

# **AFRICA SECTION ANNUAL REPORT 2016**

## **1. 2016 Mid- Term Meeting**

The IFLA Africa Section Mid Term meeting was held from the 11-12 February, 2016 at the University of Botswana Library, Gaborone, Botswana. Thirteen Africa Section Standing Committee Members attended as well as Dr Kay Raseroka, Mr John Tsebe the President of AfLIA and the IFLA Regional Manager for Africa attended the meeting. The Section was honored by the presence at the meeting of Ms Jennefer Nicholson, IFLA Secretary General. The Section got updates on the International Advocacy Program which was initiated in a high level meeting in Namibia followed by a planning meeting in Pretoria, 8-9 February 2016. The **BSLA Program** activities included a high level gathering in Cameroon organized for French speaking countries in Africa in December 2015 with participants from Chad, Cameroon, Cote D'Ivoire, Senegal, Gabon, Benin and Madagascar. The **IFLA International Leadership Program** was noted as a welcome development given that Africa had benefitted from the previous cohort. The section took time during this meeting to evaluate its strategic plan and actions to ensure that they aligned with the IFLA goals. There was a pre-meeting activity before the midterm meeting and this was a workshop organized for school librarians in Botswana.

## **2. The AfLIA Workshop on Public Libraries**

The section was represented in a workshop on public libraries by AfLIA and the SCESAL conference organized in Swaziland from April 28 to May 2, 2016. It was a very successful meeting and it was clear that there is a need for the Section to have as part of its focus the development and enhancement of public libraries on the continent. This is even more urgent given the role of this information service in the ALP program.

## **3. IFLA OHIO: Satellite Meeting 2016**

The Section held a very successful Satellite Conference at the Alden Library, Ohio University, Athens Campus from August 11- 12, 2016. The Theme of the Conference was 'Building Cross Cultural Capabilities for Universal Access to Information and Knowledge in Africa'. The Conference was well attended by thirty two (32) and thirty six (36) participants on Day 1 and 2 respectively. Twelve well researched papers were presented generating very lively discussions throughout. Dr. Rosemary Shafack gave a welcome address that made the participants feel very welcomed to participate in the Section's Satellite Conference. This meeting was graced by the presence of Dr. Victoria Okojie, the Chair of Division V and member of the IFLA Governing Board.

Mrs Araba Dowson was the host at the Alden Library, Ohio University, Athens Campus. Mrs Ruby Bel-Gam of the University of California Los Angeles Libraries was the inspiring Keynote Speaker for the two day Conference.

### **3. IFLA OHIO: Open Forum 2016**

Africa Section had an Open Forum on August 16 under the theme, **'Creating an Enabling Information Environment for Africa: Taking the Cape Town Declaration Forward'**. Three papers were presented and these generated a lively discussion.

### **4. IFLA OHIO: Africa SCI &II Meetings**

Highlights of the Business meeting at Columbus included news about:

#### **4.1 SPARC AFRICA**

SPARC AFRICA Chapter gave an update and announced their forthcoming Conference to be held in December 2016 in Cape Town, South Africa and invited Africa to support the event to grow openness, for knowledge sharing, Community of Practice and as an opportunity to grow SPARC in Africa. Also planned to hold three 2day Workshops in Cape Town on Institutional Repository, Library as a Publisher and Copyright Matters.

#### **4.2 Public Access to the Internet**

The Section was encouraged to get involved with the Internet Governance Forum. It was noted that the Forum was now available in many parts of Africa with Regional meetings held regularly, with one expected in October 2016. This was an opportunity for people to get involved.

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