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IFLA WLIC 2009, MILAN, ITALY



World Library and Information Congress: 75th IFLA General Conference and Assembly

"Libraries create futures: building on cultural Heritage", 23 - 27 August 2009

INVITATION

The President of the Italian National Committee and on behalf of all Italian organizations represented, has a great pleasure to invite you to Milan in August 2009 to join them at the 75th IFLA Congress.

In 2009 they will celebrate the 75th anniversary of the IFLA Conference which first took place in Rome in 1928. This represented the first meeting for the newborn International Foundation of Library Associations. It has been 75 years since that remarkable and fundamental event and 45 years since the IFLA congress was last held in Rome. The World Library and Information Congress will once more come back to Italy, this time, in Milan from 23 to 27 August 2009 at the Milan Convention Centre which is the largest and best equipped congress centre located in "Fiera Milano City".

THE CONFERENCE VENUE

Milan Convention Centre is the largest and best equipped congress centre located in "Fiera Milano City", opened in 2002 by Pierluigi Nicolini, and doubled in size in 2005. Today MIC is the newest and largest in Italy with capacity for up to 25,000 people. Fully equipped with fibre optic connections, its conference rooms have every kind of state-of-the-art AV equipment.

Located in the heart of Milan - just a few minutes from the Fashion District and Leonardo's Last Supper - is surrounded, within a 1 km radius, by over 2,000 hotel rooms and efficiently served by public transportation.

IFLA EXPRESS 2009

IFLA Express is a daily newsletter, which will be published to give delegates information of general interest. In addition two pre-Congress issues of IFLA Express will appear, one in January/February and one in May/June 2009, with the latest news on the Congress.

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Africa Section Open Forum

The IFLA annual congress offers an opportunity to present library research outcomes and innovations in a multi-disciplinary international forum. In keeping with the theme of the 75th WLIC 2009, Africa Section has chosen as its theme: **"Building on cultural heritage from the African classical world to the 21st century"** IFLA Africa Section invites Librarians, Information Scientists and other interested parties to submit proposals for papers in a 2-hour Africa Open Forum session in Milan, Italy.

AFRICA SECTION THEME:

"Building on cultural heritage from the African classical world to the 21st century"

Sub-themes:

- institutional repository perspectives on the creation, dissemination, and access to African cultural heritage including local, national, trans-national and global strategies;
- surveys of preservation activities, programs, projects, best record-keeping practices, technologies for heritage information management, solutions and challenges;
- expectations and specific trepidations for Library and Information Sciences in the 21st century (including, but not limited to digital curation, web archiving, computerisation and networking of African cultural heritage -archives, manuscripts, etc.)
- Africa and the Mediterranean world in the classical age; influence of the classical world upon African culture and society;
- Advocacy - Libraries on the agenda in Africa in the 21st century
- perceptions on African heritage information: cultural, political, educational, economic, legal, socio-technological;

Submission Guidelines:

The proposals must be the original work of the author(s). 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 regarding the presenter/s with digital photograph

Please send your proposals by e-mail to:

Dr. James Daniel, Secretary, IFLA Africa Section,
email: jimidaniel@yahoo.com

Important Deadlines:

- January 15, 2009:** Deadline for submission of abstract
- February 15, 2009:** Notification of acceptance/rejection of paper
- May 15, 2009:** 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 organisations for sponsorship.

Dr. James Daniel
Secretary, IFLA Africa Section

Division for Regional Activities (Div. VIII) Open Session

The Division for Regional Activities (Division VIII) of IFLA is comprised of Regional Sections covering developing countries in three major regions of the world, the African continent, Asia and Oceania, and Latin America and the Caribbean. Division VIII is organizing an open session at the IFLA Conference in Milan, Italy. The division will have an open session on the topic, **"Libraries on the cultural agenda: regional comparisons"**. The topic will examine the extent to which libraries embrace the notion of cultural heritage in developing countries, and are store houses of culture in developing countries

Papers may focus on, but are not limited to:

- Best practices on How libraries promote culture
- Programmes in libraries as cultural heritage
- Case studies

Submissions:

1. The deadline for submitting a detailed, abstract (500 words) and full author details on **10 January 2009**. Selection of papers is based on the abstract, and presenters will be notified by **end-February 2009** at the latest whether they have been successful
2. The full paper is due on **1 May 2009** and must be an original submission not published elsewhere
3. Both abstracts and full papers should be submitted as a MS Word file by e-mail; fax or post should be used only as a last resort
4. Papers should be of 20 pages maximum, double spaced
5. All the abstracts must be in English. Papers can be presented during the Conference in any IFLA working language (English, French, German, Russian, Spanish)
6. 25 minutes will be allowed for a summary delivery of the paper in the Conference
7. The author(s) should indicate his/her personal full contact details and include a summary

curriculum vitae with the paper. Also, a digital photograph would be useful.

Selection:

- Full abstracts (500 words) should be prepared following the template provided below. Each abstract will be blind reviewed by members of the Division VIII Coordinating Board.
- **Abbreviated abstracts or late submissions will not be considered.**
- Purpose of this paper
What are the reason(s) for writing the paper (or the aims of the research)?
- Design/methodology/approach
How are the objectives achieved? Include the main method(s) used for the study. What is the approach to the topic, and what is the theoretical or subject scope of the paper?
- Findings
What was found in the course of the work? This will refer to analysis, discussion, or results.
- Research limitations/implications (if applicable)
If research is reported on in the paper, this section must be completed and should include suggestions for future research and any identified limitations in the research process.
- Practical implications (if applicable)
What outcomes and implications for practice, applications and consequences are identified? All papers should have practical applications. What changes to practice might be made as a result of this research/paper?
- What is original/value of paper
What is new in the paper? State the value of the paper and to whom.

Please send your abstract by 10 January 2009 to:
Dr Buhle Mbambo -Thata
Div VIII Secretary
E-mail: Mbambtb@unisa.ac.za

Ms Premila Gamage
Division 8 Chair

Email: premila@ips.lk; premilagamage@gmail.com

Please note that the expenses of attending the Milan conference will be the responsibility of the author(s)/presenter(s) of accepted papers

FROM THE REGIONAL MANAGER'S DESK

Hello Africa!



Lindy Nhlapo, Regional Manager

As the year come to a close, I would like to remind that you are most valued members of IFLA Africa. Africa can only participate on the information global arena with your membership. I therefore urge you to renew your subscription for 2009. If you have not join, this is the opportune time to subscribe.

On personalia, it is with great pleasure to inform you that I was honoured by LIASA as the **Best Librarian of the Year in Gauteng South 2008** and a **2nd Runner Up, National Librarian of the Year, 2008**. This gesture had encouraged and motivated me to serve you Africa LIS community to sustain our place in the global arena. The challenges you posed for me created a learning curve that words can not express. It is true that one grow though people, I thank.

AFRICA SECTION: FROM THE CHAIR



Dr B Mbambo-Thata, Africa Section Chair

In October, I spoke at LIASA Conference, Cape Town on how the Section can relates to LIASA and any other associations, the PowerPoint presentation is available: http://www.liasa.org.za/conferences/conference2008/presentations/conference2008_session_17_Mbambo.pps#256,1_Slide_1

Colleagues, I also chaired a very vibrant session 13 on LIASA Constitutional discussion during conference and I was grateful for the opportunity.

Africa Section in partnership with Goethe Institut and LIASA hosted a conference on “**Libraries as Gateways to Information & Democracy: Improving Networking, Advocacy and Lobbying Strategies**”, 26/27 November in Johannesburg. The conference brought a series of workshops held in Nigeria, Ghana, Kenya, Togo and Namibia to a conclusion. The final conference came out with good action plans of which some were formulated into projects [see article on “Libraries as Gateways...”](#)”

The 2009 mid-term meeting will be held 9/10 February. Sjoerd Koopman will represent IFLA HQ at the meeting and Birgitta Sandell will represent the ALP. We also hope to have more SC Members attending.

A part of achieving its strategic plan for 2009, Africa Section has four projects. The four projects are:

- Training of trainers on Information Literacy : Botswana Library Association, Botswana
- Séminaire sur les curricula en science de l'information dans les écoles francophones d'Afrique: EBAD, Senegal
- Follow-up Seminar on Capacity Building Interventions on the Millennium Development Goals: Ghana Library Association, Ghana
- Connecting Africans to their own resources : Developing policies and strategies for Africa's digital future: South Africa
- Building on Knowledge: IFLA Roundtable with Intergovernmental Organizations on Putting Libraries on the African Development Agenda: Ethiopia

Africa Section had nominated Helena Asamoah – Hassan (Ghana) and Dr. Sohair Wastawy (Egypt) to join the IAC: Memory of the World from 2009 and 2010

Dr. Benedict Oladele's paper “**Globalization and African Libraries: The Challenge of Self-Discovery in a Digital World**”, Nigeria was recommended for inclusion on to the IFLA Journal by Africa Section. The final decision for publication lies with the Editorial Committee after reviewing.

As the year draws to a close, it gives me great pleasure to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Prosperous New Year.

May you have rested and peaceful year end holidays with your loved ones so that when we come back next year we will be refreshed and ready to tackle all that 2009 has for us.

Best wishes!

**Dr. Buhle Mbambo – Thata
Chair, Africa Section
Unisa Library Services
South Africa**

From the RSCAO Chair



**Premila Gamage
Regional Standing Committee for Asia & Oceania**

Dear Colleagues

I am delighted to send this brief update just after another excellent IFLA Conference in picturesque Quebec City. Compared to other conferences, unfortunately, there were fewer participants in Quebec City due to financial, visa, and other personal issues.

Changes to statutes and rules of procedures and changes to conference programs were among the main topics discussed at the Professional Committee and Governing Board meetings in Quebec City. The newly approved statutes and rules of procedure will enable IFLA to simplify its structure like the number of divisions and several of its processes such as election procedures.

Discussion was held at the Governing Board meeting concerning potential changes in the WLIC program schedule i.e. GB, PC, CB and SC, Caucuses meetings etc. Please note that the proposals might cause some changes in section program plans for the Milan Congress.

With the support of our colleagues from all three sections, we had a very well attended open session which we jointly organised with ALP. Prof. Loriene Roy, School of Information, University of Texas at Austin delivered the keynote speech. At the moment we are actively planning for our open session for Milan and have already issued our 'call for papers' on the theme 'Libraries on the cultural agenda: regional comparisons'.

We are all well aware of ALP's enormous contribution to information development activities in all our three regions. Unfortunately, ALP will not be able to support us after 2009 with the phasing out of SIDA funds at the end of 2009. This issue was constantly discussed at various meetings, and it was suggested that we should all try to approach other agencies for funding. The Secretary General has already had some discussions with Nordic associations and also more meetings with Nordic aid agencies will be held in end December. I urge all our members to approach donor agencies and other bodies in your respective countries for assistance. On behalf of all the Sections, I would like to record our sincere gratitude to Ms. Birgitta Sandell and Ms. Gunila Natvig for managing ALP and to SIDA for providing funds for all these years.

Since 2009 is an election year, some of our active members will retire but several new members will be joining us in Milan, where I hope to see a much greater number of members than at Quebec City.

Best wishes

PremilaGamage
Chair
Sri Lanka

ATINA

Very good news about Access to Information Network - Africa !

On 1st December 2008 Professional Committee (PC) confirmed the establishment of a Special Interest Group called Access to Information Network – Africa (ATINA) / Réseau d'Accès à l'Information en Afrique (RAIA). This group will be granted 2 hour sessions at each of the IFLA World Library and Information Congresses from 2009 until 2012. The Professional Committee also accepted the bilingual name ATINA/RAIA (English/French).

Francis T. (Frank) Kirkwood is Convenor of this SIG for the term 2009-2010. Contact him at :

Library of Parliament, Ottawa, Canada K1A 0A9
kirkwf@parl.gc.ca +1-613-947-2266

Lindy Nhlapo
Regional Manager for Africa
South Africa

REGIONAL OFFICE NEWS

In July 2008, I promised you the launch newsletter and I am happy to inform you that it now complete. It is ready to be posted on the website and to be printed. All paid up members will also receive a print copy on the post.

Next on my diary was IFLA Africa exhibition in **Zambia at SCECSAL** Conference 14 – 17 July 08. The stand was in undated with inquiries from the delegates after Prof. Dr. Peter Lor, past Secretary General of IFLA presented on IFLA and its benefits. *see article by Paul Kakhongwe, Malawi*



From left: Lindy Nhlapo, Benson Njovu and Zambia Minister of Education, Professor Geoffrey Lungwangwa

After Zambia, my next stop was **IFLA Congress in Quebec**. Work began on the 7th August of all IFLA Officers which include regional offices. At this meeting, as a newcomer in holding the reigns, I learnt what is required from me by IFLA HQ in addition to Africa's activities. I also had a one on one with Jennefer Nicholson, Secretary General.

Africa Section had two SC meeting, which were both attended. The second SC meeting had SI. I also participated in Co – ordination Board (CB) meeting, Division VIII followed by Caucus. African membership and Division VIII members were informed that from 2009, Division will become Division V which is the same 3 regions as is. This membership was also informed of challenges of members obtaining visas to attend congress. Africa Section was warned to begin very early to apply for visas for attendance of IFLA Conference in Milan.

I was scheduled for IFLA's exhibition stand on the 13th August. I closed my IFLA Conference with a CB meeting on 15th. This was my third IFLA conference but it felt so "new" in my first year as Regional Manager and I am grateful for this opportunity. For more details on Quebec: <http://www.ifla.org/IV/ifla74/post-congress.htm>

On my return from conference, the Regional Office together with Unisa, hosted the **first public lecture on African Librarianship** on the 1st September. The past president of IFLA, Kay Raseroka of Botswana was the first lecturer of these series that we envisage to make permanent on our calendar *see article entitled "Preserving alternative ways of knowing"*
Source: UNISA Staff Newsletter, FOCUS

The next event was a short report back on IFLA Conference, Africa Section events and how people can

participate and all new developments at IFLA. It was at this meeting where I was awarded the Best Branch Librarian of the Year, 2008 at LIASA Gauteng South AGM.

As all my promotional materials were in place, I was ready to take IFLA Africa on the road. The Regional Office had its next **exhibition at LIASA** Conference in October 6 – 10 in Cape Town. Once again, after Africa Section Chair, Dr. Buhle Mbambo – Thata, had her presentation, I was kept on my toes answering issues on IFLA. On the 6th October I hosted a pre-conference

On the 9th I managed a break from the exhibition and I chaired parallel session 11 on bridging the digital divide and ICTs

After LIASA, I met with librarians hosted by Goethe Institut on the 15th October. These colleagues were from: Togo, Nigeria, Ghana, Uganda, Lome and Ethiopia. Five minutes went on for thirty minutes and we all enjoyed the conversation about IFLA Africa. I was smitten by the colleagues' fluency in German, it was really impressive. Their sessions with Goethe Institut were all in German.



Standing from left: Ayias Akra, Barbara Alago and Monica Nyakaisiki. Seated: Lindy Nhlapo

On 19th November, I hosted librarians from Uganda Management Institute on their fact finding mission of computerising the library. Unisa Library, Marketing Coordinator, Regina Sikhosana welcomed the guest and Dudu Nkosi and Jenny Raubenheimer, two of the Library Directors on behalf of Library Management Team, also greeted and accepted a book from the guests. The visitors left accompanied by the National Library Staff in transit to Cape Town.

My last activity for 2008 was being part of the organizing team in partnership with Goethe institute and LIASA [see article on "Libraries as Gateways to Information & Democracy: Improving Networking, Advocacy and Lobbying Strategies"](#) final Conference.

Africa, I can do all these in service to you only with your membership to IFLA. We cannot not loose out now on the global connection.

Best wishes!

Lindy Nhlapo
Regional Office for Africa
South Africa

Prof Dr Peter Johan Lor honoured by the University of Pretoria



Prof Dr Peter Johan Lor,

Prof Dr Peter Johan Lor, former Secretary General of IFLA and extraordinary professor in the Department of Information Science at the University of Pretoria, received an honorary doctorate, DPhil (honoris causa), from the University of Pretoria. The degree was awarded on 4 September 2008 at one of the spring graduation ceremonies of the University. He received the degree for the exceptional leadership role he played in the LIS profession in South Africa and internationally and for his outstanding research contributions to this field.

Prof Lor is an alumnus of the University of Pretoria – he received both his MBibl degree (1978, with distinction) and his DPhil (1990) from this University. From 1998 to date he is also extraordinary professor in the Department of Information Science. Prof Lor will take up the position as visiting professor at the School of Information Studies at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee from middle January 2009 for a period of three years (in addition to his involvement at the University of Pretoria).

Prof Lor was (until 5 September 2008) the Secretary General of the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA) in The Hague (the Netherlands). He is the first South African to hold this position. Prior to this he was the first National Librarian and CEO of the National Library of South Africa (NLSA), as well as the last Director of the State Library. He was instrumental in creating the NLSA through the amalgamation of the two campuses of the old State Library. Before becoming Director of the State Library he was associate professor and professor in Information Science at the University of South Africa (1986 – 1992) and prior to that he worked in various libraries in South Africa, inter alia as senior librarian at the University of Pretoria (1976 – 1980).

He is a member of a number of local and international scholarly associations and he served in management capacities in a number of these associations. The most important of these are probably his work in the Conference of Directors of National Libraries (CDNL) (of which he was a member from 1992-2003 and the chair from 1996-2000) and his involvement in the Library and Information Association of South Africa (LIASA). He played a leading role in the establishment and early years of LIASA (1996 – 2000), when he was the chair of the Interim Executive Committee and chair of the Transitional Executive Committee (when the old South African Institute for Library and Information Science was disbanded and the members formed a new organisation through amalgamation with

various other bodies) and eventually member of the Representative Council and Executive Committee.

Prof Lor has published over 130 professional publications. Articles and conference papers by him have appeared in journals and proceedings published in 17 countries and have been translated into French, Hungarian, Italian, Slovak, Swedish and Ukrainian. His research covers a number of areas in the field of Library and Information Science, which include:

- Developmental role of libraries in developing countries
- National and regional information policy
- Library and information services legislation
- Information flows between developed and developing countries
- International and comparative librarianship and information work
- National digital heritage: capturing, organization, preservation and access
- Research method in library and information science

He is a distinguished and acknowledged scholar and his research is highly regarded by professionals across the world.

Prof Lor can be reached at PeterJLor@gmail.com.

Prof. Theo Bothma.
University of Pretoria
South Africa

Linked In contact

Dear Linked In contact,

At IFLA Headquarters we recently created a new IFLA Group in Linked In. Please feel free to join our LinkedIn Group: <http://www.linkedin.com/e/gis/796937>

Some background information on this group from the IFLA webmaster:

We want this LinkedIn group to serve as a proper social networking tool. So we hope that in time it will bring together everyone, not just librarians, who have a strong interest in IFLA, in libraries and in information science.

Then we can use it to post relevant news, job descriptions, etcetera, to a specific group member, to several members, or to the entire group. It may become a human resource to ask IFLA / library / information related questions.

And don't forget to also keep an eye on the IFLA website for the official news from sections, core activities, General Board, Headquarters, etcetera. Also, with the launch of our new site in January, we will introduce the official IFLA communities.

Any questions now or in the future? Please, do not hesitate to send it to this group, or to me personally!

Ingeborg Verheul / Simon Lemstra
ingeborg.verheul@ifla.org

Libraries as Gateways to Democracy and Information: Improving Networking, Advocacy and Lobbying Strategies, 26/27 November 2008

The First Day of the Conference – a summing-up:- Session 1: Where we are ...

The participants were given a background and basic explanation of the concepts of lobbying and advocacy. As various definitions were given, delegates had a choice of which meaning one concurred with.

Lobbying: "Hanging out with the politicians" (I, for one, liked this one).

In South Africa, the terms '**lobbying**' and '**advocacy**' are sometimes used interchangeably.

On the first day we noted:

- that there is a difference between **activism and lobbying**: which one should be emphasised?
- that there also '**lobbying ethics**' and therefore we need to take ethical considerations into account – e.g. Discrimination between library workers and the role of bribery.
- that, as part of Lobbying strategies, junior staff needs to be involved in the governance of the library, in library associations and in library planning.
Everyone in the library is a lobbyist: what do you lobby for if you don't know what is in place?
- That we ought to have a working relationship with stakeholders before a crisis occurs - e.g. with the media and legislature.

Emphasis was put on the fact that lobbying is not a once-off exercise; rather, it is an ongoing process like -
Foundations - e.g. 2010 Foundation Project
Friends of the Library
Library trustees
Branding campaign
Humanising the library - e.g. photos and posters of local celebrities
Youth campaigns - e.g. Kwaito Festival, fashion shows ... all in the library.

Reports from Workshop Series in Africa

Emphasis was put on the following issues in the five countries where workshops were held:

1. **Ghana:** Partnerships and Library Association governance.
2. **Kenya:** Libraries as a '**One Stop Shop**' - emphasis was put on local content and access to information (and national archives) by all citizens.
3. **Nigeria:** do something 'extraordinary' - e.g. explosive statements to the press to draw attention towards the library.
4. **Togo:** Partnerships and promotion of the profession; the lack of policies is a challenge.
5. **Namibia:** Closing the digital divide and the gap between the 'haves' and 'have nots'

The Second day of the Conference

Session 2: How do we want to get there? The way forward.

Concrete Activities:

1. A team was put together by Ujala Satgoor, with the purpose of compiling a position paper to put libraries on the agenda of the SADC (Southern African Development Community), and NEPAD (New Partnership for Africa's Development) - i.e. libraries as a developmental tool by means of which illiteracy can be eradicated, and which are, at the same time, informed by democratic processes.
2. 2010 Africa Library Project: posters of celebrities to be put up in libraries. 2010 Local Organising Committee (LOC) and FIFA to be approached (South Africa should facilitate this, as the LOC is situated in Gauteng). LIASA President, Rachel More and LIASA National Secretary, Dr Judy Henning were identified as convenors. A draft letter was available by the end of the conference.
3. Create a Toolkit: the ALA (American Library Association) should be checked for:
 - What skills are required for lobbying?
 - Writing a relevant speech.
 - Using the right/appropriate language.
 - Packaged into **the shortest time**.All the above to be called an **elevated speech**.
4. Capacity building: relevant to a particular group and needs to be undertaken by the continent (project).
5. Communicating library projects: IFLA Africa Section to co-ordinate and disseminate information on various library projects.
6. Annual national campaigns: awards to journalists that covered LIS most. Invite journals to events hosted by library associations' presidents during annual conference.
7. Registration of librarians - as in Nigeria.
8. E-strategy/skills development: every library should have it. Within the e-strategy of the library, staff should be trained to use these tools.
9. Local Government (Counsellors)/Mayors: invite them to events (hosted by President) during annual conference. Institute an award for most support provided to LIS.

Consensus: IFLA Africa/Africa Section should be the platform for all activities and communication. Through the Section, projects might be funded by ALP.

Organisations such as the Goethe-Institut should remain as partners. The Goethe-Institut will continue to offer its website as a means by which communication can be widened and information disseminated.

We are grateful to the Goethe Institut for their support and to start the ball rolling. We hope to take this relationship with our German colleagues to greater heights.

For more details on the workshops, the conference and photo gallery link to:

<http://www.goethe.de/ins/za/prj/lid/fin/enindex.htm>

Lindy Nhlapo
IFLA Regional Office for Africa
UNISA
South Africa

Preserving Alternative Ways of Knowing

Source: Unisa Staff Newsletter, Focus September 08

The first of the International Federation of Library Associations (IFLA) Regional Office/ Unisa Library public lecture

series was held on 1 September 2008 in the ZK Matthews Hall on the Muckleneuk Campus. Ms Kay Raseroka, Director of Library Services at the University of Botswana and former President of IFLA, considered the topic *African Librarianship and the academic enterprise*.



From left, Ms Dudu Nkosi, Director: IR Content Management, Unisa Library; Ms Ujala Satgoor: Deputy Director: Library, University of Pretoria;

Dr Kay Raseroka, Director: Library Services: University of Botswana; Dr Buhle Mbambo-Thata, Executive Director: Unisa Library; Dr Judy Henning Chief Operations Officer: Unisa Library; Professor Thomas van der Walt, Department of Information Science

"I am a true child of orality," said Ms Raseroka, and she appealed to the audience not to forget that Africa transmits its information orally. Oral information is fragile and libraries need to ask if, when an elder dies, their knowledge dies with them.

Ms Raseroka went on to say that in the 21st century, students need to be multifaceted players in the global terrain. "They need to be discerning consumers of information," she emphasised, "capable of drawing connections between ideas and with the ability to think across disciplines." She considered that one of the ways in which libraries could facilitate this was to provide supportive social learning spaces.

"The future of Africa lies in the safeguarding of its intellectual properties," claimed Ms Raseroka, and said that the preservation of, research into, and analysis of alternative ways of knowing within indigenous knowledge systems was an opportunity that should be embraced by libraries.

"In this way, we can contribute our own knowledge on our terms to the global sphere."

Among other accomplishments, Ms Raseroka has been responsible for facilitating the founding of both national and regional professional library associations. She is currently engaged in advocating that libraries should act as facilitators of the emerging information and knowledge society, using the principles accepted at the World Summit on the Information Society.

[Official Google Africa Blog](#)

Google in Sub-Saharan Africa: news, stories and thoughts.

[Launching Google in Sierra Leone](#), follow the link above for full article.

[Why Local Content Matters](#), follow link for full article

**Submission by Ingrid Thomson
University of Cape Town
South Africa**

Ways to enhance learning

Source: Unisa Staff Newsletter, Focus October 2008.

Abstract: *For the cyber-challenged, here are some explanations taken from Wikipedia, the free encyclopaedia*

Blog

A blog (a contraction of the term "Web log") is a website, usually maintained by an individual, with regular entries of commentary, descriptions of events, or other material such as graphics or video.

Wiki

A wiki is a page or collection of Web pages designed to enable anyone who accesses it to contribute or modify content, using a simplified markup language. Wikis are often used to create collaborative websites and to power community websites. The collaborative encyclopaedia Wikipedia is one of the best-known wikis. "Wiki" (/wi ki /) is originally a Hawaiian word for "fast". It has been suggested that "wiki" means "What I Know Is". However, this is a backronym

REGIONAL LIBRARIANS MEET

Librarians and information specialist from Eastern, Central and Southern Africa region gathered in Lusaka, Zambia for their eighteenth bi-annual conference. The conference, which was organized by the East, Central, and Southern African Library and Information Associations (SCECSAL) was held at the magnificent Mulungushi International Conference Centre, from 15-18 July, 2008. SCECSAL is the leading regional body representing the interests of library and information services and their users. It is the regional voice of library and information professionals.

The conference was officially opened by Zamia's Minister of Education, Professor Geoffrey Lungwangwa, who was also the guest of honour at the function. The theme of the conference was *Libraries and Information Services Towards the Attainment of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)*.

In his opening remarks, the Minister said that libraries have great potential to effectively contribute to the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals. He then called upon librarians in the region to work together in order to contribute to the realization of the MDGs. The Minister noted that librarians and information specialist are very important in the development of the African continent. He further said that librarians are the bridge between those who generate knowledge and the consumer. He therefore asked librarians in the region to make knowledge easily accessible to achieve the Millennium Development Goals.

The objective of the conference was to enable library personnel and information specialists to share knowledge and experiences on current trends in the management and the provision of library and information services. The conference is a time when the region's librarians and information specialists take stock of what they have achieved and constraints faced since the last conference.

A total of eleven countries from the region, namely:- Botswana, Kenya, Lesotho, Malawi, Namibia, South Africa, Swaziland, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe, participated in the conference. In addition to the regional participants, delegates from the United Kingdom and the United States of America also participated in the conference. Representatives of international library associations, including the Commonwealth Library Association (COMLA) and the International Federation of Library Associations (IFLA), were present at the conference.

During the conference, some countries in the region reported remarkable progress in the profession, in terms of the establishment of new libraries, library automation, taking the library to the grassroots and short-term and long-term training of personnel. However, the conference lamented lack of recognition of the profession by institutions and national governments in the region.

Displays by various organizations from the region formed part of the conference activities. These organizations:- book publishers, book sellers, journal publishers and sellers, library software developers and sellers, etc. displayed their wares at the conference. Some of the major organizations that displayed their goods were McMillan

Book Publishers, Sabinet-Online, Information Training and Outreach Centre for Africa (ITOCA), Emerald Group Publishing Limited, Springer Link and Swetswise. The aim of these displays was to make conference participants aware of the availability of these commodities so as to enable them place orders for their libraries.

The conference delegates did not spend all the time in the conference hall. The Zambia Library Association, the host, organized a cultural night for them. The cultural night was a way of entertaining the delegates. At this function, countries were required to showcase their traditional dances. Apart from entertaining the delegates, the dances were also used as a competition, at the end of which countries were awarded points by the panel of judges. After a great deal of singing, gyrating, body shaking, twisting and, of course, a bit of sweating, Swaziland emerged winner of the contest. Malawi grabbed the third position. Malawi's song that captivated the audience was *kholowa!* When this song was introduced, the audience sprang into frenzy, cheering, ululating and hand clapping.

Traditionally, the hosting of this regional conference rotates from one country to another, by means of voting. According to the Standing Conference of Eastern, Central and Southern Africa Library and Information Associations' constitution, only presidents of national library associations are eligible to vote. Before the voting, however, the presidents were requested to sell their countries to the delegates and say why they thought their respective countries should host the next conference. There were three countries bidding: Botswana, Malawi and Swaziland. After the voting, Botswana won the bid to host the next conference. However, the conference unanimously agreed that in the event that Botswana would not be able to host the conference, Malawi should be the next venue for the conference. The next conference will be held in the year 2010.

On the last day of the conference, the delegates were taken on a learning tour of some places of interest in Lusaka. The institutions visited included the University of Zambia Library, the National Assembly, Lusaka Museum, Chilanga Zoology and Botanic Gardens and Luboto Library. The tours proved to be very educative, as delegates learnt how libraries in Zambia are managed and how their parliament functions. Delegates also appreciated the rich collection of Zambia's historical artifacts displayed in the Museum and the natural beauty of the Botanic Gardens.

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National Library of South New Building



Source: www.nlsa.ac.za

The new National Library building will officially be opened by the Minister for Arts and Culture, Dr Pallo Jordan in Pretoria Central Business District (CBD) on 1 August 2008. The Department of Arts and Culture committed itself to building the modern library to better preserve national collections and embrace South Africa's heritage.

The Carnegie Corporation of New York has also awarded the National Library of South Africa a US\$2 million grant to enhance the state-of-the-art Information Technology system in the new building.

The project was initiated by Professor Peter Lor, retired chief executive of the library and past Secretary General of IFLA, in 1995 and further implemented by the current Chief Executive and National Librarian, John Tsebe.

DIARY OF EVENTS

Conference alerts:

[Africa Section Mid term meeting: February 2009.](#)
[IFLA WLIC, Milan, August 2009](#)

NOTE: CALLING ALL AFRICAN LIS COMMUNITY TO SUBMIT ARTICLES AND DIARY OF EVENTS FOR INCLUSION IN THE NEWSLETTER.

[IFLA Regional Office for Africa](#)

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