EDITORIAL TEAM

The Editorial team is excited to present the third quarter of LIASA Limpopo Branch 2014-2016 for November 2015.

In this newsletter, you will read about new Limpopo Library Board, Book sale in Tzaneen, Opening of Maluti Library, and detailed report from ULISS. Ms. Emma Lehonye from Polokwane Municipal Libraries shares her WLIC IFLA 2015 Experience; Mr Frederick Mavhunduse from UNIVEN Library talks about Open Access (OA).

Enjoy reading the copy and wishing LIASA and the Branch a wonderful festive season

Editor: Maropene Ramabina

Madichakga Malahlela LIASA Limpopo Branch PRO 2014-2016
From the Chairperson’s Desk

Chairperson’s comment

As we have entered 2016, and reflecting on LIASA’s business plan, one would realise that that past year has been that of mixed blessings. We have managed to achieve some of key goals, but have also learnt that we need to go the extra mile to reach our full potential. The organisation still faces various challenges. We are working tirelessly hard to ensure that we remain afloat, sustainable and relevant.

Among stories that worth mentioning is the fact that members of LIASA EXCO have joined one of the Department of Sport, Arts and Culture’s committees. This collaboration will allow a wonderful breed of ideas that will undoubtedly improve the state of librarianship in the province. At another level, our members stand a chance to directly influence policy directions provided they work hard to provide constructive solutions for problems facing the province in our areas.

This is a sign that our organisation is growing and that we need to hold our grips to ensure that we continue to make significant contribution to the discipline of information and library studies. But for this to happen we need to implement our strategies of increasing our membership. The issue of dwindling membership numbers has been a cause for concern.

Different people have echoed different reasons why they are not joining LIASA or renewing their membership. To this end, there is a question that I have heard many times from LIS community members: what is LIASA doing for me? LIASA keeps its members abreast of trends, and developments in the field through South African Journal of Library and Information Science, newsletters, mailing lists, workshops and the like.

If you were to be asked a similar question i.e. what is it that you are doing for LIASA, what would you say? You may contribute to LIASA in many ways like sharing your ideas and LIS related news, good or bad through this newsletter. This can only be possible if you join LIASA and/or renewing your membership. While still on sharing news, members and supporters of LIASA joined University of Limpopo and National Library of South Africa in celebrating alumni and launched of alumni and
celebration of 39 years of existence of the Department of Information Studies. The said event was held on the 28 November 2015.

I would also like to take this opportunity to commend our colleagues at libraries in institutions of higher learning for safeguarding libraries during the recent strikes where students were protesting about fees increment.

Although change is coming at a slow pace, let us not lose hope. Things are gradually moving into the right direction. LIASA has obtained a Professional body status. This means that the organisation is advancing towards becoming a statutory body status. If it attains the statutory body status, it will have power to enact policies that will seek to advance professionalism in our field. LIASA will be authorised to regulate workers, working conditions and salary disparity.

As we bid our goodbye to 2015 and entered the New Year, allow me to Quote Dr King who once said, “Human progress is neither automatic nor inevitable... Every step toward the goal of justice requires sacrifice, suffering, and struggle; the tireless exertions and passionate concern of dedicated individuals.”

Ms. Abigail Chuene
Chairperson: LIASA Limpopo 2014-2016

LIMPOPO LIBRARY BOARD 2015-2018

In terms of the Library and Information Services Act 7 of 2001...MEC for Sport, Arts and Culture in Limpopo Province, Ms Nandi Ndalane inaugurated the following people as Limpopo Library Board Members for 2015-2018. The Purpose of the Board is to advise the MEC on the establishment, administration and control of library and information services in the province.

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<th>SURNAME AND NAME</th>
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<tr>
<td>1. Ms. Mokgele Mercy</td>
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<td>UNISA Library, Polokwane</td>
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<td>2. Ms Kgoete Reneilwe</td>
<td>Deputy Chairperson</td>
<td>Polokwane Municipal Libraries</td>
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<td>3. Mr Sadiki Khathu</td>
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<td>Senior Manager: Library Services. DSAC</td>
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<td>4. Ms Mayevu Mihloti</td>
<td>Board Member</td>
<td>Manager: Library Services. DSAC</td>
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<td>5. Mr Tsebe John</td>
<td>Board Member</td>
<td>Retired National Librarian</td>
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<td>6. Mr Makgahlela Lefose</td>
<td>Board member</td>
<td>University of Limpopo LIS School</td>
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7. Mr Mokhabukhi Steve
   Board Member
   Ba-Phalaborwa Municipal Libraries

8. Ramabina Maropene
   Board member
   University of Venda Library

Back Row: L-R Lefose Makgahlela, Maropene Ramabina, Mihloti Mayevu, Steve Mokhabukhi

Front Row: L-R: Khathu Sadiki, John Tsebe, Mercy Mokgele (Chair), Reneilwe Kgoete (Deputy Chair)

Book sale @ Haenertsburg, Tzaneen

By Christine Nel, Library Services Manager

Greater Tzaneen Municipality

The Haenertsburg Library Committee is very active and collect donated books to sell for funds to purchase the latest select books and dvd’s. The attached pictures were taken Attached are some photos taken at the Haenertsburg Berry Festival on Valentine’s Day this year.
Children at the Library Book sale
“The Opening of Maluti Public Library”

The Mulati Library, which was built in a deep rural area of the Greater Tzaneen Municipality, opened on the 14th of 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 (below), 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 built 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."
Librarian Mantji Mamabolo showing the Library to MEC Mme Nandi Ndalane, Cllr Maggie Makwala and Mayor Dikeledi Mmetle

L-R: Maluti Library Staff Cassandra Rikhotso, Mantji Mamabolo, Christine Nel
What is striking upon entering the busy new library is the atmosphere – pure joy!

Christine Nel
Library Services Manager
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To learn to read is to light a fire - Victor Hugo

WLIC / IFLA WORLD LIBRARY AND INFORMATION CONGRESS 2015 IN CAPE TOWN

By Ms Emma Lehonye
Polokwane Municipal Libraries
LIASA Limpopo BEC Member 2014-2016
The IFLA World Library and Information Congress, which is also the IFLA General Congress and Assembly, is traditionally held annually in varying parts of the globe.

The International federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA) is the leading international body representing the interests of library and information services and their users. The IFLA World Library and Information Congress is the international flagship profession and trade event for the library and information services sector. IFLA brings together more than thousands participants every year from different countries.

I was one of the fortunate library and information workers who were selected to serve as a volunteer during IFLA in Cape Town 2015. This was the biggest opportunity for me to serve as an ambassador of LIASA and South African library and information services when I was engaged with over 3000 information workers from various countries. Being at an international Congress for the first time and volunteering, I was excited and nervous. Despite being volunteers at IFLA conference, we were given opportunity to attend some sessions which were very informative. On Friday, 21 August 2015 I was amongst information workers who toured through the City Bowl visiting four different libraries (Parliament information Centre; National Library of South Africa; Centre for the Book and Central Public Library). Below are pictures of some of the libraries we visited.

It is important for library and information workers to attend conferences and congresses, because it gives one the opportunity to observe, listen and learn about library and information services issues from international and local experts and practitioners as well as share and exchange your experiences with librarians from other countries.

Baie dankie
LIASA LIMPOPO BRANCH QUIZ

This is to test the knowledge of members about our association, LIASA. Please answer **ALL** the questions, answers must be directed to: Maropene.ramabina@univen.ac.za / Maropene.ramabina@gmail.com. The winner will be given a Branch **8 gigabyte USB**. Whose day just got lucky?

1. What does LIASA stand for and when was it formed?
2. Who was the Chairperson of LIASA Limpopo Branch in 2007?
3. Who was the President of LIASA in 2009?
4. When was the last time LIASA Limpopo Branch hosted a LIASA National Conference?
5. What does LIASA Representative Council constitute? Who are the Representatives of LIASA Representative Council?
6. Which other African country hosted WLIC/IFLA Conference besides South Africa?
7. Who preceded Ujala Satgoor for LIASA Presidency?

ULISS CORNER

University of Limpopo Information Studies Society

University of Limpopo Students Society (ULISS) is a student society in the Programme of Information Studies responsible for students’ activities on campus and around the surrounding communities. The 2014 ULISS participated in a number of activities on campus. The picture below shows them
participating in the library week celebrations organised by the University of Limpopo library.

Throughout the week different service providers from LexisNexis, Ebscohost, Emerald insights, Sabinet and Refworks trained users on use of their online databases.

**LOCAL SCHOOL VISITING UNIVERSITY OF LIMPOPO LIBRARY DURING LIBRARY WEEK**

Library week is also a time for local schools to visit the University of Library where they are given a tour and also learn of many resources libraries houses.
LIBRARIANS’ DAY

That morning all the lecturers were so busy and had forgotten to ask ULISS if they planned to celebrate ‘librarian’s day’. Good news – ULISS was not going to let the day pass by without them reminding themselves and others what librarians do. In no time they had contacted each other and indicated where to meet. Thanks to the power of social networks.

In no time the placards were ready and students ULISS marched from the library to the students residences. It was exciting as some students were not aware of the day.

MANDELA DAY CELEBRATIONS

During Mandela Week celebration students went to Thlatlaganya Drop- in Centre, situated in a rural area behind Mankweng Hospital. Students assisted the Capricorn District Municipality as the main organisers of the events. The little ones danced to the music.

When The Capricorn Municipal officials were making speeches, students and lecturers were busy preparing the meals.
On July 18/2015 there was no time for reading and poetry; hence postgraduates and 4th level students went back on... Kids were so excited to play with university students. Later we were in a hall where books were read and poems recited by students. Mr Matlakala related a short story and young ones were giggling and some feared the ape mask.
On September ... the new committee was elected. Their mandate is to carry forward the activities as indicated in their year plan.

The new executive committee started on a high note as they immediately organised International literacy day at Makgefolo Primary School, a rural school which is ±45 km from Polokwane City.

Aim of the International Literacy Day is to give children a chance to rediscover the joys of reading while raising awareness for those without access to education. The theme of International Literacy Day 2015 is “Literacy and sustainable societies”. This means literacy skills are the prerequisite for the learning of broader set of knowledge, skills, attitude and values required for creating sustainable societies.

The ULISS 2014/2015 and 2015/2016 executive committees received a warm welcome by the teachers and they gave us an opportunity to share information with learners on what literacy is all about and the significance of being literate. Learners participated in activities such as Readerthon, Poetry and Spelling Bee. A total of twenty certificates were awarded to the winners. There were seven winners in poetry, 7 in spelling bee, and 5 in Readerthon. A certification of appreciation was granted to the school for celebrating the International Literacy Week 2015.
ULISS Handing over the certificate of appreciation to the HOD of Makgefola Primary School. It was awarded for participating in the International Literacy day.

(From right to left). Deputy Secretary, Public Relations Officer, and Secretary General listen attentively to learners as they warmly welcome them with melodious and inspiring songs.
The Principal of Makgefolo Primary School (left), together with teachers, learners and ULISS members.
Makgefolo Primary School Library

Learner’s taking part in poetry
ULISS Treasurer reading a story for the learners.

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October saw the celebration of open access week and academic libraries as usual where particularly active in coming up with all sorts of events that pushed ahead the open access agenda. Whereas some universities are way ahead in terms of building their Institutional Repositories, the benchmark OA project almost every university has to have, and getting the buy in from faculty staff some are yet to even scratch the surface and get their projects going. As the key OA proponents in their institutions librarians need to educate themselves about OA.

The burden of proof of the values and benefits of OA is on us and if we are not conversant with issues around OA we will not be able to answer crucial questions being asked by our communities concerning OA. We cannot be good agents of OA if we are not open minded. The Merriam-Webster Online dictionary defines open-mindedness as 'willingness to consider different arguments or ideas'. Synonyms one may find for the adjective open minded include: unbiased, unprejudiced, non-aligned, non-judgmental, objective. All these describe the open state of mind we need to have as we seek to promote OA as a rethink and remodeling of the scholarly communication process; an alternative to the traditional method which is very expensive and detrimental to knowledge sharing and the development of new ideas.
However, this does not mean that all is rosy with OA and must also be taken to mean that traditional science journals are the enemy. Everybody needs everybody and it is imperative to remain objective in an area of polarity of arguments around issues of quality, sustainability, whether OA is merely a dissemination mechanism or an innovative improvement in SC and innovation, success measurements and competing visions and methods of implementation among OA proponents. Thus yes the 2015 OA week has passed but neither should we stop the OA conversation nor keep those OA banners hidden till next year. Let us not add our orange t-shirts to our go-to-bed-with wardrobe. Let us keep listening to the arguments of all and respect their perceptions on this issue. More importantly let us keep learning about OA so to improve or even change our arguments and tactics and help dispel OA fallacies that many in our institutions have and educate even many more who are not yet aware of OA issues. After all the rational of opening up access to knowledge is so that we can develop open minded thinkers who are innovative and can develop new ideas that will change our communities for the better.

Thanks very much

Frederick Mavhunduse

Information Literacy Librarian

University of Venda

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One of the wettest places in the world is Mount Waialeale, in Hawaii, an island in the USA. The name Mt. Waialeale means “overflowing water”. The ground there is so drenched and slippery that access by foot to the area is extremely difficult. Researchers believe that the peak’s conical shape makes it so rainy.

Mountains of Mount Waialeale, Hawaii, USA

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