

# African Library and Information Associations and Institutions (AFLIA)



*Connecting Africa's Libraries and Information communities*  
website: [www.aflia.net](http://www.aflia.net)

# Formation and Background

- In May, 2011, a presentation was made at the 1<sup>st</sup> African Library Summit held in Muldersdrift, South Africa, by Dr. Helena Asamoah-Hassan. (Mbambo-Thata et al :The new African librarian- Perspectives from the continent. 2011, pp.34-35).
- The presentation among other things tuned the minds of participants towards the formation of a Continent-wide African Library Association which will provide a platform to discuss issues and further the cause of the library and information sector in Africa.
- The IFLA Africa Section was tasked to set up an Exploratory Committee and mandated to report back its findings to them.



# Background ...

- The Exploratory Committee recommended the formation of the African Library and Information Associations and Institutions (AfLIA) which was accepted by the IFLA Africa Section.
- An Interim Committee was selected at the Mid Term Meeting of the IFLA Africa Section in February, 2013 in Abuja, Nigeria to manage the affairs of AfLIA for two years.
- AfLIA was formally launched on Friday, 5 July, 2013 during the 2<sup>nd</sup> African Library Summit hosted by the University of South Africa (UNISA) in Pretoria, South Africa.



# Background

- A General meeting of members was held at the 3<sup>rd</sup> African Library Summit and 1<sup>st</sup> AfLIA Conference in Accra, Ghana on 2nd June 2015.
- The draft Constitution was amended and approved by members and a newly elected Governing Council took office till May 2017 when there will be another election.
- AfLIA is managed under the general guidelines of the Constitution and its Bye-Laws.



# The Governing Structure...

- The governing body of the Association is the Council.
- It has the power to act on behalf of the Association, in all matters except those reserved in the constitution for members at an Annual or Special General Meeting.
- AfLIA has a Secretariat based in Accra, Ghana with an Executive Director, 2 permanent and 2 part- time staff.
- In addition, there are Committees and Sections of the Association as provided in the Bye -laws.



# The Governing Structure...

## The Governing Council is made up of...

- President
- Vice President
- Immediate Past President
- Executive Director
- One elected representative from each of the regions / language groups of the African continent
  - 1. Central Africa
  - 2. East Africa
  - 3. North Africa
  - 4. Southern Africa
  - 5. West Africa

Recognition and Respect for Linguistic diversity in Africa

- **1. French Speaking West Africa**
- **2. Portuguese Speaking Africa**



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# The Governing Structure

## The Governing Council is made up of

- Chairpersons of the various sections of AfLIA as follows:
  - Academic Libraries
  - Library and Information Education / Training Institutions
  - National Library Consortia
  - National Libraries
  - National Library Associations
  - Public /Community Libraries
  - School libraries
  - Library Institutions in the Diaspora



# Who We Are

- AfLIA is an independent international not-for-profit organization.
- It was established in 2013 and registered as an international non-governmental Organisation (NGO) in Accra, Ghana, West Africa in October 2014.
- AfLIA pursues the interests of :
  - Library and Information Associations,
  - Library and Information Services,
  - Librarians and Information Workers and the communities they serve in Africa.





# Vision, Mission and Core Values

## **Vision**

- The trusted voice of the African library and information community in Africa's development.

## **Mission**

- To empower the library and information community to actively promote the African Development Agenda through dynamic services that transform livelihoods.



# Core Values

1. -Integrity
2. -Transparency
3. -Accountability
4. -Innovation
5. Creativity
6. -Customer focused
7. - Access to Information as a Human Right

# Objectives

## **Key Strategic Objectives (KSO) are the following:**

- To support the library and information profession that anticipates and responds to the needs of communities in Africa.
- Put the library and information profession on the national and continental agendas.
- To drive high standards in library and information services and professional practices.
- To Promote libraries especially public libraries and information centres as vital institutions that enhance people's lives through equitable access to knowledge, information and innovative services.
- Embrace the principles of freedom of access to information... enshrined in the Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and Article 9 of the African Charter of People's Rights.



# What AfLIA Does...

- **Advocacy:**

Advocate for favourable library policies to be included in National Development Policies

- **Partnership:**

AfLIA currently has the following partners and in the process of forging new ones:

- Global Libraries of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF)
- International Network for the Availability of Scientific Publications (INASP)
- Electronic Information for Libraries Network (EIFL)
- Goethe Institute Regional Office in South Africa



# What AfLIA Does

- **Capacity Building**

- **Conferences**

- AfLIA Conference – every 2 years, next one in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia in May 2017 [Hopefully in collaboration with the African Union (AU) and the United Nations – Economic Commission for Africa (UN-ECA) ]

- Public Library Summit – every 2 years, last one was held in Swaziland in at April 2016 after the occasion of the SCECSAL Conference

- **Pre-conferences**

- different workshops for different library groups to strengthen their skills and to develop future leaders in the LIS profession



# What AfLIA Does

- **Training workshops continued**
  - e.g. **INELI- Sub-Saharan Africa (INELI-SSAf)**
    - First Convening took place in Entebbe, Uganda in July 2016
    - Moodle Platform created and innovators working on online courses
    - 32 innovators from fourteen Countries with 8 Mentors all from Africa
    - 2 more convening and 1<sup>st</sup> Cohort ends in 2018
    - Look out for announcement for 2<sup>nd</sup> Cohort
- **Publications**
  - Quarterly e- newsletters
  - e- conference proceedings on website
- **Topical issues of library interest on website**



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# Why a Continental Lib. Ass. for Africa?

- Need for a single voice in Africa to pursue the interests of library and information associations, library and information services, librarians and information workers and the communities they serve in Africa
- Library advocacy by Africans to Africans in the right places
- Managing our library development affairs ourselves since we know how to do it better.



# Why a Continental Library Association for Africa?

- Collaboration with National and Public libraries and National Library Associations to put innovative public library services on their Agenda.
- Collaboration with the several foreign players in library development on the continent to speak with each other.
- Developing more library leaders for today and tomorrow.

**Currently** playing the leading role in assisting libraries in Africa to realise the demands of the UN 2030 and AU 2063 Agenda, Cape Town African Ministers Declaration and IFLA IAP





# Who We Work With

## **AfLIA works with the following:**

- Libraries and National Library Associations in Africa
- Governments and Government Agencies responsible for Libraries in Africa
- African Regional and Economic Bodies and African Union (AU) and United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA)
- Global Partners and related organisations



# Membership...

- AfLIA is a membership driven Organisation.
- Membership is open to all Libraries , Library Associations and Library related organisations / institutions in Africa.
- There are no individual memberships.
- Membership of AfLIA is by subscription which is due on 1st January of each year.
- Membership Fee is determined by the Governing Council and paid annually by categories of members, which may be subject to revision at any General Meeting of members of AfLIA.



# Membership

- The Secretariat notifies a member when subscription is due for renewal.
- A member who is 12 months or more in arrears of fees is automatically suspended from membership and has no voting rights until reinstated by the Council.
- Reinstatement shall be at the discretion of the Council, upon payment of all arrears .
- For membership, please send a mail to [membership@aflia.net](mailto:membership@aflia.net) OR download the membership Form on the AfLIA website, complete all sections of the Form, scan and send to [membership@aflia.net](mailto:membership@aflia.net)



# Conclusion

- AfLIA is the voice of Libraries and the Information Profession in Africa.
- AfLIA serves as a platform to discuss issues and further the cause of the library and information services (LIS) sector in Africa.
- AfLIA is a membership driven organisation so
- **Please become a member TODAY !!**



***AfLIA !!! created in Africa by Africans and for Africans***



# References

- The new African librarian - Perspectives from the continent. Selected papers from the African Library Summit, Muldersdrift, 11-13 May 2011. Edited by Buhle Mbambo-Thata, Jenny Raubenheimer and Gerhard van der Linde. pp.34-35