AN INVESTIGATION ON LIBRARY AND INFORMATION ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH AFRICA (LIASA) CONFERENCE ATTENDANCE BY ETHEKWINI MUNICIPAL LIBRARY (EML) SUPPORT STAFF MEMBERS

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Presentation

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Introduction

• This presentation is about the findings and the recommendations of the research paper done for BTech degree at Durban University of Technology (DUT) in 2011
Problem statement

• The researcher has informally observed that few EML support staff members attend LIASA conferences.

• This trigged the investigation on LIASA conference attendance by EML support staff members.
Objectives of the study

• To find out if EML support staff members attend LIASA conferences; and

• To find out the reasons for not attending, if they do not attend.
Critical questions

• Do EML support staff members attend LIASA conferences as there are opportunities?

• What are the reasons for those who do not attend, if there are any?
Methodology

• This study used quantitative approach

• **Data collection method**
  • Questionnaires were emailed to participants

• **Population**
  • EML support staff (205)

• **Sampling**
  • Probability sampling
  • Stratified random sampling
  • Sekaran (2003) table
  • The total number of sample size was 165
Findings

• 91% indicated that they do not attend LIASA conferences

• 62% indicated that they are aware of LIASA conferences

• 38% indicated that they are not aware of LIASA conferences
Findings

• 86% claimed to have no knowledge about benefits of attending LIASA conferences

• 6% claimed that they have knowledge about benefits of attending LIASA conferences
Respondents’ comments

• LIASA must address industrial concerns of LIS sector
• Conferences must be affordable to all library staff members
• Fellow colleagues that have attended have reported that they are most informative and fruitful
Respondents’ comments

• LIASA should market itself more aggressively to gain membership and for all LIS worker to be aware of LIASA’s activities and conferences.
Current situation

• The EML’s policy - one support staff must attend LIASA conference (Mzizi, 2016)

• LIASA obtained professional status – 2015

• Statutory Body Status – work in progress
Recommendations

• A further investigation of LIASA conference attendance by supporting staff members, provincially and nationally to ascertain if the trends revealed in this small study are indeed applicable more widely;

• LIASA should consider to reduce conference fees; and,

• LIASA should market itself more aggressively to gain membership and for all LIS worker to be aware of LIASA’s activities and conferences.
Conclusion

• LIS workers should join LIS professional association and take advantage of the opportunities offered by the LIASA conferences

• As part of paying back to the profession, LIS workers should stop asking “what LIASA will do for me?” and ask, “what I can do for LIASA?”