

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

Presented by Mzothule Ndlela

# Presentation

- Introduction
- Problem statement
- Objectives of the study
- Critical questions
- Methodology
- Findings
- Current situation
- Conclusions & Recommendations

# 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 triggered 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?*”

#StopBurningLibraries

Ngiyabonga

Enkosi

Kea leboha

Thank you

Dankie