South African Library Week 2015
Snapshots

Face painting at the Haenertsburg Library, Haenertsburg Primary

Shiluvane Primary school children show off the bags they received for doing well in a library quiz

Pastor Ephem Jeremani showing children how to play chess at the Haenertsburg Library

Ashlyn Lesker (Tafelsig Library) with learners of Ebenezer Educare and Little Eastville Primary

Letsitele Library - Marie van der Westhuizen reading to Wysneusie Pre-schoolers

Shiluvane Primary school children show off the bags they received for doing well in a library quiz

Tzaneen

Literacy groups in the Free State participate in SALW
National Office News

The Representative Council had a Leadership Weekend from 20 to 22 February 2015. The weekend is meant to bring LIASA national and branch leadership structures up to speed with developments in the profession. Presentations were made and discussions held on the state of school and public libraries, implementation of the Transformation Charter, LIASA as a Professional Body, to name but a few. It turned out to be an informative weekend with an array of presentations meant to build the newly elected team. It was also used to bridge the communication gap; Communities of Practice led by EXCO members gave overviews of their portfolios and what was planned for 2015.

Branch and Interest Group Chairs shared their jurisdictions plans, achievements and challenges. It was noted that a number of branches are still finding it cumbersome to reach out to members across provinces due to distances. This is a serious course for concern as it has the potential to demoralise members who may feel neglected. The installation of webinar software (Big Blue Button (BBB) Open Source Software) at the LIASA office will assist greatly as this will make it possible for presentations to be made online. What is also of great importance is that all Representative Council members signed the Association’s Code of Ethics and Conduct. The plan is for the Code to be signed by all LIASA members.

LIASA EXCO, under the leadership of Ms Segametsi Molawa, hosted its first event – the launch of South African Library Week. It was held on Friday 13 March at the Centre for the Book in Cape Town. We are happy to inform you that the event was a success. The attendance of high profile stakeholders such as the Deputy Minister of DAC, the CEO of the National Library, the representative from the Mayor’s office, etc. says to us that the profession has support where it matters the most. All that we have to do is to play our part and develop South Africa into a reading nation.

We would like to extend our sincere gratitude to stakeholders and partners who made this possible through financial contributions, planning and attendance of the event. Something to ponder: The Deputy Minister of Arts and Culture is of the opinion that the whole of March should be designated as South African Library Month (SALM) – this might require renaming the event.

A few heads-up:

Librarian’s Day (10 July): One of the outcomes of the Leadership Weekend is the planning of a march/walk to raise awareness on the importance of libraries as a way to plead with communities to stop burning libraries during lack of service delivery protests. It was decided that on 10 July all Librarians will embark on a march/walk to speak with one voice. A team was established to look into the logistics of such a march/walk.

LIASA Annual General Meeting: The LIASA Annual Conference will this year be replaced by the IFLA conference. However, the LIASA AGM will be held as part of IFLA programme on Thursday 20 August from 10:45 to 12:45. It would be appreciated if Branch and Interest AGMs could be held before the national AGM. The President and the most improved Branch Awards will be presented at the AGM. However, 2015 will not see the celebration of the Librarian of the Year. The rationale behind this is that the event has grown in prestige requiring laborious and rigorous planning processes. August is considered to be too soon to do justice to the whole process.

Branch May Seminars: Branches will be busy in May/June staging seminars based on the Presidential Theme: “Libraries for development: Action, integration and collaboration”. Presentations will unpack the theme based on the following leading questions:

- How do we integrate libraries into society for national development?
- Who can we partner with towards achieving our goal? How can we collaborate with them?
- What is the value of information in addressing development issues?

One of the outcomes of the seminars is to recommend actionable innovative projects to advance reading and information literacy.

Betsy Eister, LIASA Secretary
Access to information is core

transforming society through the use of library services and library connections and connectivity.

In March the Minister of Basic Education, Ms Angie Motshega, called a round table meeting with widespread representation from related government departments, the LIS and private sectors and NGOs so that they might contribute to the success of her project to develop 1000 functional school libraries by 31 March 2016. I have been tasked with obtaining the input from a diverse range of LIS sector experts, specialists and interested parties on how the set target for the school libraries sub-sector can be realised. For LIASA this project responds to the:

- Improvement to the school library sub-sector that has been poorly resourced with libraries and librarians
- Envisaged collaboration to ensure that the silos among the relevant stakeholders are removed
- Increased access to information towards improved quality of education

The national launch of the South African Library week 2015 was widely advertised on internal and social media platforms including the LIASA website, LIASA News Facebook group page, @lisasanews on Twitter, LIASAOnline listserv, posters, and for the first time, an in-flight magazine: 

Kulula’s Khuluuma, March 2015 edition. The event was attended by dignitaries and VIP’s such as the Deputy Minister of Arts and Culture, the Deputy Speaker of Parliament and Western Cape Provincial and Local government, sponsors, colleagues from the LIS sector, learners and the media.

The presence of the IFLA President Ms Sinikka Sipiä was a highlight of the SALW launch. There is a dynamism between the 2015 SALW theme ‘Connect @ your library’ that highlights the link between libraries, people, information, knowledge and technology and the IFLA Presidential theme “Strong Libraries, Strong Societies’ that focuses on ‘libraries as development partners in social transformation’. Having the IFLA president in the upcoming IFLA World Library and Information Congress host city, Cape Town, was a real build-up towards the conference. It might well be a contributing factor to the record breaking number of IFLA conference registration at this point in the process.

Ms Sipiä noted in her speech that the Lyon Declaration on Access to Information and Development launched at the 2014 IFLA Congress advocates for greater access to information and knowledge using ICTs to develop and sustain communities and reminded that freedom of access to information is a basic right. She used her country as an example of the transformative impact of access to information via library networks: Finland has become a knowledge-based economy within two generations due to a strong education system and free access to information.

She shared with the meeting her personal connection with Africa having worked in Tanzania with South African refugees from apartheid and having experienced the potency of information for people displaced from their homes. Such direct observation of the democratization possibilities of access to information and knowledge has shaped Ms Sipiä professionally and personally.

Further diary events in Cape Town for Ms Sipiä included discussions respectively with the LIASA Executive Committee (EXCO) and the IFLA National Committee (NC) co-chaired by Ms Ujala Satgoor and me. The IFLA President toured the Cape Town International Convention Centre (CTICC), venue for the upcoming WLIC, visited the Central, Bellville and Harare Libraries and participated in a radio interview on SAFM. She spoke about IFLA WLIC as the “World Cup of Libraries in South Africa” and the newly launched South African Library Week (SALW) and how these events raised awareness of the importance of libraries and reading.

I wish to extend the sincere thanks of the LIASA Executive Committee to Ms Sinikka Sipiä for her support of and involvement in the successful launch of 2015 SALW and to all the parties involved in making Ms Sipiä’s visit to South Africa a rewarding one.

IFLA President visits Unisa

Dynamic Libraries: Access, Development and Transformation

“IFLA has a key part to play in strengthening the role of libraries in society,” Ms Sipiä added, when asked about the upcoming IFLA Regional Office for Africa Public Lecture which focuses on the theme African Librarianship in the 21st Century, to be held in May at Unisa.

The main objectives of IFLA include:
- the promotion of free access to information and the defence of freedom of expression worldwide;
- supporting libraries and library professionals in developing countries by enabling their active participation in IFLA, as well as
- the promotion of library services to multicultural populations.

During her visit, Ms Sipiä was taken on a tour of the Unisa Library which has an impressive collection in terms of size, use of information technology and service excellence. She kindly said that the Unisa Library plays a key role in ensuring world class research and the provision of learning resources to those who need it to transform their societies.

Natalia Molebatsi
Library Marketing Coordinator

The International Federation of Library Association (IFLA) has a unique position as a global voice for libraries... to strongly support libraries and library professionals in all parts of the world to meet the citizens’ information needs, as well as their cultural and recreational needs...”

These words were echoed by IFLA’s President Ms Sinikka Sipiä during her visit to the Unisa Library and the IFLA Regional Office for Africa, based in the Unisa Library. The visit was undertaken as a lead up to the 81st IFLA World Library and Information General Conference to be held in Cape Town in August. The theme for this year is

“President’s message

L IASA proudly rolled out its flagship programme, South African Library Week (SALW), that raises awareness of the importance of reading, using the library and showcases the talents and skills of staff in the library and information services (LIS) sector. It has transformed from humble beginnings at the start of the millennium to the current reputable event that attracts support and sponsorship from departments in national and local government, industry and related organisations. LIASA’s partnerships are evident at this time.

The 2015 theme ‘Connect @ your library’ fits into the booming digital environment as it explains how the library can be fully utilised for:
- Social connectivity and cohesion
- Outreach especially to marginalized groups
- Access to a variety of information resources
- Dedicated space for activities and community development

I was interviewed by Yewande Omotoso, a designer, freelancer writer and novelist who chose to focus on a librarian in her regular slot of Life-Style in the Sunday Times, (follow her on Google). She believes that reading changes lives for the better and sees libraries as essential to community development. She commented on the positive progress in the LIS sector since the dawn of democracy in 1994 but agreed with me that further development such as increasing access to digital information for school and community libraries particularly in disadvantaged areas is needed.

The Department of Social Development (DSD) invited me to participate in the launch of their library week that focused on critical areas of information access relevant to the various services rendered by them. The Department’s aim of social transformation, social integration, poverty reduction and self-empowerment are supported by the 2015 SALW theme of

President’s message

Segametsi Molawa

LIASA-in-Touch
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Slam poetry for the library

LIASA president-elect Mr Mandla Ntombela, past president Ms Ujala Satgoor and next to her is Mr Mandlakayise Matyumza, Executive Head of the Centre for the Book

Deputy Minister of Arts and Culture, Ms Rejoice Mabudafhasi (fourth back left) with Mr Lechesa Tsenoli, Ms Sinikka Sipišč, Ms Segametsi Molawa, Ms Ujala Satgoor among others

Author, Sipho R Kekezwa, recipient of a publishing grant from the Centre for the Book, shares the impact of libraries on his life

Poet, Pumla Kamulu, reciting her tribute to libraries with the background of protests against the burning of libraries

Prof Rocky Rakabip人在

LIASA National Librarian with a message of thanks
City of Cape Town libraries celebrate

The City of Cape Town’s libraries hosted a bumper line-up of activities for patrons young and old during SALW.

The theme “Connect @ your library” explored the idea that libraries connect people with each other, with their communities, with knowledge and with information. “This week also gives the City an opportunity to create awareness and highlight the importance of libraries. We can market our library services which advance literacy in our communities and ensure that everyone can exercise their right to information,” said the City’s Mayoral Committee Member for Community Services and Special Projects, Alderman Belinda Walker.

Highlights included a book festival hosting author talks, writing workshops and Cosplay, which was presented by south peninsula libraries: Fish Hoek, Ocean View, Masiphumelele and Simon’s Town.

A number of libraries also hosted SmartCape and computer literacy classes. In addition, Central Library staff and patrons took to the streets of the CBD for a friendly Love Your Library march.

Ridhwaana Baradien
Assistant Professional Officer: Marketing and Research, CoCT - LIS

Fish Hoek Library chat Crime and Wine

Macassar Library: Grade 7 learners (Oklahoma Primary School) were treated to a day of activities. They were introduced to the library, had a talk on Caring for Trees and then planted three trees at the Macassar Square Park. The City’s Sport and Recreation Department kept the learners entertained with board games and interactive skits.

Adriaanse Library shows off Award during library week

Adriaanse Library staff

Wilhemina Whitman, Alderman Clive Justice, Councillor Chris Jordaan and Ninnie Steyn

Patron, Paulina van Wyk showing her support for libraries

Central Library staff and patrons marching in the Cape Town CBD

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In the spirit of connecting communities to libraries and to technology, the Unisa Library in collaboration with the Unisa Gauteng Regional hub, hosted an inter-generational conversation with the renowned writer and teacher Dr Don Mattera on 13 March to honour the beginning of Library week 2015 themed “Connect @Your Library” at the Unisa Sunnyside campus Library. Mattera encouraged students to be inquisitive and to use the library in their quest for knowledge. “In the library, you can travel the world without leaving the room,” he said. He also urged students to use the technology “to change lives”. Students in turn asked him comments on inspirational books, the state of affairs and education in South Africa and also contributed to the conversation with personal anecdotes.

The South African Library Week continued until 21 March with rich book and resource exhibitions throughout Unisa Libraries across the country.

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In celebration of the South African Library Week 2015 from 14-20 March, the Wits Health Sciences Library (WHSL) had a number of activities to create an environment for both students and staff to “Connect @ Your Library”, in accordance with the theme. A display of how technology has evolved in the provision of information was displayed with old computers, microfiche reader, slide carousel, overhead projector and telefax machines. The new generation of users were excited to see the evolution. There was a request by the Mail & Guardian to donate books for the “Underground Library”, an initiative by the young people of Mohlakeng in the West Rand in Gauteng after their library was burned during a service delivery protest. Students and staff responded to the call by donating books. The WHSL staff showed different users how they can “Connect to the library” on campus and remotely by accessing the Libguides, databases, eBooks, and e-journals using their Library PIN. Bookmarks and other freebies were issued out to students which made the library an enabler to connect.

Phindile Bekwa
Librarian: Teaching & Learning Support
Wits Health Sciences Library

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Our colourful display, highlighting the theme which was Connect @your library. It is also a colourful display which attracted lots of library users to comment on it. We also included the national posters as well as the bookmarks. We are proud of it, as we are a small rural Library trying by all means to make it more appealing to the youth and children especially.

Margaret Houliston, Assistant Director, Ntombi Tladinyane, author and TV personality Lineokuhle Mnisi and Sonny Mothopeng
South African Weather Service Library outreach celebrates SALW and World Meteorological Day

In support of the South African Library week 2015 theme, “Connect @ your library”, the South African Weather Service (SAWS) library team elected to place emphasis on connecting with other library and information practitioners in order to encourage and foster the external stakeholder relationships necessary for serving our respective user communities. On 26 March 2015, the SAWS library team held an outreach to other Librarians through an information session on the 2015 World Meteorological Day theme, “Climate Knowledge for Climate Action”. It was attended by representatives from Departments of Environmental Affairs and Energy, CSIR, SANBI and ARC - Soil, Climate and Water. The interactive and informative session included learning on how SAWS data, information and publication resources, as well as the Regional Meteorological Training Centre and library serve to promote “Climate knowledge for Climate Action.”

The programme incorporated presentations from various SAWS departments ranging from the 2015 World Meteorological Day theme, climate information and publications, the role of the Regional Meteorological Training Centre and the services provided by the SAWS library. The session invoked much interest from the audience, especially topics such as lightning statistics and the importance of conveying and public education on early warnings to rural communities through relevant communication platforms.

Karin Oxley

Free State Province connects!

Library Week was celebrated from 14-21 March at about 172 public libraries and depots throughout the Free State Province. The theme “Connect @ your library” was about enabling library users to connect … @ their library … to family, friends, technologies, information and the world. The activities took place as follows:

Connect with children

Nursery rhymes and song
Nursery rhymes introduced children to concepts that are essential for their development, while also helping them to strengthen a sense of rhythm and improve their vocabulary and counting skills.

Storytelling/puppets
There was a story-hour activity with a selection of suitable books. In some cases puppets were also used to tell a story; colouring-in pictures were given to the children afterwards.

Reading picnic in the library
Parents were also invited to take part; they were given the opportunity to read stories to children to sharpen their focus and improve their listening and reading skills.

Connect with teenagers

E-books for teenagers
Teenagers brought their cellphones, tablets and laptops to read books @ their libraries and could download software onto their devices.

Drop-everything-and-read activity
Teenagers brought their own materials and could download software onto their cellphones, laptops to read books @ their libraries and afterwards. They could also choose titles from the e-book service for this activity.

Book discussions
Teenagers brought reading material by their favourite authors and discussed it afterwards. They could also choose titles from the e-book service for this activity. Each participant introduced their favourite author or title to the group. The participant then had to indicate why this was his/her favourite author.

How library-savvy are you?
This activity started off with the librarians taking the teenagers on library-orientation tours. This was done as a follow-up after questionnaires were used to determine how well every teenager knew their library.

Connect with newly literates
This was for any adults or adolescents who have at some period acquired the basic technique of reading, but have not yet developed their skill to the point where they can read with speed, fluency and complete understanding.

Sessions started with a library tour, where the newly literates were introduced to the various services in the library. There was also an information session on a topic of general interest to the group, e.g. parenting skills or basic financial skills.

Connect with adults

The target group here was the unemployed of the community, with information sessions presented on:
• how to excel in public speaking;
• how to search for a job (including compiling a CV, the do’s and don’ts for job interviews, etc.); and
• basic financial literacy.

Adults were also taught how to read e-books on their cellphones, laptops and tablets, how to search the Internet and how to type their CVs.
KwaZulu-Natal Launch of SALW 2015 and Mzansi Online project at KwaNdwalane Library

Library Week 2015 with the theme “Connect @ your library” was launched, together with the Mzansi Library Online Project, at KwaNdwalane Public Library on 17 March by the Honourable National Deputy Minister of Arts and Culture, Mrs Rejoice Mabudafhasi and the Honourable MEC for Arts, Culture, Sport and Recreation, Mrs Ntombikayise Sibhidla-Saphetha. Also present at the launch was HOD of KZN Department of Arts and Culture, Mrs Sibongile Nzimande.

The Project is funded by a grant given by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation through its Global Libraries Programme to the Department of Arts and Culture.

The Mzansi Project aims to provide libraries with computers, tablets, printers, scanners and games, particularly in rural areas to enhance access to information in the communities.

Deputy Minister Mabudafhasi said that “Public libraries play a pivotal role in the South African society... Libraries and a reading culture are of strategic importance to socio-economic growth and development. We must encourage ourselves and our children to read, because through reading we become literate and South Africa needs literate people since we are a developing country”.

Senior Manager of Library Services, Ms Nokuthula Ndlovu, showed the guests around the library and explained the services offered to the public. Golly Odendaal of the Computer Section talked to them of the computer services on offer at affiliated public libraries.

One of the five Library Service Mobile Trucks was present at the event, where visitors were able to learn more about libraries and the services they provide.

Deputy Minister of Arts and Culture, Mrs Rejoice Mabudafhasi, launches the Mzansi Online Project with KZN MEC for Arts, Culture, Sport and Recreation Mrs Ntombikayise Sibhidla-Saphetha. Mayor of Hibiscus Municipality, Cllr Nomusa Mqwebu (far right) and Inkosi Sazi Nelson Ndwalane.

Janet Hart
Promotions Librarian
KZN Provincial Library Service

Assistant Manager, Library Services Computer Section, Golly Odendaal, talks about the Connect @ your library project.

Members of the Mzansi Online team

Prof Rocky Ralebipi-Simela (National Librarian), Winnie Manyitho (DAC) and KZN DAC HoD Sibongile Nzimande

Senior Manager of Library Services, Ms Nokuthula Ndlovu, talks to guests.
DUT Library recognizes Information Literacy Champions during SALW

The Information Literacy Champions Awards are presented annually to academics and librarians who are nominated by fellow academics and librarians for their outstanding contributions to Information Literacy. This year’s award presentation took place at the B.M. Patel Library on Wednesday, 18 March. The Information Literacy Librarian Champion for 2014 was awarded to the Postgraduate Librarian, Sara Mitha.

Sagren Moodley

Msunduzi Museum

The Msunduzi Museum launched South African Library Week on 16 March 2015 with a talk by Dr Gugulethu Mazibuko from UKZN about female isiZulu writers, encouraging the youth to read and to become authors. The Museum encourages learners and the public to visit our reference library which has a variety of books dealing with historical, political and social issues.

Elrica Henning
Chief Research Officer/HoD Research, Information and Collections, Msunduzi Museum, Pietermaritzburg

DUT Library recognizes Information Literacy Champions during SALW

Reading, writing and singing - Alencon Primary pupils ‘edu-tained’ during Library Week

The Durban University of Technology (DUT) Library in partnership with the DUT Writing Centre hosted a community development project at Alencon Primary School in Chatsworth, aimed at creating excitement and interest in reading. This project was part of national Library Week that was observed during 14-21 March 2015 with the theme this year being Connect @ your library.

This interactive reading outreach programme included reading, writing and singing activities based on the Dr Seuss book *Oh the Places you’ll go* and was facilitated by the Writing Centre.

According to Neroshnee Govender, one of the Writing Centre Managers, this book was chosen for a very particular reason: “Today’s focus is on motivating children to read. We selected this book because Dr Seuss makes reading fun by using a combination of humour, crazy creatures and zany pictures with his unique blend of rhyme and repetition.”

The Grade 4 learners played word games and had an exciting writing task where they shared their favourite places to visit. The Writing Centre tutors also shared their study and work experience with the learners and encouraged them to pursue their dreams.

The activities were held in the School Library to encourage children to treasure books and make use of this important resource they have. The message we wanted to share with them is that Readers are Leaders and that reading and writing will help them become confident, successful individuals. We also wanted the children to understand that reading extensively will help them become better writers and reading a variety of books and genres will help them to build their own writing talent and skill.

Sagren Moodley

Bringing books to life with ChatterKid and Blipper apps

Parklands College Resource Centre celebrated South African Library Week from 14 – 20 March 2015 with the theme: Connect @ your library. In celebrating Library Week, the Resource Centre ran a full exhibition of great works from various authors. Learners had huge fun bringing books to life using ChatterKid and Blipper apps in celebration of Library Week.

Colin Zinyeredzi
Resource centre manager

Youth enjoy the Gaming@ your library project

Msunduzi Museum launch of South African Library Week, 16 March 2015

Prof Nomthandazo Gwele (DVC Academic), Sara Mitha and Library Director, Lucille Webster
The Seniors welcomed well known youth author Jaco Jacobs. The school also participated in World Read Aloud Day that preceded Library Week.

The primary school children at Laerskool Rustenburg were thoroughly spoiled during Library Week by their Librarian, René Schoombee.

@ Coligny Library
Coligny Library in Bokone Bophirima (North West) had a week-long SALW Celebration. Different projects were part of the programme.

Here are some of the winners (top left) that participated in the “Jazz it up with colour” puzzle competition. At the back, Mandie Rademeyer (Library assistant), Mariska Doorewaard (teacher of the Special School in Coligny) and Henriët van Loggerenberg (Librarian). Different ages were chosen as winners. Two schools participated in the competition.

“Story telling will never end regardless of what technology gives us!” says Coligny Librarian Henriët van Loggerenberg. She is passionate about Libraries and her work. During Library Week Marilize Keyser entertained about 150 children (centre) from Grades 1 to 3 in Coligny Primary School by reading stories to them. The Library gave each of them a packet of sweets and an ice-pop. There is an ongoing understanding between the School and the Library; either the Library visits them or smaller classes visit the Library on a regular basis.

During Library week the Library of Coligny extended an invitation to women library users to cover little boxes with nice gift paper (bottom left). The aim was to give them an opportunity to socialize and Connect with each other. They also discussed Woman’s Month in August and the Librarian was excited with some of the ideas expressed by the group. After a relaxed morning, the ladies enjoyed refreshments. This is all part of the strategic marketing of the Library services.

The Junior Learners were treated with a visit from Babalela, the well-known storybook character and had a visit from the Boekbuddies theatre group.

@ Laerskool Rustenburg Media Centre

The Seniors welcomed well known youth author Jaco Jacobs.

The school also participated in World Read Aloud Day that preceded Library Week.

@ University of Limpopo

The University of Limpopo Library and Information Services officially launched and celebrated South African Library Week (SALW) from 16 to 20 March 2015. The theme for this year was “Connect @Your Library”. This theme resonates with the belief that libraries connect people in many ways i.e. to knowledge and information; to print and electronic resources; to technology, and professional support.

The week-long festivity was launched by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor for Academic and Research, Prof Mbudzeni Sibara, who said the university libraries are up to speed with the latest technologies.

“The University has achieved cutting-edge library support services. The UL community is enjoying the advanced technologies that have been set up recently. We have a Self-Check System, discovery tools and additional electronic resources like E-Books,” he said.

Highlights for the week include poster displays by students and online training for library users. Staff and students were trained in the effective use of databases viz. Lexis Nexis, EBSCO, Sabinet, Emerald Insight and Proquest (Ebrary and RefWorks) to ease access to information.

“Attendance at each training session was satisfactory. Book sellers also displayed the most recent publications on various subjects. On the other hand, academic staff selected new books from the display of the Library collection,” said Abigail Shoroma, a Librarian at UL.

According to the Executive Director of Library and Information Services, Ms Makgabela Chuene, “The event was a success. Students showed up in their numbers to support the celebrations.”

Students designed posters based on this year’s theme which saw Mxolisi Mabuza, second year BA Media Studies student, taking home an Acer Iconia Tablet donated by SABINET.

Zanele Magoba, Training Manager at Sabinet said: “It is important for all students to connect at their libraries so that this theme becomes a reality and a success.”

Magoba said as South Africans celebrate Human Rights Day on 21 March, they should not forget that everyone has the freedom of access to information as a basic human right.

Madichakga Malahlela

Ms Makgabela Chuene Executive Director LIS presents award to Mxolisi Mabuza for his winning poster
A highly successful SALW event was held by the Gauteng North Branch on 24 March 2015 at the University of Pretoria Groenkloof Campus. The thirty six members who attended networked with friends and colleagues over coffee and rusks before moving through to the auditorium, where they were warmly welcomed by the Branch Chair Ms M. de Waal.

Ms de Waal gave an informative overview of South African Library Week and the LIASA theme for this year: Connect @ your library, and how the Branch event was contributing to this year’s theme by members connecting with the Branch Executive Committee and with each other.

In this spirit, each of the Branch Executive Committee members made a presentation introducing themselves to the assembled audience, indicating who they are in their professional life, in their professional life and how they connect to LIASA. Some very interesting facts emerged about the Committee members!

Members then opened an envelope which they had been given upon arrival, inside of which was a single puzzle piece from the SALW poster. The task was to find the member who had a puzzle piece that linked to yours and connect with each other by introducing yourself and informing your partner as to who you are. This became a very vocal event as we all tried to find our ‘partners’.

The hot topic of discussion for the morning was the SAQA accreditation of LIASA as a professional body. Ms De Waal introduced the LIASA Manager, Ms Annamarie Goosen, who explained the difference between a professional body and a statutory body and indicated that this was the first step in the process and that LIASA would be seeking statutory status in the future. There are currently 70 professional bodies countrywide.

A professional body’s responsibilities include: protection of the public, support of national development and the encouragement of social responsibility. Members of the body would be required to sign a code of conduct.

To become a professional member, librarians will be required to have completed a qualification, in this case a LIS degree, and have some experience in the LIS Sector. No board exam is required and the official designation will be: Professional Librarian.

One of the most important aspects for a professional librarian to maintain professional status would be participating in continuing professional development, of which a variety of options will be available. Members would be awarded points for attendance of endorsed training. At the moment the number of points required and the time period over which they can be collected is 20 points for every 12 months. LIASA will need to be informed as to the training for which the points are being requested and the content of the training should be endorsed by LIASA as the Professional Body.

Members were excited about the awarding of professional status to LIASA and felt it would raise the profile of librarians in the market. During the discussion time, members had many questions for Ms Goosen. Some members felt that the number of points required was quite high and that some institutions either did not attend training or only limited training. The issue of the cost of training was also raised and that within institutions some members may not be able to attend sufficient training opportunities to gain the requisite number of points.

Ms Goosen pointed out that what would be required of members to achieve and maintain professional status was still in the discussion phase and that the number of points and the time period over which they could be collected was still open for discussion. Ms Goosen’s presentation would be made available on the LIASA website for members to peruse at their leisure.

With the Speakers presentation and question session over, and members having been given much food for thought, members were given an extremely appetising lunch bag to take back to their offices with them.

Nikki Potgieter
Gauteng North Secretary

The LIASA Gauteng South Branch in partnership with the City of Johannesburg Library and Information Services celebrated SALW on 18 March 2015 at the Johannesburg City Library with the theme, “Social cohesion: Integrating libraries in our Society.”

Guest Speaker, Ms Lerato Tshabalala, spoke about the important role that libraries play in society. She shared her story as a student and revealed how the Johannesburg Public Library helped her to connect with other students, explore the world through reading books and ignited her quest to be a writer.

Ms Veronica Mathebula, a self-published South African author, gave a synopsis of her latest book, “In the Name of Love” and a hint of her first two books within the “Love Stories for Believers” series, “Dreams do come true” and “Against all Odds.”

In addition, LIASA Gauteng South received donations from people who attended the event: UKS, Pearson Education and Gauteng West College for the Mhlakeng Underground Library. The donations were handed over to the Mail & Guardian newspaper on Friday 20 March.

Yanelisekani Mfundhisi
PRO: LIASA Gauteng South

Yanelisekani Mfundhisi
PRO: LIASA Gauteng South
LIASA Limpopo Branch, in partnership with Ba-Phalaborwa Municipality celebrated South African Library Week 2015 at Prieska Combined School, Prieska Village, Ba-Phalaborwa Municipality, Mopani District on Thursday 19 March 2015.

For the second year running the LIASA Limpopo Branch hired a 22-seater bus to take the members to Phalaborwa. This is a huge achievement for the branch that it does something for its members. All paid up LIASA members did not pay for transport. The crew consisted of BEC members, Branch members, the ever-green LIS Students from University of Limpopo, Ms Morongoe Ntsala, Mr John Tsebe, LIASA Limpopo Branch Librarian of the Year 2014, Ms Mercy Mokgele. Amongst the people attending the celebration were LIASA Limpopo members, Ba-Phalaborwa Municipality, learners and teachers from Prieska Combined School, Principals and teacher librarians from various schools, Prieska community members, the Ward Councillor, Forskor Mine Representatives, Hosi M Ntswanwisi etc. Learners entertained the audience with poetry, drama, speech and dance.

Cllr T Malatji, Ba-Phalaborwa Municipality, officially welcomed everyone and invited a pastor to open the event with a prayer. Mr Ngoako Steven Mokhabukhi from Ba-Phalaborwa and a veteran of LIASA, acknowledged all the special guests. One of the Learners from the School, Ms Priscilla Mathebula, recited a moving poem about the importance of libraries. “Libraries are containers of information, eye openers; as community members, we walk tall because of libraries”. LIASA Limpopo Branch Chairperson, Ms Abigail Chuene, spoke about the purpose of the day and introduced a special guest, Mr John Tsebe, former CEO of the National Library to the people. In his address, Mr Tsebe gave a brief history of the National Library and LIASA. He said that the purpose of South African Library Week is to promote and encourage the use of libraries in the country. He said that the first public library in South Africa was established on the 18th March 1818, which is now called the National Library in Cape Town.

Mr Tsebe said that this year’s SALW theme is very relevant today to encourage and promote reading in the country. He also encouraged community leaders, teachers, and the private sector to support the development of libraries in the country. Mr Tsebe continued, “Please consolidate the successes of the past, build a library in this community and the Departments of Sport, Arts and Culture and Education will assist. Please utilise the libraries to improve our lives, so that we develop into better persons and communities, better citizens, better South Africans and a better world to attain love and peace”.

Ms Abigail Modika, a representative from Forskor Mine thanked everyone for coming to the function. She was particularly pleased to have met LIASA leadership in the province. She said that the Forskor mine was happy to be part of Prieska Community. Prieska Combined School dedicated two classrooms to Forskor and the mine declared that it would turn one classroom into a library and the second into a Science Lab. She said that the budget for these projects
Moving on:
A professional journey into the 1980s and towards the transformation scene of the 1990s

Looking forward from a view point in the early 1980s I see rough sketches and tentative outlines of what was to become my professional life for the next two decades, within the parallel contexts of embryonic computer technology and a growing awareness that the social and political agenda in South Africa, raked with violence as it was in this decade, was moving close to inevitably revolutionary change. We know now, from numerous recent sources, how widespread and how concealed from public view these radical developments were, from Nelson Mandela clandestinely taking tea with Die Groot Krookodil, P.W. Botha, to F.W.de Klerk’s momentous announcements in Parliament in February 1990.

There was a personal perspective and there was a political perspective. At the end of the 70s the broad but apartheid-restricted South African Library Association (SALA) had started transforming itself with some kicking and screaming into the professional, graduates only, South African Institute for LIS (SAILIS). There was disproportionately “much ado” about, of all things, the adoption of the new, somewhat inscrutable SAILIS logo (did the arrow lead us downwards and backwards?), and at an almost riotous Conference plenary some of us were of the opinion that the vote had been blunted in its favour.

With much deeper consequences, there was a tension building about whether LIS professionals should cultivate a “neutral” position with regard to politics, on the basis that a library should serve people of all political persuasions or none. Small radical LIS groups who could not support the idea of professional non-engagement (most notably the Library & Information Workers Association, LIWO, and the many clusters of Resource Centres mostly affiliated to NGOs, who produced and made accessible unique and now mostly lost periodical and socio-economic research output), broke away and formed a powerful nucleus from which, in the early 90s, the greatest transformation of our profession would emerge.

Against this background, I found myself engaging on a personal level in the activities of the Special Libraries interest group SLIS (my professional network when I did ILLs at the Public Library) and, through SLIS, the then Southern Transvaal branch of SAILIS. SLIS had very high professional standards among its members – in the mid70s it had organised and offered a superb pioneering 6-week workshop on “Computers in Libraries”, held in midwinter in the icy cement halls of what was then the rather new campus of the RAU. This was my introduction to SLIS; a year or two later I was stunned when I was asked to head a discussion table at an ILLs workshop, and my personal involvement with continuing professional development dates from these early SLIS experiences. By then, too, I had learnt to force myself to contribute at least one comment or question in every meeting I went to, though my hands were shaking and cold with nervous sweat until I had spoken and could sit down and enjoy the rest of the meeting. Shortly after that workshop, through a process very hard to believe today, I was invited by the SLIS committee to attend an interview for possible nomination to the next SLIS committee elections. It was a rather formal interview, after work, with the chair and vice chair – I felt it was a great honour and I was amazed and very pleased when I found myself elected to the committee and took on the really demanding job of Secretary. Without automation of any kind, I kept the membership lists for two years and spent my mining house lunch hours stacking address labels by hand on to 123 envelopes containing notices of meetings or other documentation to be sent by bulk mail to members. I got to know the SLIS community as one gets to know the books one shelves, and some names are still there, 35 years later. I discovered a few years later that SLIS was founded in the year I was born and that one of its founding committee members was my godmother, a well-known librarian in Johannesberg of the 40s. That always seemed to me a special omen for the future that followed!

For me the early 80s were years of personal and professional networking and consolidation, the ripples of which I still feel. I completed my Honours through Unisa, going across to the Reference Library after 6pm each evening until it closed at 8pm and then driving home in my car which I had parked – quite safely – on the street outside! There were no public photocopiers, and copies cost 5c a page to order – so I read and made notes, endless copious notes, from all the major LIS journals, and then marked them up in different coloured crayons (no highlighters!) to compile and handwrite final examination essays required for each of the five courses.

I considered that my specialist field was information retrieval, with its still relatively primitive technology, and my role model was Professor Anna Louw, a major figure in SLIS before she moved to Unisa in the early 1970s. When my results came out, however, it was Library Management, not Information Retrieval, where I had done best. The following year, as a direct consequence of this, I was invited to develop and teach a new course in Library Management. In this way I returned to academic life, joining the large group of part time (early mornings and late afternoons) lecturers from the LIS practising world, who were reviving the Wits University Higher Diploma in LIS under Reuben Musiker. As the former students from those first two years will recall, it was a very difficult way to study. Two years later I moved from the mining house library and became a full time lecturer at Wits.

In the next series: Transformation in the LIS classroom, technology, LIS practice and our associations.

Clare Walker

Editor: Clare will be taking a “break” from the L-i-T for the rest of the year due to her IFLA/WLIC commitments. This interesting series of reflections will resume in 2016.

Many of our LIASA colleagues, no matter what age, have recollections to share about their personal experiences of the LIS sector, LIS education, LIS associations and LIS personalities, and we look forward to receiving their submissions (800 word to this series). Collectively we can build up the personal accounts of our LIS sector in South Africa as a record to complement the more formal history derived from reports and other documents.
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Get information that's **relevant, accurate** and up to date from one of the most **reliable** and up-to-date specialist content providers in Africa.
The S.A. Library and Information Trust at the beginning of 2015 passed the R700 000 mark in grant funding. Since its inception in 1998, the SALI Trust has supported a wide variety of projects in library development and also research. The library profession in the 1990s was fragmented with a number of organisations active, including the African Library Association of South Africa (ALA-SA), the Library and Information Workers Organization (LIWO) and the S.A. Institute for Librarianship and Information Science (SAILIS). The need for a new association unifying library and information workers led to the Transafia Coalition (Transforming our Library Services) and a discussion and negotiation process ended in the establishment of LIASA. Consequently, SAILIS decided to dissolve and made a donation to LIASA with the remaining assets transferred to an independent trust, the SALI Trust, which was formally registered in December 1998.

The objectives of the Trust, as set out in the trust deed, are generally to promote the common interests of the library and information profession in South Africa and in doing so to develop librarianship and information studies for services of a high standard.

The main instrument to achieve these objectives is to make funding available for appropriate projects. To enable the sustainability of available funding the trustees decided to maintain and grow the assets by means of an investment portfolio that generates an annual income, with most used for grants and a small part capitalised for further growth.

At present, grants of up to R40 000 can be awarded and, since the first grant in 2000, there have been 36 more grants with a total value of almost R750 000 covering areas from children’s reading competitions to information science research. A few examples of projects supported:  
- The design of an information literacy programme for upper elementary children in a public library  
- An investigation of the performance levels of interlending and document supply  
- The upgrading of six community container libraries  
- A DVD on LIASA  
- A community project for reading and telling stories to children  
- An investigation of services to users with disabilities in academic libraries  
- Battle of the Books reading competition in a public library  
- Donating storybooks to children’s homes in the Western Cape  

A call for applications for the following year is sent out in the second half of the year. Applications are considered at a Board of Trustees meeting and applicants are informed of the outcome early in the new year. LIASAOntime is one of the channels used to request applications. As can be seen by the examples of projects supported, the scope is very wide but, in view of the limited funds, sometimes the Trust is not able to provide all the funding needed for a project and assists with some of the costs.

The Trust is managed by a Board of eight trustees, with administrative duties performed by one of the trustees. In the early years, apart from getting the Trust firmly established, an important responsibility was the continued publication of the S.A. Journal of Library and Information Science, until the journal passed to LIASA in 2002. The current Board is chaired by Dr Andrew Kaniki of the National Research Foundation and two of the original trustees, Prof John Willemsen and Mr Goolam Haaffajee, continue to serve. LIASA is represented by the President Elect, Mr Mandla Ntombela. The administration of the Trust was for many years performed by Prof Willemsen and is now the responsibility of Mr John van Niekerk. Other trustees are Ms Joan de Beer, Mrs Rachel More and Ms Vivian Agyei. (Enquiries: johnvn@mweb.co.za)

John van Niekerk
Administrative Officer
S.A. Library and Information Trust

SALI Trust passes the R700 000 mark in grants awarded

No, Sakai is not a form of martial arts!!!!

Every journey begins with the first step. This adage is especially true at the University of the Witwatersrand, where a pilot project to render information literacy lessons through e-learning platforms has taken off. The experience of Wits Librarians has seen many lessons learnt in how students perceive learning in a changed pedagogic landscape. With the exponential leaps made by social media, it would be amiss of academic librarians not to harness such tools in providing information literacy. So when the challenge of creating an online information literacy course was thrown to the Wits Humanities Team, it was accepted with both hands and we ran off for the touchline.

Background
In November 2013, Wits Humanities Librarians were requested to consider other platforms of providing information literacy lessons to first-year students. Library Management convened a series of meetings with librarians and various ways and means of addressing the specifications requirements were deliberated. The outcome of this battery of meetings was that Humanities Librarians had to accept that e-learning was the means to achieve the goal of information-literate first-year students, and that a School in the Faculty should be approached with the purpose of developing a prototype information literacy course using the SAKAI e-learning platform. That the urgency of the project could be grasped was under an illusion. The Project Lead decided to wade into the project immediately. Having had just a practical show and tell tutorial on SAKAI a year previously, the project map was difficult to conceive at that initial stage.

Project Timelines
School academics and Library Management expected the course to be planned, laid out, tested and rolled out by the beginning of the 2014 academic term. This implied that long hours had to be put in during the December exam break, in order to comply with the contricted timeline. At this stage, Wits Librarians were very anxious to comply with the constricted timeline. At December end-of-year term break, in order to comply with the contrstricted timeline. At this stage, Wits Librarians were very anxious and concerned as to whether we could achieve the project requirements within the allocated timeframe. Bearing in mind that the SAKAI platform, its structure and methodological aspects, are still very new to all, the commitment to the project was crucial and all project members agreed that the project deliverables, resources and milestones must be clearly identified so that the course would be ready by the beginning of the new term.

The SAKAI Tool
Sakai is an open-source e-learning platform, launched in 2004 by a collaboration of four American universities, and available over the World Wide Web to more than three hundred and fifty colleges and Universities world-wide. At project close-out 656 students took the SAKAI tests, with an average pass-mark of 70 percent. The Humanities Team is excited about ratcheting this project up to second and third year level, and it has been rolled out to one other school in the Faculty. In conclusion, SAKAI is indeed not a martial art form, but having walked a road of tough challenges, one cannot help feeling like a martial arts expert!

SK Jugdav
Principal Librarian: Humanities
University of the Witwatersrand
The Department of Library Services, in collaboration with Sci-Enza (the oldest interactive Science Centre in South Africa) hosted the Bloodhound Project exhibition from 13 to 24 April in the Merensky 2 library at the University of Pretoria.

The Bloodhound Project is a global engineering adventure that uses the possibility of setting a 1000 mph (1600 km/h) world land-speed record at Hakskeenpan in the Northern Cape to inspire the next generation to become interested in science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

The objectives of this project are to:

- encourage an interest in science, technology, engineering and mathematics in the next generation;
- share an iconic research and development programme with a global audience; and
- set a new world land-speed record of 1000 mph.

The Bloodhound is a supersonic car, designed to go faster than the speed of sound. It is jet- and rocket-powered and has a slender body of approximately 13.4 m in length, with two front wheels within the body and two rear wheels mounted externally within wheel fairings. It weighs 7.5 tonnes and the engines produce more than six times the combined power of all the Formula 1 cars on a starting grid! The BLOODHOUND SSC represents a mix of car and aircraft technology: the front half consists of a carbon-fibre monocoque, which it has in common with a racing car, and the back half consists of a metallic framework and panels, as seen in aircraft. The car will be under the full control of its driver, Andy Green, who is also a Fighter Pilot in the Royal Air Force, when he attempts to set a new world land-speed record in the BLOODHOUND SSC later this year.

Neighbouring schools in Pretoria were invited to come and view the exhibit and pupils from both Hoнимpha Secondary School (from KwaMhlanga) and Phepeto Secondary School (from Kroonstad) attended guided tours of the exhibit. The media was also attracted and articles about the exhibit were published in the Pretoria News and Daily Sun.

Some comments from the visitors’ book:
- “Thanks, great exhibition to put the size of the car in perspective.”
- “An engineering and scientific marvel!”
- “Very cool. This is how you make engineering exciting for everyone!”
- “Quite an intriguing expo! I am thrilled by the speed.”

For more information please visit www.bloodhoundssc.com

Assistant Director: Marketing & Quality Assurance

Elsabe Olivier

The Bloodhound Project modular show car on exhibit in the Merensky 2 library!

### MakerSpace launched at the UP’s Merensky 2 Library

The Department of Library Services of the University of Pretoria (UP) proudly launched its new Library MakerSpace on 31 March 2015 – a first in South Africa! The Library MakerSpace is a physical workspace in the Merensky 2 Library where students and staff can gather to share resources and knowledge, work on projects, network, and design and build models. Individuals are encouraged to collaborate and innovate in this creative laboratory where new technologies, such as soldering benches, 3D printers and computers, are placed at their disposal to enable them to develop their creative ideas.

MakerSpace, available worldwide, is often associated with fields such as engineering, computer science, graphic design and digital art. The Library MakerSpace will offer expert advice, information on and training in, for example, the basics of 3D printing, Arduino electronics and programming, mobile gaming, leatherwork, the art of bookmaking, drones, finish robotics, CAD and application development.

At the official launch, Mr Dennis Kriel, Head: Library Information Systems of the University receives the symbolic key (printed by the Library MakerSpace) from Mr Robert Moropa, Director of the Merensky Library and the University’s MakerSpace was established in the library as it is a neutral place for continuously questioning what the library of the future should look like and for extending the boundaries. She accepted a symbolic key (printed by the Library MakerSpace) from the Director of the Merensky Library, Mr Robert Moropa.

Go to: https://plus.google.com/+UPLibraryMakerspace/posts or email the coordinator at makerspace@tuks.co.za for more information on the MakerSpace.

Elsabe Olivier

### OCLC WorldShare Management Services

University of KwaZulu-Natal Libraries adopted a new library system, namely WorldShare Management Services (WMS) and went live on 5th January 2015.

“An one stop shop” for all your library material, WMS is an integrated suite of cloud-based management and discovery applications. It is designed to streamline library operations and provides a cooperative library management service for acquisitions, cataloguing and license manager and serves as a powerful discovery and delivery experience for library users. It offers a “one stop shop” search interface for library users whereby a single search on the library catalogue can link users to wealth of information from books, e-books, journal articles and much more, both within their own library and worldwide. Hence, library management tasks are moved onto a single platform where data and activities can be efficiently reused in as many situations as possible, reducing effort and saving time for library staff.

University of KwaZulu-Natal, being a Premier University of African Scholarship, was the first in Africa to adopt the full suite of library applications of WMS. OCLC, working in conjunction with its local partner SABINET, in the African region, played a key role in the implementation support and training and will be providing ongoing support for WMS in Africa. Hence, the months prior to the go-live has been painstakingly challenging, ensuring that the configuration and time frame deadlines set out by OCLC were met. A project of this magnitude generally takes a minimum of six months to a year to complete. UKZN libraries, with the help of SABINET, completed this project in three months. The reason for this decisive action was that the cost of maintaining our previous library system was becoming unsustainable - hence this, together with a desire to provide consolidated access to all of our resources and make better use of our collections budget, played a key role in our decision to implement WMS. Despite these challenges, the project has been a success with minor problems and both staff and students have been excited about the new system because of its simplicity and ease of use.

Omesh Jagannath

Head: Library Information Systems

EGM Library, Howard College

 LIASA-in-Touch JUNE 2015 • Vol 16 • ISSUE 2
The LIASA Special Libraries Interest Group of the Eastern Cape, LiSLIG (EC), is currently celebrating its tenth year. Our Interest Group has grown considerably since our first meeting in 2005 at a small farm stall on the road between Grahamstown and Port Elizabeth. Despite the long distances we have to travel, we have over the years visited many interesting Special Libraries. (The farm stall has also grown considerably and is still patronised by our members when travelling to and from meetings in Port Elizabeth).

Our first meeting of 2015 was hosted by Verna Whiteley, Librarian of the Nelson Mandela Metropolitan Art Museum in Port Elizabeth. We enjoyed learning about the outreach activities which promote creativity amongst the children visiting the museum and we also learnt about the restoration of paintings. We saw the storage facilities for artwork not currently on display and admired the enthusiasm of the staff for their work. The staff have plans for many themed displays.

In the afternoon we drove to the Livingstone Hospital Resource Centre (one of three such Centres in which Librarians help maintain access to crucial medical knowledge to assist doctors) and then we enjoyed a most informative tour and presentation on the educational contribution librarians make regarding increasing the knowledge of both health professionals and patients alike.

Ann Torlesse
EC LiSLIG Secretary
Cory Library, Rhodes University

PRAESA wins Astrid Lindgren Memorial Award

LIASA LiSLIG EC branch meeting and visits to special libraries in Port Elizabeth

Art Restorer Anthony Keogh
PACLIG NEC Strategic Planning meeting

The PACLIG National Executive Committee held their first strategic planning meeting from 13–15 March 2015 in Cape Town. The first day was spent breaking new ground by setting up a webinar on Big Blue Button, the open source software made available on the LIASA website. After much laughter and many false starts the committee had a successful webinar. This technology has great potential and will increasingly become the preferred mode of communication and training for the PACLIG NEC.

PACLIG’S strategic focus areas include many exciting events, new innovations and training opportunities for members and interest group officials. PACLIG will be part of the IFLA Public Library Satellite Conference at the upcoming IFLA World Library and Information Congress in August 2015. Regular updates on all PACLIG activities will be posted on our Facebook page (https://www.facebook.com/pages/LIASA-PACLIG-National) and other social/print media.

Watch this space!

Shireen Deoraj
Senior Librarian
Durban Central Library

Disaster planning for libraries

A two day disaster planning and bookmaking workshop was presented by the National Library of South Africa (Preservation Services) in partnership with the Africana Library Trust in Kimberley. The workshop was held from 26-27 February at the William Humphreys Art Gallery, the Kimberley Africana Library and the Paper Conservation, Bookbinding and Training Centre.

The purpose was to prepare library workers and managers to deal with library disasters ranging from fire, flooding, pest infestation and the challenges of extreme climate regions with high temperatures and humidity.

The workshop included practical demonstrations, use of disaster equipment and disaster box contents. It was concluded with a bookmaking session. Participants each bound their own copy of a 2015 diary.

The workshop was sponsored by the DAC Conditional Grant.

For more information contact
Ms Lamese Mohamed: 021 487 5602
Email: lamese.mohamed@nlsa.ac.za

† Workshop attended by library workers from Northern Cape, North-West and Gauteng.

LSLIG FS at Archive of Contemporary Affairs

The LiSLIG Free State members visited the Archive for Contemporary Affairs at the Stef Coetzee Building, Bloemfontein Campus, University of the Free State on 11 February 2015 to learn more about the activities and information rendered to researchers.

Ms Huibré Lombard and Ms Ernené Verster gave the 9 LiSLIG members some background information on the history and developments at the Archive. Thereafter they took everybody on a tour through the facility, also showing the vaults where important documents are kept.

Towards the end of 1964 there had been a campaign to establish a centre at the University of the Free State for the collection and preservation of political documents of the South African political history since 1902. That led to the opening of the Institute for Contemporary History towards the end of 1970. The Institute consisted of three divisions, i.e. Documentation Division, Press Cutting, and Research Division.

In 1998 the Documentation Division became independent as the Archive for Contemporary Affairs, with collections from economists, politicians, churches, cultural and community leaders, as well as comprehensive collections of newspapers and newspaper cuttings, official publications, pamphlets, photographs, press releases and speeches of Ministers. There is also a Sound Archive for recording the memoirs of individuals. These collections cover approximately 3 500m of shelving space.

The Archive is responsible for the collection, safekeeping, arrangement and description of archivalia and for making it accessible to researchers.

The material is donated to the Archive and donors don’t receive financial compensation. The donor maintains control over the accessibility of the collection. Confidential documents may be withdrawn from the collection for any period of time and the Archive staff obeys these instructions thoroughly.


Staff contact details:
- Mrs H Lombard: Head of the Archive for Contemporary Affairs
  Tel: 051-401-2225 / huibre@ufs.ac.za
- Mrs E Verster: Information Officer
  Tel: 051-401-2646 / ernene@ufs.ac.za
- Mr NTF Sentso: Information Assistant
  Tel: 051-401-2225 / sentsontf@ufs.ac.za

Front: Christelle Lubbe (Chair), Samantha Christians (treasurer), Nombegugu Mphofu (Goverance) and Theresa Denton (Chair-elect). Standing: Kepi Madumo (Membership) and Shireen Deoraj (treasurer), Ntombegugu Mpofu (Governance) and Theresa Jonker (treasurer), Ntombegugu Mpofu (Governance) and Theresa Jonker (treasurer)
NGOs and local Public library assisting to establish a Reading Culture among students at TVET College

“Literacy is a powerful tool with lifelong benefits... Reading is the fundamental pillar of education. Education is the foundation of a healthy, stable, growth-oriented society.” (FunDza website1). The Open Learning Centre (OLC) of False Bay College, Fish Hoek Campus, together with and NGOs Nal’ibali2 and FunDza collaborated towards a Reading campaign to accomplish the above-mentioned goals.

Nal’ibali representative Richhardt le Roux, False Bay College English Lecturers (Natascha Krull and Tamara Jooste) and myself (Open Learning Centre Coordinator) decided together on criteria for the campaign: number of books to be read, recommended titles, cut-off dates for review submissions and what to judge the winners on.

The Campaign was introduced to the students during OLC Orientation, in early January 2015. Nal’ibali and FunDza also set up stalls to highlight the Reading Campaign.

One of the criteria of the campaign requires students to join a local library. Janusz Skarzynski, Principal Librarian of Fish Hoek Public Librarry, agreed to support the Campaign by selecting suitable titles and making them available in a dedicated space, hereby supplementing the OLC’s limited resources a Monthly prizes are awarded to keep the reading momentum going.

Many of our students have since joined and borrowed their books.

Authors Sonja Kruse (Ubuntu Girl) and Zimkhitha Mianzelii represent Fundza, who together with Nal’ibali, are doing workshops with the English classes on Fridays in the OLC. Richhardt and FunDza introduced the students to stories they can read on a mobile app and are doing fun story-related activities with them – accompanied by much delight and laughter. Zimkhitha, who mentors budding authors, encouraged students to start writing and one has already completed a book!

Another criteria for the campaign is to read a story to children and produce a photograph as evidence. Copies of the story Sindisa’s gift, by Gcina Mhlope, were made available to students to use as part of the FunDza National initiative for World Read Aloud Day. Natascha arranged for small groups of students to visit a nearby crèche, while other students read to children in their neighbourhood.

Two other activities to contribute towards the students’ Reading Campaign portfolio, are aligned with World Book Day (23 April) and Short story day Africa. Author visits will continue to inspire students as well.

While Richhardt assisted in launching the Reading campaign, Bulelani Futschane, continues Nal’ibali’s ongoing support to the campus. He is keen to start book clubs on campus. Book Club leaders will be trained and ongoing support provided afterwards.

The setting up of Reading Clubs will serve to continue this momentum of reading enjoyment on campus.

At the end of the campaign, Nal’ibali and FunDza will assist in choosing the winners. We aim to reward a winner from each of the three levels of the three National Certificate Vocational programmes on campus. Nal’ibali kindly sponsored prizes, consisting of a R1000 book voucher and tablet.

Students have never been as enthusiastic about reading! The popular FunDza books are never on the shelves – as soon as one is returned, it goes out straight away. Circulation statistics have doubled as well. Students will hereby not only develop skills leading to improved academic performance, but also be turned into lifelong readers.

Through this joint effort I realised anew that more is accomplished through teamwork than individuals attempting things on their own. As we share the effort and complement each other, we also share in the exciting outcome!

1. http://www.fundza.co.za/
2. Nal’ibali (isixhosa for “here’s the story”) is a national reading-for-enjoyment campaign to spark children’s potential through storytelling and reading. See http://nalibali.org/about-us/ - Marianne Elliott

CHAIR: WC SLYSIG
Open Learning Centre Coordinator
False Bay College: Fish Hoek Campus

City’s libraries take top honours

Two of the City of Cape Town’s libraries took the top honours in the annual Western Cape Cultural Affairs Awards ceremony earlier this year. The event, hosted by the Dept. of Cultural Affairs and Sport (DCAS), celebrates the colourful Cape through social inclusion and aims to instil a sense of pride and confidence in our historic, cultural and linguistic heritage.

The Adriaanse Library, located in Elsies River, won the award for the Best Medium Sized Public Library.

Adriaanse library has embarked on a number of programmes to address the needs of community members in all age categories. The library strives to continually address the community’s many requests for assistance as this is a means to reduce unemployment, illiteracy and a lack of basic computer literacy skills.

This can impact on service delivery, however, since it takes staff away from the desk and other duties. Faced with this challenge, the library was inspired to offer computer skills training to the unemployed.

Adriaanse Library: From left: Alexis Van Heerden; Joan Frank; Monica Siyo; Wilhelmina Whitman; Yvette Du Preez; Koleka Baca

Last year 166 people received training and many of the participants found jobs after attending the class. Central Libraries has won the award for Best Public Library: Children’s Services for their creative and innovative programmes such as the Bookworms Blended Learning One-on-One Programme and the World Book Day Storytelling Festival in the Company’s Gardens.

The Blended Learning Programme was started in March 2014 when staff noticed many children visited the library and played without opening a book.

The child then reads the book or part of the book to an adult, from whom they get undivided attention. The adult will help with pronunciation and meaning of words when needed. These sessions take place every Monday.

Since its inception in 1999, DCAS has acknowledged various organisations and individuals who have made a profound impact in the arts, culture, language, heritage, museum, archives, geographical names and libraries sectors in the province.

Ridhwaana Baradien
Assistant Professional Officer, Marketing & Research

City of cape town

Byanda Zamela reading to children at a nearby crèche

FunDza/Nal’ibali stall during Orientation week

Central Library Children’s Services
Deputy President, Mr Cyril Ramaphosa, promotes the culture of reading at Harare Library

Deputy President, Mr Ramaphosa with the Minister of Arts and Culture, Mr Nathi Mthethwa and other dignitaries visited Harare Library in Khayelitsha to promote the culture of reading on Wednesday, 11 February. As chair of the Human Resource Development Council, the Deputy President champions the national effort to advance education and skills development and to position South Africa as a knowledge economy.

As part of a build-up programme to the State of the Nation Address, the Deputy President engaged with a group of young people on the importance of reading. The Deputy President also shared his vision of establishing a national reading club. The club will be formally launched during World Book Day celebrations on 23 April.

The visit by the Deputy President had a huge impact on the staff and the community and in the words of Harare’s Senior Librarian, Lulu Langeni:

When Harare Library in Khayelitsha was constructed the project team had a vision of a highly technological space which would use the power and appeal of 21st century ICTs to encourage the emerging generation’s reading interests and needs. Harare has three youth reading clubs: one for boys, one for girls and one mixed!

Our partnership with FundZa has been a godsend and has allowed us to mix technology and books. FundZa’s social media platforms mean that youth can share books by connecting to Fundza.mobi, Mxitapp.com/fundza, or FunDza Club. Somehow, the Deputy President of South Africa, Cyril Ramaphosa, discovered that Harare library was looking for sponsorship to promote interactive reading among its Youth Reading Clubs and on the 11 February 2015 he, together with well-known business partners, made our vision of an interactive Harare Reading Youth Club come true. Vodacom and Telkom opened their hands by donating 20 tablets and laptops, interactive devices, mobile whiteboards, and simcards to the library.

Nazeem Hardy

Read Aloud Day

This year, Read Aloud Day (2 March 2015) at the University of the Free State, South Campus Library, was celebrated at the Reahola Day Care Centre. This day care centre has been adopted as community project by Ms Rina Jansen van Rensburg, LIASA’s second runner up for Librarian of the Year 2013. She helped to develop a reading corner, donated books, educational toys, stationery and a signage board, sponsored by LIASA Free State and The Children’s Book Forum of the Free State.

To add spice to the day, Sylvia and Dhina from Mamello’s cleaning services were requested, with permission by their employer, to read stories to the toddlers, since the youngsters only understand Sotho.

A book donation was made by the Campus Librarian, and each child received a sweet packet.

New library opens in Greater Tzaneen

The Mulati Library which was built in a deep rural area of the Greater Tzaneen Municipality, opened on 14 April 2015. The building of the library was administered by the Limpopo Department of Sport, Arts and Culture and funded by the South African Conditional Library Grant.

The opening was graced by the MEC for Sport, Arts and Culture, Limpopo Province, Mme Nandi Ndalane, who declared the library open when she cut the ribbon to the front entrance of the library. She was accompanied by the Mayor of Tzaneen, Her Worship Mayor Cllr. D.J. Mmetle, councillors and traditional leaders of Greater Tzaneen.

The library is large, light and well-appointed with good library furniture, equipment, books and free internet. It was surprisingly well used from day one, with children of all ages flocking to the library. Staff have their hands full as most of the youngest visitors had never been inside a library before, and many have no idea how to read, or even hold a book.

Librarian Mantji Mamabolo said: “This is exhilarating – a wonderful new world has opened to the people of Mulati.” Library assistant Cassandra Rikhotso agreed, saying: “I am now doing what I have always wanted – making a difference.”

What is striking upon entering the busy new library is the atmosphere – pure joy!

Christine Nel

Library Services Manager
Community Services, Greater Tzaneen Municipality

Mulati Library
Free internet

LIASA-in-Touch • JUNE 2015 • Vol 16 • ISSUE 2
Joining a family of Librarians!

LIASA advertised a scholarship for educated people who work at library services but have other unrelated qualifications, and lack a librarianship qualification. Two employees of the Free State Provincial Library Service seized this golden opportunity and applied. They subsequently went to study for the Postgraduate Diploma in Library and Information Science (PGDipLIS) at the University of Cape Town (UCT), and Information Science (PGDipLIS) at the University of the Free State. They subsequently went to study for the Postgraduate Diploma in Library and Information Science (PGDipLIS) at the University of Cape Town (UCT), and Information Science (PGDipLIS) at the University of the Free State.

They learned that an LIS qualification can enable one to work as a librarian in a variety of institutions, not only in public libraries. A very BIG thank-you to LIASA for granting them this opportunity of a lifetime; the lecturers at LISC for helping them obtain this qualification; and colleagues (especially the cataloguers of the Documentation Division for helping them with cataloguing and classification assignments, and Riaan le Roux of the Central Personnel Library). "We were fortunate to receive this opportunity," they proudly said...

New appointments at the University of the Free State Library and Information Services:

*Charlie Maphuntshane Molepo* has been appointed Deputy Director: Scholarly Communications. Charlie is a qualified Librarian, Teacher, Facilitator and Assessor with over 20 years library sector experience both in Higher Education and the private sector. He started his career as the librarian at Vista University and has worked at the following Institutions: University of Natal (University of KwaZulu-Natal), Rand Afrikaans University (University of Johannesburg), Dawson Books UK and Universal Knowledge Software (UKS).

*Joining him is Kgomoitswe Ellen Phuthi*, who has been appointed as the new Information Librarian responsible for the Faculty of Natural and Agricultural Sciences. She has worked as qualified Librarian at the Northern Cape Department of Education and Sol Plaatjie Municipality. She also worked at the North West Department of Sports, Arts & Culture and the Free State Department of Sport, Arts, Culture and Recreation as a Principal Librarian.

**IN MEMORIAM**

*Jeannette Langner*, a well-known and much loved and respected cataloguer librarian in KZN circles, passed away in September 2014. Known to many librarians around the country, Jeannette had been retired from DUT Library for several years. She was a graduate of the University of Stellenbosch and began her career in the Bloemfontein Hospital Library. After moving to Durban she worked first in the law library of attorneys Leandrie Rock & Co. and then in the Killie Campbell Africana Collections of the University of KZN. Later she joined the Library of the former ML Sultan Technikon (now part of DUT) where she remained as a cataloguer until retirement.

**RETIREMENT**

*DUT Library recently bade farewell to Camilla Thumbadoo*, well known in KZN library circles. Camilla obtained her professional qualifications at the University of Toronto, Canada. Upon her return to South Africa she took up a position at the then University of Natal in Durban, where she worked in the Science & Engineering Faculty Library for many years. She started work as the Health Sciences Subject Librarian at the former Technikon Natal in 1998. After the merger with ML Sultan Technikon she moved into the centralised cataloguing department in the Library of the newly formed Durban University of Technology, and more recently was also involved with e-resource management. Her valuable contribution to the profession over the years, in particular to the professional development of so many librarians in KZN, is gratefully acknowledged by all who know her.

*Submissions to Ingrid Thomson: ingrid.thomson@uct.ac.za*

*Photos supplied should preferably be in high resolution – 300 dpi*

**LIASA Gauteng South attend the Launch of the Mohlakeng Underground Library on 21 March 2015**
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Find the eResources you need with a powerful, faceted search and combine them into user-facing collections. Push them automatically to your public interface. Let users download most content with a single sign-on and some content with a single click.

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Bring advanced discovery tools to your community with SirsiDynix's premium discovery tool. Make finding items easy with facets, fuzzy search matching, and search suggestions. Meet your community's needs with custom search profiles and branding.

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Display title information from multiple major vendors right in your OPAC to ensure your users never hit a dead end. Compare prices and terms across vendors to find the best value for your library and your community.

Social Library
Integrate your library into your community's online life. Let your users search your catalog, manage their accounts, and like items from your library's Facebook page.

Portfolio
Take advantage of Enterprise's advanced discovery features with the additional digital asset management tools. Showcase your library's unique collection with full-spectrum digital resource searching and access control.

BookMyne
Bring your library to your users wherever they go. BookMyne has been optimized to give your users increased stability, robust searching, improved user workflows, and a brand-new user interface for iOS and Android.

BLUEcloud Philosophy
- Support for Symphony
- Support for SaaS and local ILS
- Browser-based new features and workflows
- Easy access to your data
- Built on a stable, scalable, and open ILS

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