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## FROM THE REGIONAL MANAGER'S DESK



**Lindy Nhlapo, Regional Manager for Africa**

The year has once again arrived and it feels like yesterday that we said that before. It is that time where we seat back and reflect. In a sigh and say we managed once more to keep an active African LIS community in the global arena.

A solemnized partnership within the Division was realized through a co-hosted satellite meeting in Barbados with a good turnout from 26 countries.

From Barbados Africa proceeded to Puerto Rico where Africa Section had two SC Meeting and Open Forum Session with the theme "***Africa libraries, not just place but interface***".

The Regional Office also took part in the poster session with a theme "***Libraries beyond libraries in Africa***"

As we say in South Africa "local is lekker" I participated at the local library association conference, LIASA in the Eastern Cape, October 2011. In our midst we had the past President of IFLA, Ellen Tise, an international event indeed.

Without a break, I participated in the organizing of ICADLA-2 conference in November 2011 held in South Africa as a steering committee member and marketing co-coordinator. Another successful event and we all looking forward to the follow up in 2013.

Well it never ends, end of November 2011, I hosted a well attended Public Lecture on African Librarianship, an annual event of the Regional Office in partnership with Unisa. Dr. Khalifa from the African Union

Commission, Ethiopia was the guest speaker with presentation titled, ***Knowledge Management System and African Development In the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.***

Follow up of the African Library Summit of May 2011; South Africa, the exploratory team of the African federation met in Ghana, December 2011 for the first time to map the way forward.

Another follow up on the Summit outcome, a planning team for public libraries took place in Ghana, December 2011 a now project of Gates Foundation. On the pipeline is a "Public Libraries Summit 2012".

Colleagues, it feels good that all our meetings comes out with concrete ideas that became projects, check the diary of events and submit yours.

In September the Regional Office hosted its first intern. The aim of the intern training programme is to provide interns with an opportunity to learn and experience the UNISA Library, International and African Libraries and to acquire work experience at a professional level through on-the-job-training, introducing them into the workplace of a Librarian. Ezekiel Katsirizika, is UNISA postgrad student of Library Science from Malawi.

Through him, it is envisaged that we will perfect the programme for more incumbents.

It is my great pleasure to wish you all a restful yearend holidays and a wonderful new year!

### ***ALP Project Proposals***

The Regional Offices continue to be the coordinator for all ALP projects in Africa. The Regional Offices will continue to provide guidance on guidelines and timelines to applicants, and assist them to submit their applications to ALP.

**Lindy Nhlapo**  
Regional Manager for Africa  
South Africa



**IFLA**  
2012 Helsinki

Once more for the 78<sup>th</sup> time the LIS community will converge for WLIC at [Helsinki Exhibition & Convention Centre](#) the leading congress centres in Northern Europe and the largest in its field in Finland.

### **Core Congress Dates**

**11-17 August, 2012**

The Opening Ceremony and the Exhibition Reception will take place at the Helsinki Exhibition and Convention Centre on Sunday, 12 August, 2012.

### **Congress Secretariat**

K.I.T. Group GmbH Association & Conference Management has been appointed as the Congress Secretariat for the IFLA World Library and Information Congress 2012.

### **IFLA Congress Secretariat**

c/o K.I.T. Group GmbH – Association & Conference Management

Tel.: +49 30 24 60 3-329      +49 30 24 60 3-329

Fax: +49 30 24 60 3-200

Email: [wlic2012@kit-group.org](mailto:wlic2012@kit-group.org)

For detailed information, deadlines, please visit the congress website on

<http://conference.ifla.org/ifla78>

**Please note that registration is now open**

Africa Section chose for its WLIC 2012 *theme* "Africa libraries now on open access agenda" The African LIS community will engage on this theme at an open, see call for papers .

The Section will be also be presenting a poster, please visit the poster session

### Special Interest Group

The African LIS Community is also encouraged to support special interest group hosted by the Section:

LIS Education in Developing Countries, Special Interest Group (SIG)

Access to Information Network – Africa (ATINA) SIG, in addition to its open forum session will host a preconference

Africa Section will also participate in the following:

Division V Leadership Forum

Caucus: Africa, Asia & Oceania and Latin America and the Caribbean

SC I & II Africa Section

You are encouraged to attend in support of Africa Section and Division V.

Time permitting, African LIS is encouraged to support sections of Divisions V, Asia & Oceania and Latin America and the Caribbean on which Africa Region/ Section reside

The Section will also form part of ALP Showcase on ongoing BSLA, see update on ALP Projects.

**Lindy Nhlapo**  
Regional Manager

## Call for papers, Africa Section Open Forum, WLIC2012, Finland

In line with the theme of the 78<sup>th</sup> IFLA WLIC, Africa Section chose the theme: '**Africa Libraries now on open access agenda**'. IFLA Africa Section invites Librarians, Information Scientists and other stakeholders to submit proposals (abstracts) for papers at the Africa Section Open Forum session in Helsinki, Finland

**Theme: "Africa libraries now on open access agenda"**

### Sub-Themes:

- Open Access for all in Africa libraries
- Social networking in Africa libraries
- Information literacy in Africa libraries on open access agenda
- Indigenous knowledge for all in Africa libraries
- Policy issues in open access agenda
- Continuing Professional Development (CPD) for Africa libraries open access agenda
- Integration of open access agenda and libraries in Africa: the role of librarians

### Submission Guidelines:

The proposal must be the original work of the author(s) and should be written in either English or French. Each abstract must contain:

- \* Title of proposed presentation
- \* Outline of the proposed presentation (no more than 350 words)
- \* Name(s) of presenter(s)
- \* Position or title of presenter(s)
- \* Presenter(s) employer or affiliated institution
- \* E-mail address, Telephone/fax numbers
- \* Short biographical statement of the presenter/s, with digital photograph

### Send proposals by January 14, 2012 by email to:

Rosemary Gitachu

Secretary, IFLA Africa Section,

e-mail: [gitachur@yahoo.com](mailto:gitachur@yahoo.com)/ [rgitachu@daystar.ac.ke](mailto:rgitachu@daystar.ac.ke)

### Important Deadlines:

**January 14, 2012:** Deadline for submission of abstract

**February 18, 2012:** Notification of acceptance/rejection of paper

**May 16, 2012:** Deadline for submission of full paper

All proposals will be evaluated by a refereeing team of the Standing Committee of the IFLA Africa Section

## Travels and Costs:

Please note that all fees, including registration for the conference, travel, accommodation etc. are the responsibility of the authors of the accepted papers. Presenters are advised to approach their parent organizations for sponsorship. For information on the IFLA Africa Section, please see <http://www.ifla.org/en/africa>

**Rosemary Gitachu**  
Secretary, IFLA Africa Section  
Kenya

## REGIONAL OFFICE NEWS

### AFRICA SECTION STANDING COMMITTEE, AUGUST 2011

#### *Highlights of the agenda:*

New SC Members present were introduced to the meeting including those who were beginning their second term as SC Members.

Francis Kirkwood, Convenor, ATINA/RAIA announced to the meeting his retirement end of 2012. The announcement led to a meeting on ATINA beyond 2012. After good deliberations, Abraham Azubuike volunteered to be the next coordinator after WLIC 2012. In fact, Azubuike is one of the founder members of ATINA which makes continuity seamless.

Francophone Africa requested more attention to be paid to their participation in the Section. The Section leadership promised more inclusiveness of Africa and building up of active participation of our colleagues.

On the satellite meeting held as pre-conference in Barbados, see article on Events section.

It was also noted that the Section will be once again aligning its strategic plan with that of IFLA HQ as per updated version.

Fiona Bradley, ALP Coordinator joined the meeting to remind the African LIS Community about proposal submission and update on BSLA

The meeting was informed of a motion passed at the African Library Summit, May 2011 in South Africa to explore the possibility of forming an African federation. A committee was established to explore the idea with a hope of tabling it at SCECSAL in 2012

The meeting was updated on the upcoming important events

ICADLA-2, South Africa. November 2011  
SCECSAL 2012, Kenya. The Chair of Kenyan Library Association, Prof. C Nyamboga, gave a short presentation on the event.

The next item was the Open Forum of the Section with four presentations.

The meeting was informed that IFLA encourages the use of ORACLES within its structures and African Section will also follow suit. Personalities amongst others like Jacinta Were and Dr. Kay Raseroka.

In closing it was announced that the 2012 midterm meeting will be hosted by Zimbabwe.

**Lindy Nhlapo**  
South Africa



## Public Library Innovation Programme Grants available for innovative libraries in GHANA, KENYA and UGANDA

EIFL's Public Library Innovation Programme (PLIP) invites public and community libraries in Ghana, Kenya and Uganda to apply for grants to use information and communication technology (ICT) to extend their services to improve lives in their communities.

**Grant maximum:** US\$15,000

**Implementation period:** 12 months

**Application deadline:** January 31, 2012

The grants aim to inspire libraries to design and implement services that meet community needs in five crucial development areas:

- Agriculture
- Improving people's employment prospects
- Health
- Vulnerable children and youth at risk
- Supporting entrepreneurs and small businesses.

Libraries may apply in partnership with other organizations that use ICT for community development.

The grant invitation takes on board findings of a six-country study into [perceptions of public libraries in Africa](#), which found that the general public, librarians, and local and national government officials believe libraries can – and should – contribute to community development. However, the study also found that most libraries lack the resources – especially the technology and technological competencies – they need to provide relevant community services.

EIFL-PLIP aims to help libraries realize their potential by supporting them to use ICT to develop vital information services focused on community needs.

This grant invitation builds on previous

EIFL-PLIP work, which demonstrates that with limited additional support, libraries in developing and transition countries, can successfully implement community information services using ICT. New grant applicants are encouraged to study the work of [EIFL-PLIP grantees](#), and of other libraries and information service providers, and to replicate successful models, best practices and ideas.

To find out more, visit our website:

<http://www.eifl.net/eifl-plip-call-concept-papers>  
or write to [plip@eifl.net](mailto:plip@eifl.net).

**Evaluation of proposals: February 2012**

**Awards announcement: March 2012**

## NEW IFLA MEMBER

Colleagues'

ZimLA will like to share with you our latest initiative Zimbabwe Reads inclusive of ZimLA online newsletter.

follow this link....<http://zimbabwereads.org/zimla/>

Enjoy!

**Bhowa,TG**

**Zimbabwe**

## REGIONAL OFFICE LEARNERSHIP

On the picture is Ezekiel Katsirizika from Malawi, an intern at the Regional Office for the period of six months.



The Intern is placed in a core, critical areas of the Library.

The Intern is supported by a Buddy System, assigned member of staff to the intern, who acts as a coach and mentor. The staff member must be a more senior staff member with experience. The coach coordinates the work of the intern. The coach will give feedback and guidance to the intern reviews his work

### Benefits for the intern

- ✚ Benefit from direct daily exposure to Library activities.
- ✚ Enhance educational experience through practical work, while supporting the work of the UNISA Library.
- ✚ Exposure to daily activities of the UNISA Library.
- ✚ Opportunity to gain first-hand experience on a diverse range of topics, issues and responsibilities.
- ✚ Knowledge and understanding of the activities of a librarian and writes a report.

**Lindy Nhlapo, Regional Manager. South Africa**



<http://www.flickr.com/photos/ifla/6481223155/in/photostream/lightbox>

**MEMBERSHIP NEWS**

<http://www.ifla.org/en/news/new-ifla-membership-category-non-salaried-affiliate> [web version]

In order to encourage retired professionals and those in between jobs to participate in IFLA, we are introducing a new Membership category for

Individuals: Non-Salaried Affiliate.

While all benefits are equal to those of Personal Affiliates, the fee is considerably lower (EUR 59 for 2012). Individuals joining in this category or changing over to it will have to confirm that they meet the qualifications and agree to inform IFLA as soon as this status changes.

Please contact our Membership Officer, Tatjana Hoeink - [Membership@ifla.org](mailto:Membership@ifla.org) - if interested in joining this category.

**Tatjana Hoeink**

**IFLA PUBLICATIONS - DISCOUNTS FOR IFLA MEMBERS**

- Buy IFLA publications at a **20% discount!**
- Subscribe to the IFLA Publications Series and receive an incredible **60% discount!**

See for more information on this membership benefit: <http://www.ifla.org/en/news/discounts-for-ifla-members>

**+++ IFLA UPDATE ON COPYRIGHT LIMITATIONS AND EXCEPTIONS, 28.11.2011**

SCCR releases Draft Compilation on Limitations and Exceptions for Libraries and Archives

The marathon 23rd session of the Standing Committee on Copyright and Related Rights continued at WIPO over the weekend. Discussion on Saturday concerned a proposed WIPO Draft Treaty for the Protection of Broadcasting Organisations. On Monday two new documents were introduced: a 'Working Document on an International Instrument on Limitations for Persons with Print Disabilities' and a 'Draft Compilation on Limitations and Exceptions for Libraries and Archives'.

Read more: <http://www.ifla.org/en/node/6049>

Live text Web-stream of the WIPO SCCR meeting (Password: wipo4me): <http://www.streamtext.net/Player?Event=WIPO>

**Wiebke Dalhoff**  
Policy Officer

A numbers of successful programmes were held by IFLA ALP at the IFLA Congress in Puerto Rico in August 2011. These included presentations at the IFLA Market, and a Q&A session which involved presentations from all country projects and feedback from trainers about the impact of the project so far. Colleagues from the Building Strong Library Associations projects in Cameroon (ABADCAM) and the core trainer for Botswana (Winnie Vitzansky, working with Botswana Library Association) made presentations during the Congress. The sessions were well attended, and highlighted the interest not only in BSLA but also the achievements of each of the associations involved in the programme.

### ***BSLA Project in Botswana***

The second Building Strong Library Associations workshop in Botswana was held in May, and a third is scheduled in November. A second workshop will be held in Cameroon in November, focused on partnerships and transparency. Representatives from the two associations will take part in a meeting of all BSLA countries (projects that commenced in 2010 - Lebanon, Peru, Cameroon, Botswana, Ukraine, Lithuania) in Berlin Germany, in February 2012.

### ***ALP Small Projects***

A strong number of applications were made for ALP small projects in 2012 from the Africa region. The ALP committee will meet in December 2011, and projects will commence from January 2012.

### ***IFLA Online Learning Platform***

All BSLA modules are now available to members via the IFLA Online Learning Platform. Translations of materials are also being added as they become available, including materials in Arabic, Spanish, and French

**Fiona Bradley**  
**ALP Coordinator**

## **PETITION FOR REDUCING ANNUAL CONFERENCES FEES FOR MEMBERS & SPEAKERS**

Dear colleagues,

Thank you to all of you who have engaged in this discussion and made suggestions about the annual WLIC and in particular reducing the cost of registration fees.

We are always looking at ways to improve the conference and to reduce costs for participants wherever possible.

The Governing Board Congress Advisory Committee will discuss these suggestions at its next meeting in April 2012.

With kind regards,

**Josche Ouwerkerk**  
**IFLA Conference Officer**

## **IFLA PRESIDENTIAL NEWSLETTER**



**Ingrid Parent, IFLA President**

IFLA Community is encouraged to read the December 2011 President's Newsletter on the link <http://www.ifla.org/en/news/ifla-presidential-newsletter-december-2011>

The newsletter gives a good overview of events beyond WLIC 2011 to December



## IFLA REGIONAL OFFICE FOR AFRICA AND UNISA LIBRARY HOST 4<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL PUBLIC LECTURE



**Front row l to r: Dr. M Khalifa, Dr. Mbambo-Thata, Prof. Setati & Dudu Nkosi**  
**Back row l to r: S Ketchoff, US Embassy; J Raubenheimer & Dr. J Henning**

IFLA Regional Office for Africa and UNISA Library hosted the Fourth Annual IFLA Africa Public Lecture delivered by Dr Magdi Khalifa, Head of the Knowledge Management Division at the African Union Commission (AUC), Ethiopia. The event that was a gathering of library and information services (LIS) professionals was held at Unisa Muckleneuk Campus on the theme African Librarianship in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. Dr. Magdi Khalifa's presentation was entitled "*Knowledge Management and African Development in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*" on 28 November 2011. Members of the Unisa Management, representatives from the Department of Arts and Culture, from the US Embassy, other academic institutions and special libraries were present. Interesting to note was the presence of postgrad students of LIS and KM related faculties

Dr Khalifa spoke about the knowledge management systems and strategies at the AUC as well as issues surrounding digitisation processes, highlighting the importance of digital archives for African knowledge. He also commended the UNISA Library for their use of enhanced systems such as RFID technology and e-resources for clients. Dr Khalifa stated that the AUC has approved a 2030 strategic plan in 2003 which placed knowledge management at the core of capacity building. Dr Buhle Mbambo-Thata, Executive Director of the UNISA Library also commended the AUC for their collaboration with UNISA as it allows "the Unisa Library to access the African continent and its arising issues"

In her response to Dr Khalifa's lecture, the Library's Dr Judy Henning reflected on the integration of knowledge management systems into existing

programmes, adding that "knowledge is human capital."

**Natalia Molebatsi**  
**UNISA, SA**

## LIASA SIGNS THE BERLIN DECLARATION ON OPEN ACCESS

At the recent LIASA Annual Conference held in East London from 3-7 October, LIASA announced its commitment to the Open Access Movement. The President, Naomi Haasbroek, signed the **Berlin Declaration on Open Access to Knowledge in the Sciences and Humanities**.



As a signatory, LIASA commits to:

- implement a policy of publishing its official publications in an open access forum; and
- actively advocate and promote the Open Access Movement.

LIASA also announced that the official accredited academic journal "**South African Journal for Libraries and Information Science**" (SAJLIS) will be published in an open access platform from 2012.

The LIASA magazine, **LIASA-in-Touch**, was made available in full-text on the LIASA website from the September 2010 issue. LIASA members receive the magazine quarterly and only LIASA members have access to the latest issue.

Open Access Week was celebrated globally from 24-30 October 2011. Open Access Week, a global event now entering its fifth year, is an opportunity for the academic and research community to continue to learn about the potential benefits of Open Access, to share what they've learned with colleagues, and to help inspire wider participation in helping to make Open Access a new norm in scholarship and research.

"Open Access" to information – the free, immediate, online access to the results of scholarly research, and the right to use and re-use those results as you need – has the power to transform the way research and scientific inquiry are conducted. It has direct and widespread implications for academia, medicine, science, industry, and for society as a whole.

For details of activities of LIASA members during Open Access Week visit the LIASA website:

<http://www.liasa.org.za/node/666>.

**Naomi Haasbroek, South Africa**



**Building Cross-cultural Capacities in LIS: Caribbean and African Reflections, August 2011. Barbados**

From South to South delegates from 16 countries converge in Barbados at a satellite meeting hosted by the University of West Indies. IFLA Regional Office for Africa in partnership with the University of West Indies Library co-organized the satellite meeting as a preconference to WLIC 2011. The meeting took place on 9-10 August 2011, Blue Horizon Hotel, Christ Church Barbados.



The theme of the satellite meeting was **“Building Cross-cultural Capacities in LIS: Caribbean and African Reflections”** While the event concentrated on African and Caribbean experiences, presentations also spoke on the practice of librarianship and information management within a Southern context.

Attendees were welcomed by Elizabeth Watson, Local Chair; Capt. Junior Browne President, Library Association of Barbados and Naomi Haasbroek, Chair IFLA Africa Section. Professor Emeritus Alvin Thompson, University of West Indies gave a keynote address on the first day followed by Dr. Kay Raseroka on day two of the programme.

The meeting engaged from Open Access strategies to digitization of indigenous Knowledge; marketing of LIS services to multicultural relations and capacity building LIS practitioners.

Seeing that cultural heritage form the gist of most discussions, the Memory of the World Programme and the role of the LIS sector were presented. There was also a display of similarities of cultures and origins. Print to e-resources was also touched upon.

The meeting closed with a Tour to Mount Gay Visitors Centre, UWI and Sheraton Centre. The third day everyone packed their bags heading towards Puerto Rico, IFLA WLIC.

**Lindy Nhlapo**  
**Regional Manager for Africa**

**Public libraries launch 14 new community development services**

Two public libraries in Africa - [Masiphumelele Public Library in Cape Town, South Africa](#), and [National Library of Uganda in Kampala](#) – have launched new community development services with grants from [EIFL \(Electronic Information for Libraries\)](#).

The two libraries are among 14 winners of an EIFL Public Library Innovation Programme (PLIP) replication award. The awards enable libraries in developing and transition countries to replicate successful innovative public library community development services, using information and communication technologies (ICT). The 14 new services fulfil community needs in the vital areas of health, agriculture, vulnerable children and youth at risk and employment.



Both of the winning libraries in Africa have chosen to serve children and youth at risk.

Masiphumelele Public Library is located in an impoverished informal settlement where people live in overcrowded conditions. Through the library's new service, young unemployed people in the community will have free access to high quality ICT and ICT skills training. National Library of Uganda (NLU) is partnering with two rural public libraries, in Lira and Masindi, to train young people to use ICT. The three libraries will use a mobile phone text messaging service (SMS) to disseminate information about jobs, training, business support and finance.

To read more about these innovative services and the 12 other grant winners, visit the EIFL website, <http://www.eifl.net/plip>

## AFRICAN 'CHAMPIONS' TO RAISE AWARENESS ABOUT LIBRARIES' VITAL ROLE

Librarians in Kenya, Uganda and Ghana are to form groups of library 'champions' who will raise awareness – especially among government decision-makers – about the vital role that public libraries play in improving lives and livelihoods in their communities.

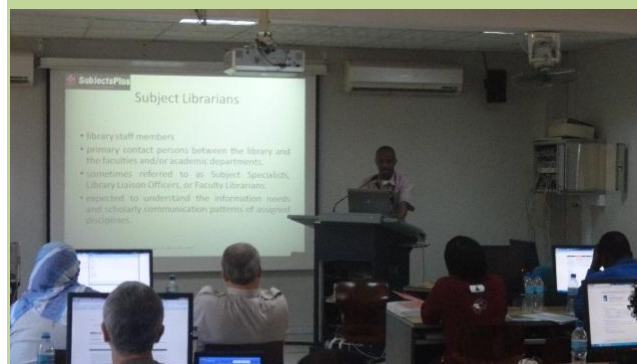
The decision to form the groups follows lively meetings in Nairobi (Kenya), Kampala (Uganda) and Accra (Ghana) in November to discuss findings of groundbreaking research into perceptions of public libraries in Africa. The research was commissioned by EIFL (Electronic Information for Libraries) and conducted by the international market research company, TNS RMS, which has a base in Kenya.

The meetings in all three countries were attended by government officials and library leadership. Discussion was intense. Topics included how public libraries can use digital technology to contribute to community development, the challenges facing small rural libraries and what librarians can do to convince the government to increase library funding.

At the end of the meetings, librarians decided to form groups of library champions who will raise awareness about the important role of libraries and the need to resource, equip and modernize libraries so that they can contribute to meeting local and national development targets. The groups will receive communication and advocacy skills training in 2012 and work throughout the year on national awareness-raising campaigns.

To read more about the research, which was conducted in Ethiopia, Kenya, Ghana, Tanzania, Uganda and Zimbabwe, visit the [EIFL website](#).

## LIBRARY DIRECTORS AND IT STAFF FROM 14 AFRICAN COUNTRIES ATTEND SEMINAR ON FREE SOFTWARE FOR LIBRARIES



Library directors and technical staff from 14 countries across Africa met in Dar es Salaam in Tanzania to attend an intensive seminar focused on Free and Open Source Software (FOSS) tools for libraries.

The two-day seminar, on November 4 and 5, was organized and supported by EIFL (Electronic Information for Libraries) and the UN agency, UNESCO.

FOSS library tools provide affordable alternatives to high-priced commercial software, and enable libraries to develop modern digital systems, without incurring large licensing costs. The seminar built participants' confidence and technical capacity to implement FOSS in their libraries. It was also an opportunity to learn how to advocate for FOSS deployment.

FOSS success stories from across Africa were shared at the conference. One example was work undertaken at the University of Zimbabwe (UZ) where librarians piloted FOSS tools that help visually impaired students and researchers to access e-resources. The UZ project has sparked wide national interest in Zimbabwe, and has been nominated for a United Nations award. Visit the EIFL website ([www.eifl.net](http://www.eifl.net)) to find out more about EIFL's FOSS programme and University of Zimbabwe's innovative work with visually impaired students.



Dr Helena Asamoah-Hassan, immediate past IFLA GB Member from **University Librarian, Kwame Nkrumah Univ. of Sci. & Tech., Kumasi, Ghana** obtained her Ph. D on Saturday, 03 December 2011.



Dr. Assamoah-Hassan is a Member, International Advisory Committee, MoW of UNESCO; Chairperson, Consortium of Academic & Research Libraries in Ghana(CARLIGH)

She is Africa's oracle, matron who has been actively involved in IFLA with portfolios and LIS Community at large

**FEW OF CONGRATULATORY MESSAGES RECEIVED**

Dear Friends,

Please join me in celebrating Helena! She graduated with a Ph D !! Congratulations Dr Helena Asamoah-Hassan!! From all of us. You have done Africa, and African, women proud! weldone!

Pleas point us toward the flicker account for pictures! Congratulations from all of us  
**Dr Buhle Mbambo-Thata South Africa**

Makorokoto, Amhlope, Congratulations!! Colleagues nothing is impossible if one is determined. Well done Doc.  
**A. Chikonzo, Zimbabwe**

Dear Dr Helena Asamoah-Hassan,

This is great news, my sincere congratulations my sister.....**Tseli moshoeshoe-chadzingwa, Lesotho**

Formidable Dr HELENA ! toutes nos félicitations  
**ALIM GARGA, CAMEROON**

Helena,

Please receive a hug from me girl. You have done it!!! CONGRATULATIONS!!!! **Jacinta Were, Kenya**

**Library Services for Multicultural Groups – Workshops in Johannesburg and Nairobi**

In partnership with the City of Johannesburg's Library and Information Services' head office, the Goethe-Institut organised a seminar on this topic in May 2011.

In South Africa, this topic is especially relevant considering that migration – particularly from other African countries – plays a significant role. Library services which stimulate the engagement with one's own cultural identity, promote integration and contribute to a mutual understanding amongst different cultural groups, are vital - particularly if one takes the background of xenophobic attacks into account.

Kenya also has a significant number of migrants, as well as a multitude of diverse ethnicities; here, the different activities of libraries also contribute to enhanced tolerance and appreciation of one another.

Recent years have further witnessed heightened awareness of and increased engagement with this issue in Germany; not only do many libraries offer books and other media in the languages of migrants, but they also provide very specific services: foreign language library orientations, PC-courses, multilingual readings, to name just a few.



The Goethe-Institut invited Birgit Lotz, chairperson of the commission 'Interkulturelle Bibliotheksarbeit' (intercultural library services) of the German Library Association and Irene Kibandi, former director of the Kenya National Library Service, who both gave talks on library services for groups from different cultural backgrounds. Furthermore, speakers from libraries and Migrant Desks in Johannesburg gave an overview of existing services and programmes. Representatives from migrant organisations shared

their experiences with and expectations of library collections and activities.

After the presentations, the key issues surrounding the topic of 'library services for multicultural groups' were identified and the workshop participants worked in groups focusing on the following topics:

- How to deal with language as a barrier
- Collection development and material in the library
- Identification of migrant needs and their participation in library programmes
- Relevant training to equip staff members with the skills to provide appropriate services to migrants
- Cooperation
- Library membership and enrolment challenges.

The results of the workshop can be downloaded from the following web page:

<http://www.goethe.de/ins/za/joh/wis/sbi/en8053544.htm>

For more information on the workshop in Johannesburg, please visit:

<http://www.goethe.de/ins/za/joh/wis/sbi/en8053544.htm>

**Ulla Wester**  
**Goethe-Institut South Africa**

## **Cameroon Association of Librarians, Archivist, Documentalist and Museum Curators (ABADCAM): IFLA / BSLA 2<sup>nd</sup> Workshop**



Cameroon Association for Information Professionals, with the acronym ABADCAM, was formed in 1973 and has gone through several challenges that led to it being dormant.

IFLA/BSLA programme, launched in 2010, Cameroon was one of its first beneficiaries in Africa who welcomed it as a relief for ABADCAM. This programme has been effected through workshops with a thrust on training trainers on Building Strong Library Associations (BSLA). The second BSLA workshop has just been completed and it is now possible to actually evaluate the impact of the IFLA/BSLA using the second workshop. This article therefore runs through the second workshop highlights and its impact on ABADCAM.

IFLA/BSLA Cameroon programme, held its second workshop from 17-19 November 2011 with the aim of building capacities among persons who will project a high professional profile for the information profession in Cameroon. The workshop focused on several IFLA designated modules on enhancing skills in the area of building strategic networks through proper advocacy and sustainability. In addition, FAIFE's module on "Transparency, Good Governance and Corruption" was equally presented. Thirty (30) participants and ten (10) observers took part in the workshop.

### **Impact of the IFLA/BSLA**

The revival of ABADCAM in Cameroon through the IFLA/BSLA programme is an invaluable jewel for the Cameroon information professionals who can now comfortably affiliate with a professional association that can go a long way to provide a good platform for their professional activities.

### **Summary of Impact:**

1. Information profession is gaining more visibility and is now attractive to a wider community.
2. More stakeholders are getting involved with



ABADCAM business as reflected by the background of the participants.

3. More and more focal points for ABADCAM are being established in various regions of the country with representatives appointed for each focal point.
4. Membership is increasing, current number of over 35 paid up members.
5. ABADCAM now has a team of information professionals with capacities to build a project of high professional profile for the association.
6. Enhanced skills for sustainability, strategic networking and advocacy.
7. Articulation of an action plan

It is with great hope that not only IFLA but equally the Cameroon information professionals want to see ABADCAM after this second workshop more vibrant and living up to its expectations of keeping abreast of developments in the field of information, coordinating professional development through training, conferences, facilitating networking opportunities as well as articulating policy issues to meet with the ever changing information society.

**Rosemary M. Shafack  
Cameroon**

### **Second International Conference on African Digital Libraries & Archives (ICADLA-2).**



**F Ubogu, Deputy Minister of Arts & Culture, Regional Manager**

The aim of the event was to generate synergies for creating a digital portal of Africana scholarship and cultural heritage resources. ICADLA-2 with theme “*Developing Knowledge for Economic Advancement in Africa*” took place at the University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa from 14<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> November 2011.

ICADLA-2 was a three-day training workshop designed for leaders and decision makers (Digital Futures Academy) run by international expert Simon Tanner, Director, Digital Consultancy Services, King’s College London; and a two-day strategic digitisation

project and programme planning conference attended by delegates from libraries and archives, universities and associations, from across Africa.

#### **Highlights :**

1. An agency or umbrella body at a regional institution such as African Union to spearhead the formulation of comprehensive policies, strategic framework and road map for the digital libraries and archives for the African continent should be established.
2. An integrated information system/platform for Africa which will permit sharing of knowledge across partnering countries and promote the establishment of a digital library/portal mirrored in all African countries to promote cross-border cooperation and connectivity by using knowledge available in centres of excellence in the continent should be developed.
3. Mobilise existing networks and centres of expertise at the different levels to gather the needed knowledge and expertise.
4. Develop partnerships to ensure cooperation and collaboration at local, national, regional and international levels for preservation, access to and promotion of the national heritage.
5. Information managers must keep abreast with advances in ICTs and information management in order to reap their benefits including use of Open Source and open standards that promote interoperability.
6. The heritage and education sector needs to lobby to get the digitisation of libraries and archives on the agenda of African governments.
7. To ensure the long term preservation and sustainability of the digital resources and products for future generations Africans need to take ownership of our digital heritage and we need to have buy-in from our governments.
8. National & regional ICT plans should have a digital agenda.
9. The financial implications of digitisation should be fully articulated; the key to success is well articulated project requirements & collaborative relationships.
10. The many digitisation projects on the African continent should be synchronised to create an African Digital Library & Archive.
11. Similar to Europeana which is funded by the EU Commission, conversations should be initiated with the African Union to explore the possibility of funding the African Digital Library & Archive, including public & private partnerships.
12. Creation of human & environmental capacity is a precondition for success.

13. Where digitisation is dependent on grant funding, sustainability plans should be put in place.
14. ICADLA should partner with the African Digital Library Support Network, Eastern and Southern African Regional Branch of the International Council on Archives (ESARBICA), Royal Tropical Institute, New York Academy of Medicine, World Digital Library and Internet Archive in actualising the idea of an African Digital Library & Archive. The nature of partnerships, collaborations and agreements should be fully explored regarding content selection, access in Africa, technical specifications, including software, long term sustainability and preservation plans for digital masters.
15. Prioritise demand driven programmes with collaborative hosting solutions.
16. Library Schools should provide training in the creation of digital libraries.
17. Integrate DATAD in a network of institutional repositories as an integral part of the African Digital Library & Archive.
18. The Internet Archive proposed setting up scanning centres in African countries who can afford to pay for the shipment of equipment and provide the labour required.

The Closing Plenary session was facilitated by Felix Ubogu and Abraham Azubuike. The Plenary commenced with the presentation of suggestions and nominations for the ICADLA Conveners, the ICADLA Standing Committee Members, the International Advisory Committee, and the Supporting Partners towards ICADLA-3 to be held in 2013 in Morocco

**Lindy Nhlapo**  
**Regional Manager for Africa**

## DIARY OF EVENTS

Africa Section Midterm Meeting will be held 6 – 10 February 2012 at the **National University of Science and Technology, Bulawayo, Zimbabwe.**

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IN PARTNERSHIP

ZimLA & IASL will jointly host a two day Regional School Library Seminar:

**Venue:** Masiyephambili College, Bulawayo Zimbabwe

**Dates:** 8-9 February 2012

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### SCECSAL XX CONFERENCE

The XXth Standing Conference of Eastern, Central and South Africa Library and Information Associations (SCECSAL) 2012 conference will take place at Intercontinental Hotel, in Nairobi, Kenya, June 4 - 8 June 2012

Conference theme *Information for Sustainable Development in a Digital Environment*

Conference fee:  
normal registration [later than December 2011] \$400  
on site 450 USD  
Contact the Conference Chairperson Jacinta Were:  
[jo\\_were@yahoo.com](mailto:jo_were@yahoo.com)

**Prof. Constantine M. Nyamboga**  
**Chairman, Kenya Library Association,**  
**KENYA**

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