

REPORT – SUPPORT STAFF INTEREST GROUP

JULY 2015

It has been an amazing experience being chair for the support staff interest group. Our goal for 2014-2016 is to recruit more support staff members. When I checked the active members list I found that many of our members' second choices are SSIG. Their first choices are the libraries where they are employed. For example: Universities, Public Libraries and other institutions). We therefore need to put a plan of action together to address this issue. We also need assistance from EXCO to discuss this matter and to emphasise the importance of support staff in our different libraries.

The purpose of a professional body within the support staff field is also a major concern. What will our designation be and what is that we need to do to gain recognition. Will this affect the future of support staff and will this mean that you need to have a library qualification when applying at libraries. Should we maybe look at the name changing??

We as support staff did not hold a meeting yet because I want to arrange the meeting through a webinar. I must establish who from the committee members can join in. I will plan this meeting after the IFLA conference.

In the Western Cape we are planning a workshop on Personal change in the workplace, and hope to do the same nationally.

I furthermore enjoy this journey thus far because I have gained much more experience of how LIASA is structured. This has also affected my life personally and professionally and I am truly grateful.

I am still in a learning phase and am looking forward to gain more experience.

Yours

LIZEL JOHNSON - CHAIR

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