

MALAWI LIBRARY ASSOCIATION



COUNTRY REPORT 2016

INTRODUCTION

During the period under review (2014-2016) the Malawi Library Association (MALA) has made great strides in partnerships with stakeholders in regard to promoting information sharing; advancement of LIS profession.

Education and Training:

Training is a key pillar to a strong association. MALA has been active not only in providing training opportunities for its members, but also in taking an active interest in Library and Information Science (LIS) curriculum at Mzuzu University. MALA is in strong partnership with the Norwegian Library Association; currently the NLA is sponsoring 30 students at Masters Level in six years.

MALA continued to conduct the year long certificate course in Library and Information Science. Most of these school leavers take MALA as their bridging course for the Diploma in Library and Information Science at Mzuzu University's Department of Library and Information Science.

Publications by MALA

The association continues to produce *MALAWI LIBRARY AND INFORMATION JOURNAL and MALA Update*. The Journal, which contains professional articles from members, comes out annually whilst MALA Update is produced every three months.

Website

In order to be visible within and outside the country, MALA has a website which is up and running.

Author of the year Award

MALA continued to be the keeper of the author of the year award money which is supposed to be contributed by each association within the region. Each association is supposed to contribute \$10 per year. So far the amount of money which the Malawi Library Association has in the author of the year bank account is just above \$2500. Again it should be noted that no library association within SCECSAL made its annual contribution of \$10 in six years.

Membership to International Associations

MALA has subscribed to the following professional bodies:

- IFLA
- SCECSAL

Future plans

- Strategic plan
- To acquire land for building MALA secretariat
- Constitutional review conference

Challenges

The association has been faced with a number of recurring challenges. The major challenge that we have had to deal with is getting the library and information professional to become active MALA members. This is major hiccup as without membership there is very little that can be achieved.

MALA is not yet registered.

The other major challenge is funding; some activities that the executive committee desire to organize as way of selling the association to its members of the profession and the public are hampered by the lack of funding.

The other challenge that has been facing the association for a while now is lack of office space which makes it difficult to keep the documents of the association safely.