



1 October 2021 – 30 September 2022

REPORT TO SCECSAL GENERAL COUNCIL

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Library and Information Association of South Africa*

7 October 2022

1. INTRODUCTION

It has been a momentous year with LIASA celebrating its 25th anniversary. This is indeed a major milestone for the association and it is fitting that we celebrated this occasion with a joint LIASA – SCECSAL Conference. While we are navigating our way out of the pandemic and the subsequent lockdown, there are signs that we are moving towards some improvement and back getting on track.

2. SCECSAL ACTIVITIES

The 2022 LIASA-SCECSAL Conference was organised as a joint conference.

3. CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT

Continuing Professional Development

All LIASA training has been circulated to LIASA members under the banner of the LIASA/Clare Walker Professional Development Centre as of this year.

The LIASA National Office (LNO) commenced with training for Branch and Interest Group Executive Committees that aims to teach Branches and Interest Groups on building their own micro websites. This is a collective area for grouping relevant information for members to access, as well as a repository for the group's documents and information.

There was a total of 45 events hosted during the past year. Of these, 15 were Branch events, 26 were Interest Group events and 4 were national events. These were attended by more than 2 500 members. It should be noted that these relate to events where members could qualify for CPD points.

The Higher Education Libraries Interest Group has hosted the most events, followed by the Interest Group for Bibliographic Standards in 2nd place and Research, Education and Training Interest Group in 3rd place.

The LIASA/Clare Walker Professional Development Centre

The establishment of the LIASA Clare Walker Professional Development Centre, commonly referred to as The Academy, was a major milestone and achievement for LIASA in contributing to the professional development of LIASA members and the broader LIS field.

The previous committee had a definitive term and mandate which had been delivered on and resulted in the establishment of the Academy. The next phase in taking the Academy

forward and establishing it as a vibrant and impactful endeavour is the establishment of an Academy Management Committee.

The broad terms of reference for the Academy Management Committee includes the following:

- Identifying programmes for the Academy
- Develop a compensation structure for the Academy
- Negotiate with partners in providing training
- To exercise quality assurance, in other words, programme accreditation

4. NATIONAL CONFERENCES AND ANNUAL GENERAL MEETINGS

Conference

The COVID-19 pandemic resulted in the hosting of a virtual conference being hosted in 2021. Following the successful hosting of the online event, and the subsequent relaxing of COVID-19 protocols, the decision was made to host a hybrid conference event for 2022. The hosting of the Standing Conference of Eastern, Central and Southern African Library and Information Associations (SCECSAL) 2022 was to be hosted in April but once again, due to the pandemic, the decision was made to co-host the two events as a single conference. The conference has been scheduled for 4-7 October 2022 under the theme "Against all odds: Resilience of libraries in a post-truth world".

5. PUBLICATIONS

Communication and Public Relations

Regular communication with members remains a priority for LIASA to ensure the success, sustainability and growth of the Association. LIASA has traditionally followed its usual channels of communication and while these have been extensively used this year, the Association has increased the use of social media to communicate with members.

LIASA-in-Touch

The LIASA-in-Touch continues to be extremely popular with our members. It attracts interesting and informative contributions from members and has become a true showcase of activities and achievements for the Association. It is published quarterly under the editorship of Ms Nohra Moerat. We'd like to acknowledge and thank the Department of Sport, Arts and Culture for the generous sponsorship that allowed LIASA to continue publishing the magazine during 2022.

SAJLIS

The South African Journal of Libraries and Information Science (SAJLIS) is the official research and accredited academic publication of LIASA. It is published under the editorship of Prof Mpho Ngoepe. The editorial team was expanded with the addition of Prof Lorette Jacobs and Mr Kabelo Chuma, both lecturers at the University of South Africa (UNISA). They are assisting in language editing and copyediting. Recently, Dr Lungile Luthuli of the University of Zululand (UNIZULU) has been co-opted on to the editorial team to deal with submissions from UNISA and remove any conflict of interest with regards to the submission and publication of papers. The journal is published using open source software,

in the open access platform, OJS, and is available as an open access title. We'd like to acknowledge and thank Stellenbosch University Library for hosting the Journal since 2012.

In the two issues published during this year, a total of 18 peer reviewed articles were published.

Website

The LIASA Website at <http://www.liasa.org.za> serves as the most immediate communication tool with members, stakeholders and the broader library and information services community.

Online Mailing List

The LIASAOonline mailing list facilitates ongoing and prompt communication with members on a regular basis.

Social Media

The past year has seen LIASA making greater use of the various social media tools at its disposal. The Facebook page (had many posts and the Twitter account (has also had numerous tweets sent out during this year. YouTube (is used for uploading and sharing the various recordings of webinars, workshops and other online events. While Instagram, LinkedIn and TikTok were added to the LIASA Social Media channels, it is less used than Facebook, Twitter and YouTube. The number of followers are listed in the table below.

Social Media Platform	Followers
Facebook	4042
Twitter	2001
YouTube	157

Media coverage

LIASA featured in a number of newspapers during the year, the majority of which formed part of the SALW 2022 coverage. The President had also been interviewed for a number of publications on topical issues related to libraries. Several EXCO members were also interviewed on several radio stations, mostly related to SALW. Representative Council members were also featured on both radio stations as well as in newspapers.

6. PARTNERSHIPS/COLLABORATIONS

Stakeholder Relationships

One of LIASA's key strategic directions is advocacy and building and strengthening of stakeholder relationships. The aim is to promote a positive image of South African librarianship and information work and to participate in the global professional community.

IFLA – LIASA is a current paid-up member of the International Federation of Library Associations. The President represented LIASA at IFLA WLIC 2022 in Dublin, Ireland from 26 – 29 July 2022. Several LIASA members serve on IFLA structures.

IFLA Sub-Saharan Africa – Nthabiseng Kotsokoane is the Chair of Sub-Saharan Africa

IFLA Regional Council - Nthabiseng Kotsokoane serves on the IFLA Governing Board as Chair of the Regional Council.

IFLA Governing Board - Mandla Ntombela serves on the IFLA Governing Board as one of the five Member-at-large 2021-2023

AfLIA - LIASA is a current paid-up member of the African Library and Information Associations and Institutions (AfLIA). LIASA member, Shanitha Bhim is the Vice Chairperson of the Public and Community Libraries' Section. Mandla Ntombela serves on the Governing Council.

SCECSAL – LIASA is a current paid-up member. The LIASA President is the Chair of the SCECSAL General Council.

National Council for Library and Information Services (NCLIS) – LIASA serves as an ex officio member and is represented by the President.

National Library of South Africa (NLSA) – The NLSA continues to host the LIASA National Office on its Pretoria campus.

7. OTHER ACTIVITIES AND INITIATIVES

LIASA Strategic Directions 2021 – 2025

Strategic Direction Themes	
Theme 1 Leadership	To provide innovative and dynamic leadership that will drive LIS in South Africa
Theme 2 Membership	Develop new campaigns for recruitment of membership
Theme 3 Advocacy	To improve the visibility of LIASA among all stakeholders including the relevant government departments & Media
Theme 4 Marketing and Communication	Optimize the channels of communication to promote the LIASA brand, maximize the impact of the Association and support for LIS issues
Theme 5 Governance	Provide and maintain good governance structures for financial growth, accountability and sustainability
Theme 6 Training & Development	To invigorate the sector through dynamic, vibrant, continuing education, and training and development programmes

The Strategic Directions 2021 – 2025 was developed around six strategic themes guiding the strategic direction of LIASA for the next four years – extending over the term of office of the President and President-Elect. The themes mirror the ones that have enjoyed attention for the past few years. The action plans have however been aligned to the current LIS environment in which the Association operates.

These six strategic themes have associated strategic action plans. It was considered appropriate to prioritize actions (with responsible person/s) that need immediate attention. These actions can be viewed on the LIASA website.

Branches and Interest Groups

Branches and Interest Groups of LIASA are established in terms of the Constitution Articles 14.2 and 15.3 respectively, and subsequently in Rules 8 and 9 respectively. Within these rules it is determined that "a branch shall elect a branch committee consisting of a

Chairperson, Chairperson-Elect, Secretary, Treasurer and other members to manage its affairs”, and the same is stipulated for an Interest Group. The Constitution is silent on the methods that shall be used to elect such executive committees, but the Representative Council has in recent years adopted the methodology of a formal method of calling for nominations, followed by ballots, where necessary. The Constitution and Rules are silent on the eventuality of not having full executive committees. De Facto, some Branches and Interest Groups have been operating without full committees in place.

The call for nominations for executive portfolios for Branches and Interest Group had not been effective in finding candidates for all portfolios. A proposal was put forward to make good on what would have been a disastrous situation for some Branches and Interest Groups for the 2021 to 2023 term. The proposed Resolution was made in light of the fact that LIASA is still in the midst of considering a restructuring of its governance, therefore it is to be seen as an interim solution.

The Proposal for the 2021 to 2023 term of office was as follows:

a) Branches and Interest Groups that have successfully filled at least the following portfolios shall not be impacted by this proposal: Chairperson, Chair-Elect, and Secretary. Vacant portfolios for Treasurer and/or PRO shall remain vacant if these have not been filled.

b) Branches and Interest Groups that have not been able to appoint at least a Chairperson, Chair-Elect, and Secretary, but have elected candidates for some of these and/or other portfolios, shall have the right to change the portfolios of the elected candidates to firstly fill the portfolios in the hierarchy of Chairperson, Chair-Elect, and Secretary. This shall be an internal decision of the relevant Branch or Interest Group, in a meeting chaired by the Electoral Officer. Vacant portfolios for Treasurer and/or PRO shall remain vacant if these cannot be filled with existing elected candidates.

c) Branches and Interest Groups that do not have sufficient elected candidates to appoint at least a Chairperson, Chair-Elect, and Secretary, shall be held in abeyance for the 2021 to the 2023 term.

Those Branches and Interest groups that did not have sufficient nominations were placed in abeyance and was to be overseen by the President.

Following the LIASA 2021 elections, the following Branches and Interest Groups were placed in abeyance:

- Branches
 - Mpumalanga
 - Western Cape
- Interest Groups
 - ICT
 - Marketing and Advocacy
 - Special Libraries
 - Support Staff

Student Chapter

The establishment of a Student Chapter was raised in the previous term of office. A meeting was held with the LIS Forum in order to develop the next steps in the creation of this body. A proposal was received from the LIS Forum and while the matter has been discussed, the final steps in putting this structure in place has not been done. One of the stumbling blocks is the issue of restructuring and how a Student Chapter fits into the new

structure. Once the next phase of restructuring has therefore been completed, the commitment to this structure will materialise.

LIASA Flagship Programmes

SALW 2022

The South African Library Week Launch was once again celebrated online this year on the 15th of March 2022 with the theme ReImagine! RePurpose! ReDiscover...Libraries. The virtual event was held with more than 220 attendees and the recording was viewed 243 times thus far. This year marked the 20th year since SALW was first celebrated in 2002.

The theme for SALW 2022 attempted to explore and interrogate the ways in which libraries are having to:

- Reimagine their services and their ability to render those services,
- Repurpose both their spaces and their services to continue being effective in the communities that they serve, and in this way allowing users to
- Rediscover the library and the ways in which it benefits them.

The theme for 2022 was conceptualised to build on the 2021 theme of "Libraries Matter!" by moving the narrative forward from one of confirming relevance to one of demonstrating how libraries continue to be relevant in society.

This year the SALW celebrations included an intensive marketing campaign that included newspaper adverts, a television advert, radio adverts, radio reads and social media. Social media included a video that was boosted on Facebook and reached 7.8K views. The decision to include radio reads was to reach areas of South Africa where people do not normally use the internet and encourage them to use our libraries. A Tik-Tok video was also created to reach a broader audience. All the plans was materialised except for the television advert. To ensure a greater presence on online platforms there was the publication of the digital magazine, a continuation of an innovation from last year. The magazine that was used by Digimag can be viewed at https://issuu.com/independentnewspapers/docs/liasa_digimag_2022. There was an article on IOL which can be viewed at: <https://bit.ly/3wa35mq>. This was in addition to our traditional newspaper adverts.

A team of EXCO members and Representative Council members were tasked with planning the event, including Charlie Molepo (President Elect), Shanitha Bhim (PACLIG Chair), Annamarie Goosen (LNO Manager), Kagiso Ledwaba (LNO Training and Development Coordinator), Mokgadi Senyolo (National Secretary) Ugo Okoli,(EDUVOS- Potchefstroom), Danie Malan (National Treasurer) and Linda Ntaka (National PRO).

SALD 2022

South African Librarians' Day, which is celebrated annually on LIASA's birthday, 10 July, was celebrated on 11 July this year due to the 10th being a Sunday. A very successful virtual event was held with more than 220 attendees and the recording was viewed 167 times thus far.

The various perspectives from the sub-sectors on the future of librarianship in South Africa was well received. Dr Peter Lor's presentation on LIASA's major milestones demonstrated how far LIASA had come and how much had been achieved during the past 25 years.

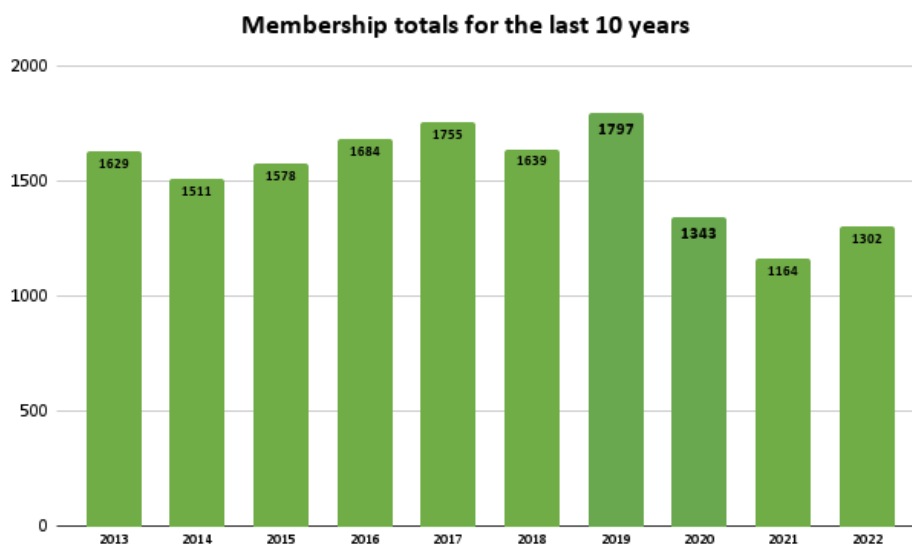
As a build-up to the event, a few long-standing, loyal LIASA members shared a short video on what LIASA has meant to them over the years. Prof. Ina Fourie, Jeff Nyoka on behalf

of Ms Nobuntu Mpendulo, Dr Matthew Moyo, and Ms Janine le Roux all spoke about the future of librarianship in South Africa. These videos were shared on LIASA’s social media channels. Furthermore, paid-up members were asked to share why they love being in the LIS profession; and LIS students were asked to share why they chose LIS as their future profession. Prizes were awarded to the best submissions.

8. MEMBERSHIP

Membership Management and Recruitment

The LIASA membership year is annually from 01 January to 31 December. In 2022 an overall membership increase of 11.8% from the 2021 membership total of 1 164 was registered.



A membership campaign was launched to encourage Branches in reaching or exceeding the membership numbers held in 2019. Branches who equalled or exceeded the number of paid-up members they had in 2019, would be awarded R1000.00. Should a branch exceed their total by 10%, then that branch would be awarded R2000.00. The campaign ran from March 2022 until 16 September 2022. Unfortunately, none of the Branches managed to equal or exceed their 2019 totals but as can be seen above, we still managed to increase membership totals from the previous year.

Membership Category	Total
Individual Member	1077
Student Member	30
Unemployed Member	86
Pensioner	29
Intern	20
Institutional Member	65
TOTAL	1307

9. MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

LIASA Executive Committee for the period 2021 - 2023

Mr Nazeem Hardy	LIASA President	president@liasa.org.za
Mr Charlie Molepo	LIASA President-Elect	President-elect@liasa.org.za
Ms Rebecca Senyolo	LIASA Secretary	secretary@liasa.org.za
Mr Danie Malan	LIASA Treasurer	liasatreasurer@liasa.org.za
Ms Linda Ntaka	LIASA Public Relations Officer	liasapro@liasa.org.za

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