Editor's comment

The significance of celebrating the World Book Day cannot be overemphasised. Hence, in this edition of our newsletter, we highlight what and how our different stakeholders were doing to mark this august occasion. Read more on page 7 and 9.

The newly opened Thulamela Public Library in Thohoyandou is one but critical development in the area of LIS sector. MEC for Sport, Arts and Culture, Mrs Dipuo Letsatsi-Duba – called on the community members to use the library productively. Read more on page 11.

Conferencing and workshops remain important methods of fostering career development. LIASA members understand the full meaning of this. Our members, courtesy of NRF, have attended the 5th African Conference for Digital Scholarship and Curation. Full story is on page 14 and 16.

Enjoy your copy!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!
Greetings

I am pleased to welcome you to the second edition of LIASA Limpopo Branch newsletter. It was encouraging to note that members appreciated the previous edition, and the credit must go to those who put effort to submit stories about their activities. The Branch BEC encourages more members to contribute to our newsletter by sending their stories, achievements, new developments, new appointments etc. in our field in the province. Contributions must be sent to the Branch PRO.

When we started, we listed our objectives as, amongst other, to make our Branch competitive and visible, to increase membership in our province, to form good partnerships with relevant stakeholders etc. We are not even half way but we are very happy with the progress so far.

The BEC met with the Department of Sport, Arts and Culture Provincial (DSAC) – the custodians of Libraries in the province – to explore ways of forming partnerships, including venturing in initiatives that seeks to improve Libraries and
Librarians in our province. Today, we are happy to report that the DSAC has agreed to provide us with a venue to host our meetings and notify the Branch about available vacancies in the Department.

In a similar vein – and as we hope to work together with all our stakeholders in our quest – the Branch BEC had a meeting with the University of Limpopo’s the Department of Information Studies in an effort to find methods of improving research capacities, among others, in the province.

Among other activities that are worth mentioning, BEC Members attended Communities of Practice (CoP) Workshop in Pretoria in May 2013. The workshop, which one could rightfully say it was an exciting experience, brought together members from National EXCO and Branch EXCOs to discuss, not limited to, the bad behaviour of our members during conferences.

This is a cause for concern; we need to stop this conduct! Hence, it was agreed that branches are responsible for emphasising LIASA’s code of conduct to members during meetings. However, it was revealed that members who attend national conferences are in most cases not participating in branch matters.

LIASA National EXCO is scheduled to visit the branch EXCO this year, and the date will be confirmed soon. It is really good for National Office to come and see what Branches are doing. Limpopo will be ready to welcome and share our information in the province.

The branch will be hosting a four day seminar from the 03-06 September 2013. The seminar will give our Librarians, Library Staff members and LIS students in the province an opportunity to share their stories, network, attend planned members development workshops and present papers.
It is our wish to see our members in the province presenting papers at national conference after this seminar. Our call for paper was well responded to and we are happy to announce that we have received substantial paper abstracts for the upcoming seminar. For more information visit the branch blog [http://limpopolibrariesforliasa.blogspot.com](http://limpopolibrariesforliasa.blogspot.com) and branch Facebook page; [http://www.facebook.com/LiasaLimpopoBranchPage?fref=ts](http://www.facebook.com/LiasaLimpopoBranchPage?fref=ts)

There is an insert in this newsletter about how Libraries can use Dropbox for work purposes, check it out.

*Thank you*
BIG UP TO LIBRARY STUDIES GRADUANDS

By Mswandile

Congratulations to our up-and-coming librarians who have recently graduated during the winter ceremony at the University of Limpopo Turfloop Campus.

The graduands completed their Higher Diploma in Information Studies last year (2012). Today, they are our shining black diamonds who will become qualified librarians. As LIASA Limpopo Branch, we pride ourselves to have graduates in the field of Library and Information services.

Congratulations!!!!!!
Ensuring effective communication between lecturers and students may have been one of the core founding principles of the University of Limpopo Information Studies Society (ULISS), but the student organisation takes matters of community outreach programmes at heart.

The organisation, championed by Information Studies students, takes part in activities which seek to enlighten the contiguous community of the University of Limpopo about the importance of libraries.

“We seek to encourage a reading culture in the University by promoting the importance of library services to students at large,” said the Chairperson Michael Makwela. “We have also been in support of activities such as the South African
Library Week which was run in partnership with the University of Limpopo Library.

“We recently helped Information Studies Department and LIASA to donate books to various schools,” he said. “Furthermore, ULISS was invited to celebrate the Library Week both in UNISA and UL LIS. In addition, we support all programmes that are facilitated by LIASA Limpopo Branch.”

ULISS, a continuation structure of UNINSOLIS (University of the North Student of Library Information Science), ensures that the academic needs of all students are taken care of and encourage mentorship in the Information Studies Programme. Re–established in 2008, it ultimately adopted the new UL brand, ULISS has five executive members both of them are LIASA members. ULISS year plan which entails; career guidance week, outreach programmes, educational trips etc.
A book review, organised by the University of Limpopo Library and Information Services (LIS) in celebration of the World Book Day, has revived the debate about preserving indigenous knowledge through reading. The event, which brought staff
and students to review different books, took place at the Turfloop Campus. While reviewing a book called *Tahlego*, Khomotso Maphopha, Senior Librarian at University, said that there was a ‘dire need’ to encourage young Africans to read books written in their mother tongues. “Our children don’t know African idioms and *Tahlego* was a perfect read because it has all that,” she said.

Maphopha warned students to keep a wary eye on tendencies and languages that could erode their identity. “After reading this book, I realised that as Africans we are losing our values, identity and pride,” she added. “That western culture has more influence in our lives than our own culture.”

Michael Makwela, UL final year student, reviewing a book called *Capitalist Nigger* written by Chika Onyeani, said that the book is important in helping Africans to be vigilant and self-initiative. Onyeani describes the black race as being dependent on other racial communities. “He lashes out at Africans and those in the diaspora of being only consumers of what the Caucasians produced,” Michael said.

The review enlightened both students and staff to consider engaging in self-introspection and ensuring that they read African literature to preserve their culture. “Africans need to restore their culture, traditions and values; “let’s cultivate the love of reading, at the same time encourage mother tongue reading in our children so that our identity can prevail,” Maphopha concluded.
TZANEEN PUBLIC LIBRARY WORLD BOOK DAY CELEBRATIONS

By Rosinah

Ms Comfort Mathebula reading to children

Reading together as a team

Tzaneen public Library Staff Members

Tzaneen Public Library celebrated World Book Day by hosting poetry competitions to unearth talents and give up-and-coming poets a platform to show off their gifts. Comfort Mathebula, Library Assistant, who has a special love for poetry, put
together a large display of poetry books available in the library during the day.

Most library competitions are open to school children, but this time young adults were also given a chance when competitions were opened to those aged eighteen and plus. The competition was won by Kulani Mushwana. Her poem – My Friend (Christ) – won her award certificate signed by the GTM, Greater Tzaneen Municipality Community Services Director, Mr. O.Z. Mkhombo, and a Ginger Mary dress.

Children were given a colouring picture book with a reading theme as token of appreciation by Tzaneen Public Library. The jam packed day brought together community members and librarians to celebrate the importance of reading in the society.
Mayor, MEC Call on Thulamela Community to Use their New Library

By Maropene

Mayor of Thulamela Local Municipality, Councillor N.G Mahosi, has called on community members in Thulamela, Thohoyandou to take advantage of their newly opened Thulamela Public Library.

Speaking at the opening ceremony attended by MEC for Sport, Arts and Culture, DSAC, UNIVEN, LIASA, Local School Principals, Building Constructor, Public Works, Municipal EXCO, Media houses, Mahosi said that the new Library building is one of the most important buildings in the municipality. “This is because a library is a place of learning,” She said. “The notion that “if you want to hide something from an African, put it in a book” is out-dated, education is the key to success.”

Mahosi added. “The library was built with Chapter 2 of the Bill of Rights (BOR) in mind which states that education is a non-negotiable right. The building will serve the community, that the community must educate themselves from the library.”

In her keynote address, MEC for Sport, Arts and Culture, Mrs D.B Letsatsi-Duba, also encouraged the community to utilise the Library productively. “This modern library is proof that the nation can educate itself in Libraries. The municipality vision 2030 can be attained by the community which is active, healthy and educated and the library is the forefront of this dream,” she said.

The MEC also challenged parents to encourage their children to read and fall in love with books. “The DSAC will ensure that the Library is fully stocked every year and that introduction of ebooks to attract the minds of the young generation is in the pipe line as well as book exhibitions.”
Still using hardcover books to record new books in the library? Still recording materials sent for binding on books? Still manually recording weeded or damaged library materials? And how do we record handing over reports from one team to another e.g. day team to evening shift? Still emailing each other documents?

Think again!!

The University of Venda has taken advantage of Dropbox – a free service that lets you bring your photos, documents, and videos anywhere and share them easily – to improve the ways in which Law Librarians record their information.

The librarians, which use the software to record different material, such as new books, journals, and reports through a shared folder, has created a user-friendly Law Library file to make information available on the finger tips.
Mr Maropene Ramabina, a Law Librarian at UNIVEN, said that software has improved their ways of storing and recording information. “We have access to this folder from their desktop and workstations and can easily update the lists which automatically updates on all the shared workstations,” he said. “It is now easier for UNIVEN Law Library Staff Members to access and record new materials arriving online without any hassle.”

Dropbox, which works more like a cloud storage file, allows users to store, transfer, share and backup files in the cloud, where users doesn’t need to worry about their drive crashing and other technical hitches. “It can be used to get documents from home computer to work computer and vice versa. It can be used to keep personal and public stuff,” Ramabina added. “A shared folder is used to share public documents with colleagues or friends.”

But internet connection is needed to synchronize the file. “Either way, it’s something that could benefit Libraries to share document,” Ramabina concluded.
NRF SPONSORS UNIVERSITY STUDENTS TO ATTEND THE 5TH AFRICAN CONFERENCE FOR DIGITAL SCHOLARSHIP AND CURATION: DURBAN JUNE 2013

By Madichakga

Several students benefitted from an NRF grant that made it possible for them to attend the 5th African Conference for Digital Scholarship and Curation. The University of Limpopo Department of Information Studies Postgraduate Students, who are also members of LIASA Limpopo Branch, travelled together as a group and were able to contribute to the current debate about the need for institutions and librarians to be involved in the process of digital content creation and curation. The emphasis at this year’s conference was specifically on the management and curation of research data.

The academic discourse – hosted by the University of Kwa-Zulu Natal in partnership with the Network of Data and Information Curation Communities (NeDICC) – drew together academics, students and practitioners from the
information science and the information technology sectors as well as some researchers to share scientific research and knowledge about digital scholarships and curation.

**Dr G Host**, Director of Nordic eInfrastructure Collaboration, set the tone for the three day long events and highlighted the importance of sharing information in the context of the global society. “We should move beyond sharing and re-using towards global data networking,” he said. In his presentation – *Science Paradigm and global opportunities offered by research data infrastructures* – he indicated that digital revolution has simplified the accessibility of information.

Tackling a different topic issues on Infrastructure Opportunities for Education, Research and Innovation, the conference allowed participants to understand the ways in which they can improve eLearning programme within their institutions.

**Dale Peters**, delivering a paper on *Visual learning: extending the classroom in mobile data delivery*, said that libraries and information services should consider maximising bandwidth usage for teaching and learning in order to reaching out to students even outside the lectures, live streaming and the rolling out of tablets as a pilot project in UKZN were discussed in detail.

**Dr Martie van Deventer**, of CSIR, provided detail regarding an international *Data Citation* project where she is a team member. She explained how information scientists could benefit from the work completed by organisations, such as ICSTI CODATA and DataCite. *Van Deventer* emphasised how the requirements for data citation differ from that of documents. According Dr Martie the data citation needs to be readable to both humans and machines. Machines should be able to read the citation and resolve to the data source. She also reported on the current state of data citation in research worldwide.

Among other topics that formed part of the discussions include Working with Data, Institutional Models of Data Management and Curation, and Digital Scholarship.
The conference culminated with several academic workshops. The two workshops that were best attended were one on research data management for rookie managers and another that specifically addressed useful mobile applications that should be used by all researchers and librarians.
CALL FOR NOMINATIONS FOR 2013 LIASA LIMPOPO BRANCH LIBRARIAN OF THE YEAR

It’s that time of the year again when we call for nominations for the LIASA Limpopo Librarian of the Year for 2013. The Librarian of the Year is a role model for the Library and Information Services community and a person whose contributions make a lasting impact on the sector. Do you know someone in the Limpopo Branch who could fit this description?

The LIASA Limpopo Librarian of the Year goes forward to compete in the national Librarian of the Year. Previous Limpopo Librarians of the Year include Ms, Magriet Lotz, Ms Caroline Madzhie, Ms Abigail Chuene, Ms Madichakga Malahlela

The nomination form is available from this link. 

Further information about the national call is available from this link:  
http://liasa.org.za/node/799

Prices: 1st Prize: R30000.00 (UKS)  2nd Prize: R20000.00 (EBSCO)  3rd Prize: R10000.00 (Sabinet)

Highlights from the Selection Criteria:

* Be a paid-up LIASA member for at least five consecutive years
* Be knowledgeable about the LIS sector and its resources
* Demonstrate high levels of professionalism
* Currently engaged in LIS sector with a minimum of five years in the field.
* Must have a recognised LIS qualification
* Members of the EXCO/Representative Council/and BRANCH BEC are eligible for this award.

About the nomination form:--

* Nomination form to be completed and signed by the nominator
* A motivation statement, max 200 words, signed by the nominator
* Accompanied by a profile of the nominee which outlines the nominee's opinion on the following: 
  -- LIASA’s role in the LIS sector and the future role that the nominee believes LIASA should play.
  -- As the prestigious award winner, what would the projects/issues be that you would like to see addressed in the LIS sector.

The deadline for the branch nomination is Friday 16 August 2013.

Please send the completed nomination forms to Madichakga Malahlela at madichakga.malahlela@ul.ac.za or Maropene.ramabina@univen.ac.za.