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RETIG ANNUAL REPORT (01 July 2015 – 30 August 2016)

1. INTRODUCTION

This report attempts to give a brief overview of the current status of RETIG, as aligned with the LIASA strategic directions. The purpose of interest groups as stipulated in the constitution of LIASA is to promote library and information services and/or science within and for a particular service, category of user, and type of material, function or activity. Research, Education and Training Interest Group is one such interest group formed under the constitution of LIASA. RETIG committee is led by academics and practicing information professional from different background in universities and research organisation.

2. LEADERSHIP

Chairperson:	Mr Lefose Makgahlela (UL)
Chairperson-elect:	Dr Connie Bitso (UCT)
Secretary:	Dr Solomon Bopape (UL)
Treasurer:	Ms Salamina Molamu (HSRC)
PRO:	Mr Jan Moeketsi TUT)

At the moment no information received from the provincial RETIG.

3. INTEREST GROUP ACTIVITIES

The interest group took over from the office after the 2014 annual general meeting election held at the Birchwood Hotel & O R Tambo Conference Centre on the 24th September 2014. The first task of the interest group was to open a bank account and subsequently, the committee met on the 11th March 2015 and a bank account was open with FNB on the same date. The second task was to revive the interest group. This was big task as there are no active RETIG branches at the moment. The committee also held their first virtual meeting on the 04 May 2015 and 21 April 2016. More meeting where held thought the year in an effort to revive the interest group. The committee also organized a workshop entitled "Research Methodology for Librarians" from 17-18 May 2016 at the National Library but unfortunately due to logistics hiccup, the workshop was cancelled.

4. COMMUNICATIONS AND SECTOR ENGAGEMENT

The committee held their first virtual meeting on the 04 May 2016 and 21 April 2016. There is a RETIG mailing list created specifically for RETIG members to ensure free flow of information and easier communication. The chair attended the LIS Head of Department meetings on the 08 March 2015 and again on the 08 April 2016. The main purpose of the meeting was to establish the relationship with the LIS Department as one of our key stakeholders in the interest group.

5. MEMBERSHIP

The interest group has a total of 92 members. There has been a decline in the membership of RETIG. However, there are plans to revive the interest group and make it attractive. This was also observed when call for nominations for interest group executive committee were made as only two people were nominated in the office. The interest group manages to open a bank account for the first time. The committee has planned some activities during the year to revive and strengthen the interest group by organizing workshop. Effort has been taken by the committee members to create awareness about RETIG and its activities. Most of LIS schools students have joined LIASA as a result of committee members marketing the association to students. RETIG is also represented at the Head of Department Forum belonging to all LIS school in South Africa.

6. FINANCE

The interest group opens its account for the first time on the 11th March 2015 and an amount of R6000 was deposited by the LIASA National office. No activities or event took place in this 2015/2016 financial year. There are plans to close the account and hand over the money back to LIASA national bank account to give a new chance for the new committee. As at the 10th September 2016, the branch has a total amount of R 4,572.05.

7. SUMMARY OF CHALLENGES AND ACHIEVEMENT

As with any branch or interest group, RETIG has also experienced the following challenges:

- Decreasing membership
- Distances that make it difficult for interest group executive to meet.
- Inactive provincial branches except in two provinces.
- The interest group don't have a fundraising model
- Lack of participation in the national nomination process for electing a new national committee for 2016-2017 resulted in having only two nominations.
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8. CONCLUSION

The Chair and Committee wish to thank all LIASA RETIG members for their involvement, continuous support and contribution to our interest group and hard work during their term of office and wish the incoming Chair all the best in her new role.

Best wishes for all the new incoming committees!

Mr L.A Makgahlela

RETIG: Chairperson

10 September 2016.