

# LIASA

## Conference

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It was with great excitement and pleasure that I attended the 14th Annual LIASA Conference (LIASA's 15th anniversary), held from 1-5 October 2012 at the Durban International Convention Center. Two colleagues, Elna Gous (Regional Librarian: George Region), Mhlengi Ngcobo (Regional Librarian: Hermanus Region) and I attended the conference together with Nomaza Dingayo, Director of Library and Archive Services in the Western Cape, who was also one of the speakers. The topic of her paper was on the excellent use of the funding provided by the Department of Arts and Culture, as part of the Community Library Conditional Grant pre-conference workshops.

The theme of the conference was *Libraries: Empowering communities, building a nation*.

On Monday, 1 October 2012, several pre-conference workshops were held where a number of interesting topics were discussed and debated:

- ▶ optimising mobile technology for the busy professional
- ▶ competitive intelligence
- ▶ is the customer still king? Customer service for the library practitioner
- ▶ coaching and mentoring as a personal and professional tool
- ▶ librarianship as a scarce skill
- ▶ libraries and e-books: issues and trends in libraries
- ▶ digitisation of library collections
- ▶ community library conditional grants.

The programme was filled with a variety of exciting topics and discussions and my colleagues and I had a difficult task choosing which sessions to attend.

### Day One

I attended the pre-conference workshop on *Libraries and e-books: issues and trends in libraries* where interesting developments in the world of electronic media were discussed. Topics were:

- ▶ e-book licenses: the agreement and the model



- ▶ interlibrary loans and electronic books
- ▶ purchasing vs leasing e-books collection
- ▶ e-textbooks, and
- ▶ e-book lending libraries.

This presentation, presented by Fatima Darries (Deputy Director: Cataloguing, UNISA) dealt with what an e-book is, with various definitions and formats, policy and guidelines, cataloguing, batch downloading, vendor MARC updates, costs, administration for audit and the future for libraries and e-books. ([http://liasa.org.za/sites/default/files/notices/darries\\_fatima\\_final.pdf](http://liasa.org.za/sites/default/files/notices/darries_fatima_final.pdf)).

The day ended with the official opening of the exhibition and a cocktail function.

## Day Two

The day started with newcomers being welcomed and the Department of Arts and Culture (DAC) grantees session which was chaired by the president-elect, Ujala Satgoor. The official welcome was done by the outgoing president of LIASA, Naomi Haasbroek. The opening of the conference and the keynote address was held by dr J Phaahla, deputy minister of Arts and Culture. ([http://liasa.org.za/sites/default/files/notices/phaahla\\_joe.pdf](http://liasa.org.za/sites/default/files/notices/phaahla_joe.pdf)).

An inspiring paper, *Imprints in the snow*, was given by Deshun Deysel who is the only black female high-altitude mountaineer in the world. She was a member of two South African expeditions to Mount Everest – the first South African expedition in 1996 and the Discovery Everest expedition in 2003. This was a most motivational talk and made us very enthusiastic for the rest of the conference!

Various other sessions covering a variety of topics were held on Day Two. Herewith a selection:

### Strong communities are developed at foundation levels

- ▶ *Synergies and sustainability*  
Public library services for schools and school libraries: a perspective from abroad by Ms B Lotz, Executive Library Director of branch libraries, Frankfurt City Libraries, Germany ([http://liasa.org.za/sites/default/files/notices/lotz\\_birgit.pdf](http://liasa.org.za/sites/default/files/notices/lotz_birgit.pdf))
- ▶ *The South African perspective*  
The synergy between school and public libraries by prof Mary Nassimbeni, Library and Information Studies Centre, University of Cape Town, and prof Genevieve Hart, Department of Library and Information Science, University of the Western Cape ([http://liasa.org.za/sites/default/files/notices/hart\\_genevieve.pdf](http://liasa.org.za/sites/default/files/notices/hart_genevieve.pdf)).

### Access to information

- ▶ *WIPO agenda* by dr Faasen
- ▶ *Protection of Information Bill*  
Standards – the enabling factor in information access (T de Klerk, project leader: BibSA, National Library of South Africa)
- ▶ *The value of processes and procedures in the financial and operational management of library material as 'knowledge assets'* by Vermooten and Van den Heever of PricewaterhouseCoopers (<http://liasa.org.za/sites/default/files/notices/vermooten.pdf>).

This topic had lots of interest and discussion, especially with regards to books being declared assets for good governance as well as for compliance to the auditor general's demands. The presenters defined assets in

layman's terms, outlined current challenges in the financial management of library material; as well as current challenges in the operational management of library material; compliance; and flexible library operations: people, process and technology; and the benefits of integrated library operations.

The day ended with a cocktail function which was hosted by the Executive Mayor of eThekweni Municipality.

## Day Three

Day Three started with the president's round table discussion: the celebration of LIASA's 15th anniversary. A number of founders and long-standing members lauded the Association. Among them were members like Clare Walker, Honorary Research Fellow of the Waterweiler Library, University of the Witwatersrand; Robert Moropa, Director of Library Services, University of Pretoria; Tommy Matthee, Executive Director: Social Services, Drakenstein Municipality; and Rachel More, deputy national librarian.

This was a wonderful presentation, complete with photographs that took delegates on a journey from the establishment of the Association to its current status. Interesting stories were also shared about events in the Association, with some delegates getting excited at seeing themselves in photos of years gone by! ([http://liasa.org.za/AB94851B-5F85-45AD-8AEB-45024E49C5D7/FinalDownload/DownloadId-046AB-98CBD8024B29EBADC0CACEC7CD4/AB94851B-5F85-45AD-8AEB-45024E49C5D7/sites/default/files/notices/walker\\_clare.pdf](http://liasa.org.za/AB94851B-5F85-45AD-8AEB-45024E49C5D7/FinalDownload/DownloadId-046AB-98CBD8024B29EBADC0CACEC7CD4/AB94851B-5F85-45AD-8AEB-45024E49C5D7/sites/default/files/notices/walker_clare.pdf)).

The day also featured presentations by runners-up of the LIASA Librarian of the Year 2011, such as first runner-up, Christelle Lubbe (Chief Librarian: Bellville Public Library) and other runner-ups ([http://liasa.org.za/AB94851B-5F85-45AD-8AEB-45024E49C5D7/FinalDownload/DownloadId-E018A0FECC24AC3EA86A95CAA922EBA5/AB94851B-5F85-45AD-8AEB-45024E49C5D7/sites/default/files/notices/lubbe\\_christelle.pdf](http://liasa.org.za/AB94851B-5F85-45AD-8AEB-45024E49C5D7/FinalDownload/DownloadId-E018A0FECC24AC3EA86A95CAA922EBA5/AB94851B-5F85-45AD-8AEB-45024E49C5D7/sites/default/files/notices/lubbe_christelle.pdf)).

The annual general meetings (AGMs) of all the LIASA interest groups were also held on this day:

- ▶ Higher Education Interest Group (HELIG)
- ▶ Interest Group of Bibliographic Standards (IGBS)
- ▶ Interlending Interest Group (ILLIG)
- ▶ Information and Communication Technology in Libraries Interest Group (ICTLIG)
- ▶ LIASA Special Libraries Interest Group (LISLIG)
- ▶ Public and Community Libraries Interest Group (PACLIG)
- ▶ Research Education and Training Interest Group (RETIG)
- ▶ School Libraries Interest Group (SLSIG)
- ▶ Support Staff Interest Group (SSIG)
- ▶ Marketing and Advocacy Interest Group (MAIG) – a new interest group adopted at the 14th LIASA Conference in 2012.

The day ended with the annual fun run.

## Day Four

Day Four continued with a plenary session on the subject of *Education for growth: sharing our stories*, using an online encyclopaedia as the basis for a general education module on local history, creative writing and social justice. This presentation was done by prof G Stewart, Deputy

Dean: Faculty of Arts and Design, Durban University of Technology. He highlighted issues pertaining to the Virtual Learning Environment (VLS), Learning Management System (LMS), South African Literary Database (SALIT), the Encyclopaedia of South African Arts, Culture and Heritage (ESAACH) and general education.

On this day the LIASA AGM was held, chaired by the outgoing president of LIASA, Naomi Haasbroek. The AGM was followed by an interesting conference call to Mary Cavanagh, Assistant Professor, School of Information Studies, University of Ottawa, who introduced *Social-biblio.ca: Canada's Twittering public libraries*. This is a research project which explores the value and influence of micro-blogging for public libraries. Day Four ended with a stunning gala dinner at which the LIASA Librarian of the Year 2012 winner, Theresa Denton, senior librarian, Rocklands Public Library, Western Cape, was announced.

### Day Five

Various presentations and discussions were held on the last day of the conference on the following topics:

- ▶ *Librarianship for Africa: The state of African librarianship* by prof K Mchombu, Dean: Faculty of Humanities and Social Science Information Studies, University of Namibia ([http://liasa.org.za/sites/default/files/notices/mchombu\\_kingo.pdf](http://liasa.org.za/sites/default/files/notices/mchombu_kingo.pdf))
- ▶ *Access to information: Meeting the challenges in Africa*, by M Buys, Account Executive: sub-Saharan Africa, EBSCO) ([http://liasa.org.za/sites/default/files/notices/buys\\_matthew.pdf](http://liasa.org.za/sites/default/files/notices/buys_matthew.pdf))
- ▶ *Sunlight is the best disinfectant: empowering civil society in breaking the poverty-corruption nexus in Africa with access to information regime*; by A Arko-Cobbah and M Madiba, University of the Free State ([http://liasa.org.za/sites/default/files/notices/arko\\_cobbah\\_madiba\\_0.pdf](http://liasa.org.za/sites/default/files/notices/arko_cobbah_madiba_0.pdf)).

The 14th LIASA Conference was a great success and topics and discussions were relevant to the information trends in the country. The next LIASA conference will be held in Cape Town.



▲ Theresa Denton, LIASA Librarian of the Year 2012



▲ (Ltr): Bronwen Erasmus (regional librarian), Nomaza Dingayo (director), and regional librarians Mhlengi Ngcobo and Elna Gous

# Libraries

*Empowering communities,  
building a nation*