From the Chair

Dear Gauteng North Members

Welcome to the second issue of the Gauteng North Branch newsletter for 2015. I trust that you will enjoy the read. Since the previous issue was published we hosted a successful Branch Seminar, as well as our Annual General Meeting. Many of us were able to attend the IFLA World Library and Information Congress in Cape Town and we will be reporting on that in our next issue. We are proud of all our members who presented papers or posters or have been volunteering and through their participation represented their institutions, LIASA and the Gauteng North Branch. We are now looking forward to hosting a joint Gauteng North/Gauteng South Open Access Branch event in October. Please diarise the dates and events as set out on the last page of the newsletter.

Martha de Waal (Branch Chair)

In this issue of the Newsletter:


Representative Council Feedback

The second LIASA Representative Council Meeting of 2015 was held in Pretoria on July 24. It was attended by LIASA EXCO, Branch Chairs and Interest Group Chairs. The meeting voted on several important issues, which would have been presented to members at the Annual General Meeting during the WLIC/IFLA Conference in Cape Town. Membership fees, the early bird grace period and the continuation of LIASA-in-Touch as a print publication, are some of the issues that would have been addressed at the AGM.

The LIASA President, Ms Segametsi Molawa reported on a number of meetings that were held countrywide since January, in different branches and at different institutions, to promote the Professional Body status of LIASA. Task teams will now be appointed to take the work forward. It was also noted that work on the implementation of the Library and Information Services Transformation Charter and involvement in reaching the goals of the National Development Plan, are ongoing.
Members are reminded that the LIASA logo is a trademark, which was recently renewed for another 15 years. The ‘i’ must be in yellow and indicated as an image of the sun. Branches and Interest Groups must request permission from the LIASA National Office before making any changes to the logo.

Open Access Week will be celebrated from 19-25 October 2015. The theme: ‘Open for Collaboration’
See page 12 for more information on the Open Access Branch Event planned for Friday 23 October.

LIASA Gauteng North Branch
Vision Mission Values

Vision
A dynamic, visible branch of excellence, serving the Gauteng North Library and Information Services (LIS) sector

Mission
The branch that connects the LIS sector and promotes the development of Gauteng North through access to information

Values
• Provide leadership excellence to the LIS profession at branch level
• Engage in the highest ethical practice
• Ensure professional conduct
• Acknowledge and respect the diversity and individuality of all people
• Promote freedom of access to information as enshrined in the Constitution of South Africa
• Leading the development and growth of the LIS sector
• Championing the culture of reading and life-long learning
The LIASA seminar is hosted annually by all branches for the purpose of focused knowledge sharing. The Gauteng North Seminar was attended by 53 delegates and was hosted in the Research Commons Auditorium of the University of Pretoria’s Education Library, with the theme:

*Libraries for development: action, integration and collaboration*

‘ Libraries for development’ brings focus on the fact that libraries, through the resources they provide and services rendered by librarians cater for the information needs of people and can assist in responding to their urgent challenges.

‘Taking action’ implies that libraries should contribute to the educational, social and economic upliftment and development of communities in South Africa. Libraries should also recommend and endorse actionable innovative projects to advance reading and information literacy.

Defining ‘integrated library and information services’ is not easy, By “integration” in the LIS sector, is meant practitioners and administrators working together to pool their resources, methods, insights and objectives with the hope of gaining and presenting new understandings, as well as providing services in a more efficient and effective way that could not be derived from working in silos in a fragmented and highly differentiated system.

The key is to create partnerships and work collaboratively to achieve goals.

The event’s keynote speaker, the Deputy Minister of Arts and Culture, **Ms Rejoice Mabudafhasi**, focused her speech on the importance of reading, literacy levels and the progress of the LIS sector in South Africa

**Mr Mandla Buthelezi** shared the progress of the *Mzansi Libraries On-Line: Global Libraries Pilot Project* and the vision of integrating libraries into society to reach the national development goals. Libraries should: reprofile, restructure and reposition.

The Gauteng North Branch 2014 Branch Librarian of the Year, **Ms Motsarome Mabena** shared her involvement with different outreach and development projects at the Eldoraigne Community Library. The message is that libraries and librarians should reach out to communities to ensure development amongst all communities.

The panel discussions were facilitated by the LIASA President, Ms Segametsi Molawa. Members from the audience participated in lively discussions, representing Sabinet, the University of Pretoria’s Department of Library Services, the National Library of South Africa, Exclusive Books,
Unisa; and: the Sefako Makgatho University. The Seminar also received media coverage because of the involvement of the Deputy Minister and an article on the seminar was published in the Pretoria News of Friday June 26, 2015.

The Kolonnade Branch of Exclusive Books exhibited a selection of books from a number of local authors and kindly provided a gift voucher for a lucky draw. In support of the Gauteng North members who participated in the 67 Blankets for Mandela Day Project, knitted items intended for the blanket project were put on display.

Images from the Gauteng North Branch Seminar
The aim and objective of Librarian Day was to raise the visibility of the Librarian as a professional role player in today's market place. To this end the staff at the National Library of South Africa decided that there was no better way to do this than to go out there, meet and greet our users, and explain to them who we are and what we do. Our theme was *Then and Now* and traced the changing role of librarians over the decades through the use of humorous cartoons, from the stereotypical little old lady ensuring silence in the library, to the highly educated computer literate information specialist of today.

The foyer of the National Library was transformed into a (very noisy) display area, with tables and banners and goody bags for our users. Those approaching the National Library on Friday 10 July had no idea what lay in store for them when they entered through the revolving doors, as one by one they were pounced upon by proud librarians, handed a goody bag and told in no uncertain terms what we do for them!

From acquisitions to cataloguing, from periodicals to indexing, from ICT to book preservation and reference services, even our security staff became involved, our users were left in no doubt as to how proud we are of our chosen profession, the services that we offer to them and the unique role the National Library plays in the daily life of our communities.

I like to think that those users we got to meet on Friday 10 July 2015 have a better understanding of who we are, what we do and the importance of libraries in the fabric of society. As one proud librarian said: Those catalogue records do not magically appear on our database, we create them, to assist you, in finding what you are looking for!!

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*Celebration of Librarian Day at the National Library of South Africa: 10 July 2015*

**Proud Librarians on display – creating visibility for their professional roles**

Submitted by Nikki Potgieter (Gauteng North Branch Secretary)

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LIASA Gauteng North Annual General Meeting, 17 July 2015

The Branch AGM was hosted at Laughing Chefs Restaurant, Rietondale Pretoria on Friday 17 July 2015. The chairperson presented the branch report for 2014-2015 and showcased the Branch activities through a series of photos taken during Branch events.

When the official business of the morning was concluded, the guest speaker, Mr Tshepo Sefotlhelo from ReaderLymphics, shared this exciting reading project with members. ReaderLymphics is a concept aimed at building a culture of reading in South Africa. It is designed to assist children to increase their literacy levels and elevate reading socially as a competitive sporting event that brings schools and communities together through fun reading activities. What an inspiring and motivational talk about a great initiative!

Branch Executive Committee members Nikki Potgieter, Martha de Waal, Harry Nkadimeng, Gerda Ehlers and Eunice Lesejane with Mr Tshepo Sefotlhelo, Ms Rachel More and LIASA President, Ms Segametsi Molawa
67 minutes for Nelson Mandela Day at the Paediatric Oncology Unit of the Steve Biko Academic Hospital

To honour their commitment to the annual 67 Minutes for Nelson Mandela Day Project, Gauteng North members generously donated food & other items to the Paediatric Oncology Unit of the Steve Biko Academic Hospital. The project was first initiated by the Branch in 2004, with a donation of children’s’ books. More than ten years later, Branch members are still making a difference in the lives of the little cancer patients.

Thank you to Nikki Potgieter, Eunice Lesejane, Leone Tiemensma and Danie Malan, for delivering the goods to the Unit and for spending some time with the staff and cancer patients. We shared beautiful heart-warming & inspirational moments and are looking forward to similar future projects.

Images from the Gauteng North visit to the Paediatric Oncology Unit of the Steve Biko Academic Hospital

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Dear Gauteng North Member

The Early Bird option for 2016 Membership fees will be in effect from the **15th up to and including the 31st of October 2015**. Renew your membership **online** by pasting the link below in your browser: [www.liasa-new.org.za/register/](http://www.liasa-new.org.za/register/)

The Joint Gauteng North and Gauteng South Open Access meeting, planned for 23 October, provides for an excellent opportunity to join or renew membership.

Colleagues who have not yet renewed their 2015 LIASA membership are **urgently** requested to do so. We still have membership applications in various stages of payment. Contact the LIASA National Office [membership@liasa.org.za](mailto:membership@liasa.org.za) for further information or, check your membership status **online** at [http://members.liasa.org.za/](http://members.liasa.org.za/)

2015 Individual Membership Fee for a South African citizen is R495.00.

Yours sincerely
Gauteng North Branch Executive Committee
UNISA and the IFLA Regional Office for Africa
8th Annual Public Lecture on African Librarianship in the 21st century

Mr John Tsebe delivering his lecture at the 8th Annual Public Lecture

‘Africa needs more Library associations for progress and excellence’ – This is the sentiment echoed by recently retired South African National Librarian, Mr John Tsebe when he delivered his lecture in the series ‘African Librarianship in the 21st century at Unisa in May. The lecture also reflected on the need for African unity during the commemoration of Africa Liberation day on May 25th 2015. “Africa depends on its library and information professionals for further growth,” he added.

Mr Tsebe highlighted the need for more collaboration between African libraries to develop, and added that more work is required in each country to raise the standards of libraries on the continent. He was speaking days before the inauguration of the African Library Association (AfLIA) held in Accra, Ghana. AfLIA is a direct result from the African Library Summit, a Unisa Library initiative that saw over 250 African and international library leaders gather to share ideas, first hosted in 2011 and again in 2013 – in order to address issues affecting African librarianship in the 21st century, as well as to create sustained networks among peers – under the visionary leadership of Unisa Library Executive Director Dr Buhle Mbambo-Thata, who gave the welcome address at the Public Lecture.

In his response to the lecture, Prof Stephen Mutula, Dean and HOS Social Sciences at UKZN, highlighted the importance of initiatives that will produce a generation of highly skilled professionals in the LIS sector.

The UNISA/IFLA Regional Office for Africa Public Lecture series seeks to address the broader issue of African Librarianship in the global context. Initiated in 2008, the Public Lecture Series seeks to provide a platform for eminent African Librarians to deliver lectures on a range of issues on African and International Librarianship.

“The Public lecture series provides the library and information community an opportunity to engage with librarianship from an African perspective, stated the IFLA Regional Office for Africa manager and event organiser Ms Lindi Nhlapo. Two previous lectures are posted on the Unisa Institutional Repository: http://uir.unisa.ac.za/handle/10500/3338

Contributed by Natalia Molebatsi (Library Marketing Coordinator, Unisa)
World Book Day at the University of Pretoria
The future of publishing now

To commemorate World Book Day, the Department of Library Services hosted a presentation by Prof Tahir Pillay on the ground-breaking publication of South Africa’s first digital interactive science textbook.

In an information-laden world where portability and convenience will be sought increasingly over the voluminous, heavy printed textbooks, the digital option has the potential to capture the market. Prof Pillay believes that “UP should invest in resources to facilitate digital publishing and delivery to enhance its position as a leader in higher education”. In so doing, UP will also modernize its teaching delivery to the student population in the era of blended learning. When asked about the possible revolution in the book publishing world that he spearheaded, Prof Pillay replied that although he believes that traditional, printed books will still be around for a long time, our world has become highly mobile and instant access to information the norm. Against this background, the digital textbook with its "four-dimensional" potential will become increasingly commonplace as the world makes the transition to an increasingly paperless society. Prof Pillay’s talk highlighted the following interactive features of the digital textbook:

- Multiple audio and video dimensions
- Three-dimensional interactivity
- Access to streaming media
- Self-paced learning

Although interactive digital publishing is still a relatively new phenomenon, Prof Pillay showcased it with passion, presenting all the amazing possibilities interactive textbooks offer. His presentation offered a glimpse into the future of book publishing. We appreciate it that Prof Pillay introduced digital publishing to us and shared his thoughts on its possibilities; it is a new field which can only lead to a richer learning experience for all stakeholders.

Contributed by Myan Subrayan

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The University of Pretoria Visual Arts students’ poster interpretations of World Book and Copyright Day

The Department of Library Services, in collaboration with the Department of Visual Arts, hosted a poster exhibition from 13 April to 8 May 2015 in the Merensky 2 library. The posters were designed by third-year Visual Arts students with interpretations of the theme World Book & Copyright Day. Library patrons were encouraged to vote electronically for their favourite poster and were enticed by vouchers sponsored by Fego Café and Coffee Buzz, as well as USB flash drives sponsored by the Department of Library Services. Xerox sponsored the winning poster’s designer with a cash prize worth R750.

Cézanne Moolman was the overall winner with her poster titled ‘Be the book you pick up.’ One of the voters commented as follows about this poster:

‘I am not an artist but I am a reader. The slogan resonated with me immediately. When you read you immerse yourself in the world the author created. For that brief moment you forget yourself and become the characters. The many faces on the spines of the books are a symbol of how a reader becomes different people. You get insight and understanding into different cultures. In this picture there are old hardcover books and newer paperback books. As a reader you don’t judge a book by the cover or its publication date but by its content.’

Jeanmari Blignaut was the runner-up with her poster titled ‘Libraries fuel imagination.’ The following comment was made about this poster:

‘Libraries fuel innovation is my favourite, with the electricity pylons in the background of the Merensky 2 lighting it up and South Africa experiencing load shedding is a very current subject.’

Contributed by Elsabé Olivier

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The Bedfordview Humanitarian Distribution Centre Book Project was initiated by the Rotary Club of Bedfordview with donations from several Rotary districts in Texas, USA. The Book Project addresses the need for literacy in southern Africa and millions of books have been distributed over many years. Books are being donated by Rotary Clubs and local publishers throughout South Africa and may not be sold. The Humanitarian Distribution Centre is responsible and accountable to donors for reporting on organisations and institutions which are requesting and collecting books and resources.

Libraries, schools, organisations and institutions wishing to collect books and other literacy and educational material have to adhere to specific guidelines to be able to apply for assistance:

- an official signed and stamped letter with the institution’s contact details and business address, as well as a motivation to indicate specific needs, the intended beneficiaries and the name and contact number of the person who will be collecting the items from the HDCSA.
- the HDCSA will ensure record keeping through official documentation and the number of books donated to a specific institution;
- Institutions are requested to provide their own boxes to facilitate the packing and transport of donated items;
- Feedback is requested in the form of a thank you letter with accompanying photographs, to be forwarded to: rotaryhumanitarian.centre@gmail.com

The HDCSA is located in Bedfordview. For directions and a map see: [http://www.bedfordviewrotary.co.za/content/New-Rotary-Centre-Map-incl-N12.pdf](http://www.bedfordviewrotary.co.za/content/New-Rotary-Centre-Map-incl-N12.pdf)

(GPS reading: S26 10 43.8 E20 08 01.2)

**Business hours**: No appointment is needed and books can be collected on the following days and times:

- Tuesdays - Thursdays: 09:30 – 15:00
- Fridays: 09:30 – 13:30
- First Saturday of each month: 09:30 – 12:00
- Closed mid-December to mid-January

All inquiries must be directed to **Ms Mmaditshipi Seageng** at Mmaditshipi.Seageng@thensg.gov.za

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### UPCOMING DATES AND EVENTS IN GAUTENG NORTH

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>Joint Open Access Meeting: Gauteng North and South Branches. Midrand Graduate Institute</td>
<td>Friday 23 October 2015</td>
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<tr>
<td>Branch Executive Committee: Strategic Planning Meeting for 2016</td>
<td>Friday 13 November 2015</td>
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<tr>
<td>Branch Year End Function</td>
<td>Friday 20 November 2015</td>
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#### 2016

- **South African Library Week 2016**
  - will be celebrated between 11 and 21 March 2016 and launched in KwaZulu-Natal

- **The 2016 LIASA Conference**
  - will be hosted in KwaZulu-Natal from 3 to 7 October.

Members are invited to forward news items for inclusion in the November 2015 issue of the Newsletter, to the Gauteng North Branch PRO, Ms Gerda Ehlers (Gerda.ehlers@up.ac.za), to reach her by **November 6**.

Contributions may include: activities, events, and new developments within libraries in Gauteng North; achievements/promotions of library staff; reports on LIASA events; feedback on IFLA attendance, etc.

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*Libraries store the energy that fuels the imagination. They open up windows to the world and inspire us to explore and achieve, and contribute to improving our quality of life*

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– Sidney Sheldon