

PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2013
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
10 OCTOBER 2013

TERM THEME
LIASA-IN-DIALOGUE

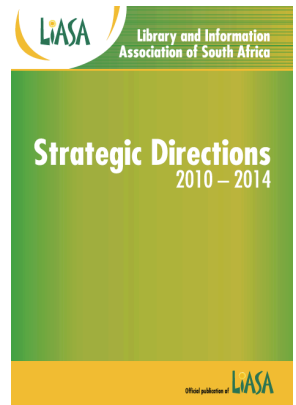
The presidential theme for this term is *LIASA-in-Dialogue* and guides the following crucial conversations:

- The “**inter-generational**” **dialogue between librarians** regarding:
 - The competencies, standards and skills sets for practicing librarianship in South Africa and the continent
 - The need to contain the loss of expertise when librarians retire
 - An intellectual discourse on the evolving role of librarianship within a development context.
- With the 9 **LIS schools** on
 - The standardization of the LIS curriculum around core modules but also expanded to meet the demands of current library practice within a socio-economic developmental and academic/research demanding context.
- With **government and civil society**:
 - The right to know and access to information are essential for the other rights to be realized to ensure human dignity as a wholesome state of being.
 - Demonstrating the value of libraries as major development partners
 - Advocacy and lobbying by utilizing the political processes available to the citizens of this country. As a civil society entity, LIASA need to address and engage with relevant structures such as the Parliamentary Portfolio Committee; with political parties to understand their positions on libraries
- With **partners and collaborators**:
 - Determine ways to maintain and expand current, as well as solicit new partnerships.

This first year of a new term may therefore be described as a time of learning, strategic thinking & learning, openness, consultation, change, growth, consolidation, dialogue, lots of work but also tremendous camaraderie and teamwork. It gives me great pleasure to present the highlights of the year.

A. LEADERSHIP

- The Handover between the old and new Executive Committees on Nov 16 2012 at the NLSA was a time of reflection and anticipation between the old and new guard.



- ✓ I wish to acknowledge the previous Executive Committee under the leadership of Ms Naomi Haasbroek, who ensured that LIASA has a Strategic Plan that is realistic and attainable. This has formed the basis of our work for this term.
- We kicked off the year with an exciting strategic review weekend which was held on 11-13 January 2013 in Pretoria, which enabled the new Executive team to get to know each other as well as share their expectations, ideas and plans for the term 2012 – 2014.
 - ✓ The commitment of the team was underscored by their positive attitudes & energies and determination to build & strengthen the Association, redefine the profession and take the lead as librarians!
- 55 LIASA elected portfolio holders met in Pretoria for the 1st LIASA Leadership Weekend. This was aimed at bringing together all Branch Chairs, Chairs-Elect, Secretaries, Treasurers, PROs and Interest Group Chairs with the national portfolio holders to initiate the national LIASA leadership dialogue and also to create Communities of Practice such as the Secretaries Forum, Treasurers Forum and PROs Forum convened by the national portfolio holders. This was to ensure an understanding of the context within which we function, good governance, professional practices, understanding of the LIASA priorities and, most of all, members understanding their portfolios as leadership roles in developing a stronger association.
 - ✓ A Reading Circle was initiated so that members become familiar with critical documents impacting the sector but also keep abreast with trends and developments. Members are invited to add to this reading list.
- As part of our performance as the national leadership, the Executive Committee held a strategic review session on June 15-16 2013.
 - ✓ I am pleased to report to the membership that the priorities and activities relating to leadership, membership, communication, advocacy and stakeholder relations, and governance are being met and concertedly fulfilled.

- Registration of LIASA as a Professional Body with SAQA

We have commenced the process of investigating the recognition and registration of LIASA as the LIS professional body as per the requirements of the South Africa Qualifications Authority (SAQA).



Members of the LIASA EXCO met with Mr Peter Bosch and Ms Cleo Radebe of the SAQA Directorate Registration and Recognition, which is responsible for the evaluation and processing of applications by professional bodies.

According to the NQF Act of 2008, a "professional body" means any body of expert practitioners in an occupational field, and includes an occupational body. To this end, SAQA engaged in 2011 in a pilot for the recognition of professional bodies and the registration of professional bodies. A study of the policies and criteria, together with the engagement with the SAQA representatives, indicates that LIASA is eligible for the professional body recognition and registration as it meets the following criteria:

- Legally constituted; governed by a constitution
- Protect the public in relation to the services provided by members
- Professional designations – develop, award, monitor, revoke in terms of its own rules, legislation or international conventions
- Continuing Professional Development (CPD) – set criteria, promote and monitor
- Code of conduct – published and monitor members
- Able to submit a list of members to SAQA

However we need to develop a disciplinary code for members as well as determine designations, which will enable the management of categories of membership within LIASA. These designations are:

- Developed and awarded internally
- A part of a progression pathway
- Monitored in terms of own rules, Act and/or international conventions applicable to the professional body
- Linked to a validated database of names of individuals awarded the professional designation
- Included, as an initial requirement, an underlying qualification
- Included, as a general requirement, experiential learning and/or practical experience
- Included as a retention requirement, CPD and adherence to a code of conduct

B. MEMBERSHIP AND SECTOR ENGAGEMENT

The gravest concern is membership recruitment and retention! For LIASA to continue at this standard, we need to have a minimum of 1600 members. Although we report a membership of 1625 for the period October 2012 to Sept 2013, a drop by 27, I must inform you that 144 members made use of the 3-month payment option but did not make full payment resulting in this number being excluding. Should this have been paid in full, we would be sitting at 1769, which would have represented a growth of 8%. Hence my appeal to members is to fulfill their commitment if they choose this option.

The LIS Stakeholders meeting, 01 July 2013, UNISA, Pretoria

This was an important meeting initiated by the LIASA Research, Education and Training Interest Group (RETIG) and hosted under the auspices of the UNISA Department of Information Science. The purpose hereof was to bring together major players in the LIS sector, namely LIS educators and Heads of LIS organisations/institutions in order to deliberate on the main concerns inherent in the library and information services (LIS) sector, especially as they affect the education and training as well as the practice of information professionals in SA. Concerns raised by the practitioners included, amongst others, the

- Qualifications on offer – the 3-year vs the 4-year degree programme
- The content of the programmes resulting in a mismatch with current practice
- Identification and standardisation of core modules that should be offered by all LIS schools
- Differentiation between core competencies and job related skills sets
- Greater need for engagement between library schools and employer

Institutions Prof Bosire Onyancha, will report at the Director's Forum to be held at the LIASA Conference.

2nd African Library Summit, 02-05 July 2013, UNISA

LIASA participated and was represented by the President, President-Elect, PRO and Programme Officer at this Summit. This was a resounding success with over 300 delegates from 33 countries. The themes of Leadership, Innovation and Cooperation were addressed at plenaries, drill down sessions and group activities. Strategies for the way forward will hopefully be shared soon. The following were also launched at the Summit:

- ✓ The Public Library Network, which aims to advocate for public libraries on the continent and their role in the development agenda.
- ✓ Conference of African National Libraries (CANL), which is a database of national libraries on the continent. It also includes a directory of African national libraries.
- ✓ African Library and Information Associations and Institutions (AfLIA)

I wish to acknowledge Dr Buhle Mbambo Thata (Executive Director: UNISA Library and Information Services), her team and the IFLA Africa Section for an excellent Summit.

C. ADVOCACY

The highlight for us was the recognition of LIASA and support for 2013 South African Library Week by the National Assembly of South Africa, the largest public union, South African Municipal Workers Union (SAMWU) and various civil society entities.

During this period we also had the opportunity to submit several statements or contributions in response to the following:

- The burning of the Timbuktu libraries
- The WIPO Marrakesh Treaty
- The Draft Minimum Norms and Standards for School Libraries

I'd like to acknowledge Denise Nicholson, Theresa De Young and other colleagues who contributed to the above.

- The Draft White Paper on Arts, Culture and Heritage

Together with the President-Elect, I attended a DAC workshop on 12 July 2013, which was a review of the Draft White Paper on Arts, Culture and Heritage. Through the Library Commission we were able to emphasise the role that a network of over 1600 public libraries can play in fostering social cohesion and contributing to community development. Internationally libraries are widely acknowledged as "cultural institutions" and we need to ensure that they are included on the arts, culture and heritage agenda. This can only happen if there is political recognition and acknowledgement of the value of libraries for developing an informed nation.

D. TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT

- ✓ LIASA continues to be included in the ETDP-SETA Chambers of Quality Provisioning and FET Colleges

- ✓ LIASA is involved in the re-development of the Library Assistant Qualification for the Quality Council for Trades and Occupations.
- ✓ The NGPL is on track! 25 students enrolled in 2012, 16 graduated and 8 will graduate at the end of the 2013 academic year. For the 2013 intake, 14 new students were enrolled at UCT, UWC and UKZN. This grant is now available to all graduates working in a public library in South Africa.
- ✓ Eight Executive members were given the opportunity to participate in 12 CPD programmes that were funded by the ETDP-SETA. This was deemed capacity building for staff but was extended to EXCO members.
- ✓ The CiCD Project, funded by the CCNY has now is now completed. The CiCD will continue to function as the CPD arm of LIASA and programmes will no longer be subsidized. The new independent CiCD organized the following:
 - A Collection Development workshop in East London in collaboration with LIASA: Eastern Cape branch
 - Four of the 9 pre-conferences held at LIASA 2013 have been arranged by the CiCD

E. MARKETING



Regular and open communication is a priority for LIASA to ensure its success, sustainability and growth. The adoption of social media has invigorated our communication with members and has increased its visibility tremendously. Social media platforms such as Facebook, Twitter, Pinterest, and YouTube were explored and are now maintained with great enthusiasm and regularity. Together with the official LIASAnews Facebook page, all nine branches have registered accounts but all are not necessarily active. Bulk SMS, the LIASAonline listserv, and the website continue to be used as well.

- **LIASA-in-Touch (LIT)**

The new look **LIT** is a resounding success and as a professional magazine continues to be extremely popular with our members. It attracts interesting and informative contributions from members and has become a true showcase of activities and achievements for the Association. It is published quarterly under the creative editorship of Ms Nohra Moerat.

F. GOOD GOVERNANCE

It is of utmost importance the LIASA works within the parameters of accepted good governance. To this end, following policies are being revised:

- Financial
- Social Media
- Advocacy
- Marketing and Branding
- Code of Conduct
- Disciplinary Code

Furthermore based on the 2012 Electoral Officer's report, recommendations have been made for the amendment of Rule 4,5 and 6 of the Rules pertaining to elections. Members must bear in mind that as LIASA grows, it is recommended that the national and branch constitutions, policies and procedures are reviewed to keep pace with a maturing association.

G. TOWARDS IFLA 2015

The highlight undoubtedly has been the award of the bid to host the IFLA World library and Information Congress (WLIC) to be held in August 2015 in Cape Town. This will be the 2nd time the WLIC will be held in South Africa (Durban, 2007) and the 3rd time on the African continent (Nairobi, Kenya, 1984). Many of you have extremely fond memories of 2007 and I'm certain that we will deliver a congress of high standard.



International Federation of
Library Associations and Institutions

The privilege of accepting this award at the IFLA WLIC in Singapore, on your behalf, was indeed a proud and humbling moment! There was a lot of work that led to this, which included the submission of the bid document under the leadership of Ms Naomi Haasbroek, hosting a site visit for members of IFLA, and engaging with stakeholders including the Department of Arts & Culture, City of Cape Town, NLSA and Heads of LIS, to solicit their support for this milestone. Based on the quality of the bid and the commitment for this Congress, I can share with you that the various IFLA structures were impressed with the professionalism of LIASA, its growth, capacity and reputation.

A National Committee has been established to oversee those responsibilities that LIASA has been allocated such as the theme, logo, volunteers and cultural event.

I urge you to start planning from now so that as many library and information workers may attend as delegates and volunteers as this opportunity may not come again to our shores for long time!

H. FINANCIALS

LIASA has been declared in good financial standing and I can assure you that every effort is made to ensure the financial stability and sustainability of the Association.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:

I wish to acknowledge Mr John Tsebe, retiring CEO of the National Library:

John Kgwale Tsebe was appointed as the National Librarian of South Africa in March 2004. Before his appointment he had been University Librarian at the University of the North for 19 years. He has been working in the Library and Information Services (LIS) profession since 1975.

John Tsebe holds a Masters degree in Library Science (MLS) from Syracuse University as well as a Masters degree in Public Administration (MPA) from Harvard University, both in the United States. He is currently a member of the South African National Heritage Council (NHC) Transformation Charter Task Team.

John Tsebe played a major role in the South African library and information services sector. He is a founder member of the Library and Information Association of South Africa (LIASA), and was chairperson of LIASA Higher Education Libraries Interest Group (HELIG).

He served on the 2007 World Library and Information Congress National Advisory Committee planning for the IFLA conference to be held in South Africa in 2007. He chairs the Committee for Directors of National Libraries (CDNL)

We acknowledge his role in the formation of LIASA, commitment to its growth and for being a staunch supporter and advocate for LIASA. We wish him well with his retirement and assure him that there will always be a place for him in LIASA!

I wish to acknowledge:

- Rhodes University and the staff of the Rhodes University Library for their support
- My executive team, Segametsi Molawa, Therese Els, Karin Kitching, Mandla Ntombela, Joyce Myeza, Ingrid Thomson, Manda Hough, Tebogo Mzizi and LIASA National Office staff Annamarie Goosen and Hannelie Brink for their unstinting support and willingness to give up their long weekends and working hours for meetings and teleconferences so that our strategic priorities are met. You are an amazing team and it's a privilege to work with you!
- Most importantly, our members, partners and supporters for your words of encouragement, confidence and advice. Together we can make a difference!

Thank you!

UJALA SATGOOR

PRESIDENT

10 OCTOBER 2013