been distributed to members and published on the Web Site. Due to the Postal Office Services strike, the mailing of the statements was unfortunately delayed.

GRANTS

Support for LIASA was provided in the term of report in the form of generous **grants** and the increased sponsorship for the award for the Librarian of the year. This is indeed an acknowledgement of the status of this award in the profession. There was also an increase in nominations for the year - an indication of the achievements of colleagues in our profession, but also an indication of the enhanced status of the award. The following sponsorships were awarded: UKS (R30 000-00 for the winner), EBSCO (R20 000-00 for runner up) and SABINET (R10 000-00 for third price).

All 7 Finalists would be acknowledged during the Gala Dinner at the LIASA Conference on 1 October 2009. This would be followed by the announcement of the 3 winners and the handing over of the trophies and prizes.

LOTTERY FUNDS

A submission to the NLDTF in 2007 resulted in the allocation of R R642 000-00 during 2009 for the LIASA National Office, LIASA-in-Touch, South African Journal of Library and Information Sciences and the conference.

DEPARTMENT OF ARTS AND CULTURE

Over many years, the Department of Arts and Culture has fostered and nurtured an excellent relationship with the library and information services. The support was confirmed again by the Minister, Ms L Xingwana. "We at the Department of Arts and Culture are committed to acknowledging and supporting libraries which are vehicles not only for the development of a reading culture in South Africa, but also in providing free access to information and knowledge through traditional means and the use of state of the art technologies. Generous sponsorships were also provided for grants to attend the annual conference (R295 000-00), sponsorship for the conference (R200 000-00) and the South African Library Week (R50 000-00). The Department also sponsored the welcome function for the IFLA President, Ms E Tise in Milan in addition to much other sponsorship during the year.

TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT

LIASA's Continuous Education and Development unit (CEPD) focuses on addressing the training and skills development needs of Library and information practitioners in South Africa. Generous support and sponsorship from the Carnegie Foundation (R 1, 7m) has enabled the Unit to achieve its goals and to provide training for more than a 1000 library and information practitioners country wide. Refer also to item 12 of the Annual Report. SABINET has also provided a training grant of R 501, 000-00 for training of librarians during this period.

IFLA 2007 CONFERENCE

A surplus of R 272 241-49 generated from the IFLA 2007 Conference was transferred to LIASA.

PRESIDENTS' 1 MILLION FOR LIASA

LIASA concluded that in this present economic climate the Association needs to look at ways to become self sustaining. Presently LIASA generates funds from membership, grants and some very loyal sponsors. It was noted that the annual membership fees, currently R 275.00 for the individual full member, mainly goes towards the operational costs. Membership fees alone will not sustain the Association into the future! LIASA has to look at additional ways to generate funds hence the challenge from our President Rachel More to raise R1 Million for LIASA during her term of office. The President kicked off this campaign with a donation of R1000, so it is up to the members to add the zero's we need to reach the target of a million. A good response to date resulted in a total of R 66 000-00 in the fund.

6. MEMBERSHIP MANAGEMENT AND RECRUITMENT

At LIASA AGM 2008 members articulated their concerns, frustrations and general disgruntlement with membership management at the LNO. A motion was tabled and carried in this regard and it was prioritised by the Executive Committee for the term 2008-2010. Since January 2009 concerted attention was paid to reduce the backlog of unprocessed membership forms since 2008. Early bird payments and database records were verified.

System Upgrade - an assessment of the membership databases was done and the Executive Committee supported a proposal to obtain the services of a professional consultant to assist with the database clean-up. The staff also received valuable training on the system to ensure optimal functionality and service/information to members. Thus far several changes have been made to the existing forms and the method of processing membership applications and renewals is being simplified. The following steps have been taken:

- The membership database has been divided into two databases. The one for current members (2008 – 2009) and the second as a LIASA membership archive
- The new database is in place with a new, shortened structure. This means fewer fields to complete and it will shorten the time spent on the input of data.
- Names of institutions and other fields have been standardised, with validation and substitution lists in place.
- The new database generates reports as requested. Branches will now be able to obtain up-to-date membership numbers, including new members and renewals. It will also include a financial report to indicate the institutional and individual memberships with short-falls where it applies.
- This improved system will eliminate any backlog problems.

Electronic Membership - in keeping with technological advances, LIASA will:

- Implement an electronic membership registration form on the web-site;
- Facilitate online membership renewals;
- Explore electronic methods of payment.

Interest Group Membership – this has become a cause for concern as these members enjoy the same benefits as full members of LIASA.

Membership Statistics (as at Sept 22, 2009)

<u>Honorary Membership</u>	<u>10</u>
Individual members	1071
IG members	85
Institutional	72
Foreign members	4
Pensioners + students	7

MEMBERSHIP STATS	2008	2008	2008	2009	2009	2009	%age diff.
	New	Renewals	TOTAL	New	Renewal	TOTAL	
Foreign					4	4	
Eastern Cape	36	67	103	31	100	131	27.18
Free State	10	50	60	11	97	108	80
Gauteng North	52	160	212	28	192	220	3.77
Gauteng South	49	146	195	56	128	184	-5.64
Kwazulu Natal	25	121	146	22	128	150	2.73
Limpopo	4	43	47	15	48	63	34
Mpumalanga	26	34	60	35	41	76	26.6
North West	17	48	65	11	43	54	-16.92
Northern Cape	2	13	15	10	10	20	33.3
Western Cape	32	126	158	53	176	229	44.93
Total	253	808	1061	272	967	1239	16.77

Membership fees paid in advance

2010	23
2011	2
2012	2

MEMBERSHIP SURVEY 2010

The last needs survey was conducted in 2002 and it is time to review the needs and priorities of our members. This will afford us the opportunity to focus on the needs, interests and aspirations of the LIASA membership.

6. COMMUNICATION AND PUBLIC RELATIONS

Ongoing communication with members is an important factor to ensure the success, sustainability and growth of the Association. The following channels of communication with members are employed and we are also exploring information technologies to enhance communication.

LIASA-in-Touch

The LIASA-in-Touch continues to be a very popular magazine with our members and attracts many interesting and informative contributions from members. It has become a true show case of activities and achievements for the Association. It is published quarterly and the editor is Ms M Roux.

South African Journal of Library and Information Sciences

The South African Journal of Library and Information Sciences is the official research and accredited publication of LIASA. It is published twice a year and the editor is Prof P Ngulube.

LIASA Website

The LIASA Website at <http://www.liasa.org> serves as the most immediate communication tool with members, stakeholders and the broader library and information services community. The need to upgrade the Website has been identified and will receive priority attention and a task team has been established.

LIASA Listserv

The LIASA Listserv facilitates ongoing and prompt communication between members on a daily basis. To facilitate optimal use of this important communication tool, the guidelines are being revised.

SMS Service

In line with popular mobile technologies used to facilitate communication, the sms service will continue.

Media coverage

LIASA enjoyed valuable media coverage during the year. The South African Library Week and the annual conference received special coverage on radio stations, both regional and national.

The campaign for the World Libraries

As a signatory to the “@ Your Library” campaign, members can use this to promote their services. This campaign was officially launched at the South African Library Week in 2009.

7. LIASA CONFERENCES

The 10th Annual LIASA Conference was held from 6-10 October 2008 at the Cape Town International Convention Centre with the theme: Looking Ahead: the changing role of libraries. A total of 724 full registrations and 69 day registrations were recorded. There were 38 full exhibitors and one NGO exhibit. The Department of Arts and Culture provided a generous sponsorship of R500, 000.00. This sponsorship made it possible to support the attendance of 85 librarians and contributed towards the expenditure of invited speakers and audio-visual equipment. Swets Subscription Services also provided support for 3 librarians. Some challenges were experienced with regards to the collection of all registration fees and this resulted in a lengthy follow-up process of unpaid fees. This aspect of the responsibilities of the Professional Conference Organisers has to be carefully negotiated and managed in future.

The 11th Annual LIASA Conference is currently being hosted by the Free State Branch in Bloemfontein from 28 September to 2 October 2009 with the theme: Library and Information Services on the Move.

A Fundraising and Sponsorship manual was developed to provide guidance in particular with the raising of funds for the annual conference. It was decided that future conferences would be the responsibility of the Representative Council and Branches will be invited to bid to host. Conference attendance has grown rapidly and specific criteria will be applied to select the host.

Professional Conference Organisers would be appointed by the RC for at least a 5 year period to ensure a long-term relationship and to facilitate the organizing of the annual conference. This would be implemented from 2011 onwards.

8. SOUTH AFRICAN LIBRARY WEEK 2009

South African Library week 2009 was celebrated 16-21 March 2009 with the theme “Access for all @ your library”. The KwaZulu-Natal branch had the honour of hosting the national launch on the 14 March at the Msunduzi Library (Bessie Head Library), Pietermaritzburg. The keynote address was delivered by Dr Pallo Jordan, Minister of Arts and Culture. The Department of Arts & Culture continued to support and sponsor the SALW.

SALW 2010

The South African Library Week will be celebrated from 20 - 26 March 2010. Discussions are underway with the Department of Arts and Culture on the theme and activities. It was agreed that in future SALW would have a more national focus with a national impact as opposed to a branch focus. Media and campaigns should also be of a national coverage.

9. BRANCHES

LIASA has seen a growth in membership in most branches. The Branch Handbook developed by the Western Cape Branch has been distributed to all Branches and will be adapted for use in all branches.

10. INTEREST GROUPS

All the Interest Groups arranged sessions during the 2009 Conference and various meetings, workshops and training sessions were held during the year. The annual PACLiG calendar is not only a useful tool for members, but also a valuable marketing tool for the Association.

11. COLLABORATIVE RELATIONSHIPS AND PARTNERSHIPS

The President, R More represented LIASA on the National Council for Library and Information Services (**NCLIS**) during the period of reporting.

LIASA membership to the South African Book Development Council (**SABDC**) had been renewed and LIASA is represented by the President-Elect, Ms N Haasbroek.

LIASA membership to the International Federation for Library Associations (**IFLA**) was paid up to end 2010. A special reception was hosted at the South African Mission in Milan for Ms E Tise to welcome her as IFLA President. The Minister of Arts and Culture sponsored the function and it was attended by representatives from LIASA and the Department. LIASA President-Elect, Ms N Haasbroek was elected as Chairperson of the IFLA Africa Section. Several LIASA members serve on IFLA Standing Committees and Dr B Mbambo-Thata serves on the IFLA Board.

LIASA had received a request from the Chairperson of MLAS SC, S Sippila to host MLAS SC Mid Term Meeting in February 2010. The meeting would coincide with the IFLA Presidential Meeting.

Other partnerships include:

- Finnish Library Association – Ms S Ihamaki is attending the current conference as a guest of LIASA
- Goethe Institut – Ms B Lison is attending the current conference as a guest of LIASA

The Publishers Association of South Africa (**PASA**) has invited LIASA to participate in the London Book Fair and the invitation for South Africa as the Market Focus Country at their fair in Earls Court 19-21 April 2010.

12. EDUCATION, TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT

LIASA's CiCD continues to provide training and skills development for Library and information practitioners in South Africa. To date more than 1000 library and information practitioners has participated in the training country wide.

The 2 day leadership workshop was attended by a total of 255 delegates in all branches.

The Web 2.0 Technologies workshop is currently being rolled out to all branches.

In July a Winter Seminar was held over 3 days where each day was dedicated to a different sector or topic in the LIS community. Day one mainly focused around Academic libraries, day 2 around transformation and the conditional grant and day 3 focused on public libraries with an emphasis on the metro library. Over the three days a total of 250 delegates attended the Seminar.

Sector specific and training was also funded:

- SANLiC hosted a Licensing and Negotiating Capacity Building Workshop where CiCD funded registration fees for 2 delegates from each of the 23 universities.
- Delegates from the LIASA KZN branch participated in a workshop on team building.
- CHELSA hosted a strategic planning session in Durban.

- FS Branch hosted a 2 day workshop on Leadership and Capacity building in June.
- Public Librarians had the opportunity to represent Public Libraries at the School Libraries: Vital for Teaching and Learning.
- LIASA Limpopo branch had a series of workshops for Public Librarians in Limpopo. A total of 80 delegates each attended 4 half day workshops on topic relevant to their sectors
- US Consulate hosted n interactive storytelling workshop with a well known American writer and actor.

During the 11th LIASA Annual Conference, CiCD hosted two workshops, one on Presentation Skills for Librarians and another on Fundraising for Libraries. These workshops were well supported. CiCD also funded some of the workshops presented at the Conference by PACLIG.

13. CONSTITUTIONAL MATTERS

Following the 2006 motion carried by the AGM, a sub-committee was established to investigate statutory status of the Library and Information Services Sector. It was concluded that the decision has to be tested through a referendum to solicit the views of the majority within the profession. The process will include the collection of data, publication of results and an extensive marketing process.

14. CONCLUSION

LIASA must ensure a future of growth and stability, a future of financial viability, a future of professional growth through training and development for its members. It also needs to ensure a future of unity and cooperation, a future of building and positioning and a future to bringing all the LIS Workers home, where they belong.

15. VOTE OF THANKS