



Library and Information Association of Zambia

“Libraries ... Linking People with Information”

# **ZAMBIA**

## **COUNTRY REPORT 2014 - 2016**

**by**

**Velenasi Mwale Munsanje**

**LIAZ PRESIDENT**

**SCECSAL XXII**

## **INTRODUCTION**

The Zambia Library and Information Association of Zambia is happy to present the SCECSAL Zambia country report for the period 2014 to 2016. Since the last SCECSAL in 2014, the country has seen a lot of changes politically and hence affecting the operations of ministries in the country. This has also had an effect on activities of the Library and Information Association most especially regarding activities done in collaboration with government departments.

## **LIAZ COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

The following are the current office bearers in the committee. The country held elections in July, 2015 after the term ended. There were only two changes and the rest of the office bearers retained their positions for the second term.

PRESIDENT	-	Velenasi Mwale Munsanje
VICE PRESIDENT	-	Fabian Kakana
SECRETARY GENERAL	-	Otilia Malasa
TREASURER	-	Mutinta Mweemba Nabuyanda
MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY	-	Jabulani Moyo
PUBLICITY SECRETARY	-	Brian Chileshe
PROJECT'S OFFICER	-	David Muzi
EDITOR	-	Benson Njobvu
COMMITTEE MEMBERS	-	Robinson Bwato (ex- offico)
	-	Cacious Makalashi
	-	Charles Nonde

## **ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP**

The association has an average membership of fully paid up members of about 110. There has been a steady increase in general membership as well as other members who participate in association activities and assignments.

The following shows the rise in full membership figures:

Year	Members
2013	52
2014	76
2015	110

## **LIBRARY LEGISLATION CAMPAIGN**

This is one of the activities that the association has strongly worked on in the period under review. In February 2014, as reported at the last meeting, The Ministry of General Education, through which the bills are to be passed, had appointed a sixteen member committee comprising key librarians and other stakeholders to spearhead the finalization of both the National Library Policy document and the Library Bill in readiness for submission to Cabinet for consideration.

A lot of work has since been done with good progress. This committee was tasked through the office of the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of General Education to:

- Review and revise the National Library Policy and the National Library Bill whose drafts were done in 1998
- Relate the two documents to the Education Act that was under review then
- Finalize and synchronize these two documents
- To facilitate the holding of a National Symposium to ensure all stakeholders had an input in these documents
- To finalize the documents in readiness for submission to Ministry of General Education

The committee held two meetings in 2014 and early 2015 to work on the two documents in preparation for the National Symposium. In April, 2015 the National Library Symposium was successfully held in Siavonga where 50 carefully selected delegates/stakeholders participated. This symposium was held with the support of the funding we got from Building Strong Library Association project. Other funders were the Ministry of General Education and Library and Information Association of Zambia.

All the above five tasks were achieved and in August, 2015, the documents were submitted to Ministry of General Education. Since then, the documents have been reviewed by Planning Department of the Ministry of General Education as well as Ministry of Justice. The Minister of General Education is to submit these two documents to cabinet soon.

Both Library and Information Association of Zambia and Zambia Library Service has been actively involved in the communication that has been going on as the documents move to various government departments.

## **STRATEGIC PLANNING FOR LIAZ**

In April 2015, the association held a three days Strategic Planning Meeting in Siavonga where a five-year Strategic Plan was done. The document was fully concluded in August, 2015 and is currently being used. This has really helped the association to have clear direction and follow activities according to plan.

During the planning, we revisited both our Vision and Mission. As LIAZ, this is what we are working with.

### **Our vision**

A professional association promoting excellence and innovation in library and information services.

### **Mission**

To be an association that will promote professional development and excellence in library and information services through advocacy, training, research and networking.

### **Strategic goals**

1. Enhance Membership Portfolio of the Association
2. Improve Administrative and Management structures
3. Develop and Implement a Communications Strategy
4. Champion the Library and Information Services Act Process
5. Develop Capacity Building Strategies for Innovative library services
6. Improve financial base for LIAZ.

## **BUILDING STRONG LIBRARY ASSOCIATIONS (BSLA) PROJECT**

LIAZ participated in the 2014 convening in Ghana where two leaders attended training in planning for the association.

A project proposal was done in 2014 to IFLA and was successful. This resulted in LIAZ conducting two activities in 2015, the bringing together of library professionals to have input in the National Library Policy and Bill drafts and coming up with a five-year strategic plan for the association. Details are stated above.

## **CONTINUING CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT**

In response to the SCECSAL 2014 resolution on the need for library and information professionals to endeavour to use electronic resources for optimal access, all the trainings facilitated by LIAZ were around the use of ICT's. In order to ensure that we built capacity in our members in managing and disseminating information electronically, we conducted three trainings in the period under review where a total of 80 participants participated and benefited. Registry operations, Paper and Electronic Records Management Training

- Library Automation and Web Information Management Training
- Use of Koha
- Electronic management of records
- E-security

In addition, the Zambia Library Consortium, to which LIAZ is a member has in the period under review conducted sensitization programmes and trainings in Open access.

## **COMMUNICATION**

LIAZ has in the period under review been able to update the professional database to capture as many people as possible. Currently, the use of Facebook in among our most reliable mode of communicating to our members. The number of members on our Facebook page has been increasing. Participation in discussions using this forum has also increased. The following table shows the statistics of members on our Facebook page:

<b>Year</b>	<b>Members</b>
2014	356
2015	683
2016	759

Our emailing database now has currently about 400 members. In addition, we are also using bulk sms to communicate with our members. We have continued to updating our database each year. The following shows the increase in the past two years.

<b>Year</b>	<b>Members</b>
2014	85
2015	298
2016	400

The constant updating of our database has helped us to ensure that many of our professionals have access to information about LIAZ and activities that affect them.

We are currently working on our LIAZ website which will be ready by end of May, 2016.

## **CONFERENCES**

Zambia has been fairing quite well in attending professional international conferences, though there is more that needs to be done especially in convincing government agencies to support their staff.

Zambia has been represented at IFLA and SCECSAL conferences. In 2014 we had a delegation of 27 members attending the conference in Malawi. We were honoured to get the Culture Evening Award which we happily handed over to Lesotho in 2016.

Unfortunately we were not able to be present at the AfLIA summit in 2015 but will plan for the future summits.

## **ASSOCIATION WITH INTERNATIONAL PROFESSIONAL BODIES**

LIAZ is fully affiliated to International Federation of Library Institutions and Associations (IFLA) and the African Library and Information Association and Institutions (AfLIA)

LIAZ leadership has been involved in the library advocacy planning meetings that were being spearheaded by IFLA. This has benefited the country as ideas and decisions made are readily taken down to the country and consequently to individual libraries. This has also build capacity in the association leadership.

We are benefitting from the (AfLIA) which will be running a 2-year program of emerging public library leaders from Sub-Saharan Africa to sharpen their leadership and innovative skills to enable them offer innovative services in their libraries. We are confident that upon completion, our member enrolled in the programme will be able to train other public librarians.

## **LIBRARY AWARENESS ACTIVITIES**

The association has been observing the National Library Week to create awareness to the entire country about the importance and role of libraries and librarians. The association has been working closely in conjunction with the Zambia Library Service in ensuring that these activities are a success. The new practice of having the official commemoration in different provincial centres each year has enabled the association to have greater impact in the province that hosts the official event. We have also promoted having awareness programmes in the other selected provincial centres and in individual libraries.

LIAZ has been instrumental in organizing libraries to exhibit at the official venue. To encourage more participation, in collaboration with Zambia Library Service, an award is given to best library institution during the exhibition.

LIAZ has also taken an advantage of this event to remind government about the need for speeding up the library legislation process.

### ***Radio programme***

With the support of committed association members, we have been running a Radio 2 programme, "The Librarian" with Zambia National Broadcasting Corporation. This has helped us to market our profession and sensitize members of the public on important issues around literacy and reading. This has made a huge difference as the radio station covers the entire country.

As an association, we have from time to time being requested to appear on television and radio programmes and discussions during important events such as Literacy Week.

## **PUBLICATIONS**

The association has continued to promote research by professionals by publishing the annual LIAZ Journal. In addition, the University of Zambia has also launched the Department of Library and Information Studies Journal. This has given library professionals in Zambia an opportunity to publish their research findings.

The LIAZ newsletter is published bi-annually. In 2015, we were privileged to have sponsors for all our newsletter publications. This was with the support of Zambia Information and Communication Training Authority and Zambia Railways Limited. In 2016 our newsletter publications have the support of Grey Matter Publishers.

## **OTHER ACTIVITIES**

LIAZ has among others participated and contributed to the following activities:

- Sharing and exchange of professional ideas with Zimbabwe Library Association during their 2015 Annual General Conference
- Providing professional advice to key partners such as Zambia Library Services, Lubuto Library Partners, etc.
- Recruitment of library staff by various organizations

## **OBITUARIES**

In the year under review, LIAZ lost the following members:

Professor Mauris Lundu

Ms. Diana Kangwa

Mr. Mizzie Mkandawire

## **CHALLENGES**

The Library and Information Association of Zambia has amongst others faced several challenges including:

1. Inadequate funding of libraries hence affecting the participation of our members in both national and international events and conferences.
2. Few members willing to share or present papers during our Annual General Conferences.
3. Few members willing to submit articles for our newsletter despite funding being readily available for the publication.
4. The frequent changes in government senior officials and change of government structures slow down various processes such as the enactment of the library bill.