

REPORT FROM THE EXPLORATORY MEETING OF AFLIA TO AFRICA SECTION MEETING IN FEBRUARY 2012

INTRODUCTION

The first AFRICA LIBRARY SUMMIT was held from 11-13 May 2011 at Misty Hills Hotel Conference Centre & Spa, Muldersdrift, South Africa, hosted by UNISA with financial support from several organizations and institutions including UNISA and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

The delegates from the Africa LIS community from several countries in Africa agreed to some recommendations. A motion put forward by Mr. John Tsebe, Director National Library of South Africa, and seconded by Helena Asamoah- Hassan, Librarian Kwame Nkrumah University of Science & Technology, Kumasi, Ghana asking for the establishment of an African Federation for LIS (Annex 1) was carried and this was followed by a statement signed by all delegates.

Another recommendation was the continuity of Africa Library Summit (ALS) which was also agreed upon by the delegates and Shawky Salem, Professor of LIS, Alexandria, Egypt was tasked to prepare a study for the continuity of African Library Summit (Annex 2) which was adopted by the Exploratory Committee that met in Accra on 12 December 2011, .

To take the idea forward, members of the Africa Section Standing Committee of IFLA at the Summit held a brief meeting where the above mentioned recommendations were discussed among other things. The meeting agreed that the Africa Section Standing Committee should set up an Exploratory Committee to do the ground work. It was also agreed that the Exploratory Committee should not be too large because of budgetary constraints, subsequently it was agreed that there should be one representative from each region, the Chair and Secretary of the Africa Section, the Chair of Division V (IFLA Governing Board member) and the IFLA Africa Regional Office Manager should constitute the Exploratory Committee.

Having consulted widely, it was agreed that the Exploratory Committee will be made up of the following:

Helena Asamoah-Hassan	West Africa (Chair)
John Tsebe	Southern Africa
Rosemary Githachu	East Africa
Shawky Salem	North Africa
Alim Garga	Central/Francophone Africa
Buhle Mbambo-Thata	Chair Division V (IFLA Governing Board member)
Chair, Africa Section	
Secretary, Africa Section	
Lindi Nhlapo	Manager, IFLA Regional Office

Other members could be co-opted when the need arose.

The Committee met in Accra on 12 December 2011 to discuss its work done so far towards the establishment of the Federation / Association and the continuity of the Summit.

The outcome of that meeting was as follows:

1. THE NAME

AFRICAN LIBRARY AND INFORMATION ASSOCIATIONS AND INSTITUTIONS (AFLIA)

2. MISSION

It is the trusted African voice for the library and information community, and drives equitable access to information and knowledge for all.

3. VISION

To be the association of choice for information professionals and the library and information services sector in Africa.

4. OBJECTIVES

The objectives are to:

- support the library and information profession that anticipates and responds to the needs of communities in Africa
- drive high standards in library and information services and professional practices;
- encourage widespread understanding of the value and importance of high quality library and information services in the public, private and voluntary sectors;
- promote libraries and information centres as vital institutions that enhance people's lives through equitable access to knowledge and information by:
 - creating strategic alliances;
 - enhancing professional education;
 - developing professional standards;
 - sharing best practices;
 - advancing relevant scientific and professional knowledge and
 - promoting open access to information and knowledge and open source applications

- enhance accessibility, protection, and preservation of cultural heritage.
- enable all its members to engage in, and benefit from, its activities without regard to citizenship, disability, ethnic origin, gender, geographical location, language, political philosophy, race or religion.
- embrace the principles of freedom of access to information, ideas and works of imagination and freedom of expression embodied in Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and the Article on African Charter of People’s Rights
- place library and information professionals in a position to offer relevant services to:
 - assist the realisation of the Millennium Development Goals and the WSIS objectives;
 - document and package oral culture and information;
 - make research information produced on the continent globally available;
 - deploy the use of ICTs and the internet revolution in accessing information;
 - train library and information workers to offer current information services to users.
- forge links with other relevant organisations and associations.
- put the library and information profession on the national and continental agendas.
- do all other things that will support the development of LIS on the continent.

5. PROPOSED GOVERNING COUNCIL AND MEMBERSHIP

- President
- President-Elect
- Treasurer
- One elected representative from each of the 5 regions- East, West, North, South, Central
- Permanent Secretariat with paid staff

6. MEMBERSHIP

The AFLIA membership will cover the following organizations: National Library Associations; Academic libraries, Public libraries; National libraries; Special libraries; School Libraries; Information & Documentation Centres’ Library and Information related businesses; and Individuals.

7. PROPOSED MEMBERSHIP FEES STRUCTURE (ANNUAL)

- **Academic libraries**
Small 1-5,000 students = \$25-\$50

Medium 5001-10,000 students	= \$50-\$75
Large 10,001 – 25,000 students	= \$75-\$100
Very large - over 25,000	= \$100-\$150
• Associations	
Small 1-100 members	= \$25-\$50
Medium 101 -250 members	= \$50-\$100
Large over 250 members	= \$100-\$250
• National Libraries	
Small	=\$50-\$75;
Medium	=\$75-\$100;
Large	=\$100-\$200
• Public Libraries	= \$25-\$50
• Special Libraries	= \$25-\$50
• School libraries	= \$10-\$25
• Information & Documentation Centres	= \$25-\$50
• Corporate members	= \$100-\$250
• Individual members / Associate members	= \$10

8. PROPOSED ‘WORKING GROUPS’ STRUCTURE

- National Library Associations
 - Academic Libraries
 - Public Libraries
 - National Libraries
 - Special Libraries
 - School libraries
 - Information /Documentation Centres
- May add new ones when need arises.

9. PROPOSED COMMITTEES OF GOVERNING COUNCIL

- Education and CPD.
- Finance.
- Membership and Accreditation.
- Research and Publications.
- Appointments.
- Honours and Awards.
- Conference.
- Ethics and Disciplinary.

May add new ones when need arises.

10. OTHER DECISIONS TAKEN

1. A draft Constitution & Bye-Laws will be produced by Helena for discussion by end of January 2012.
2. A Bid should be sent out to Library and Information institutions, associations and organizations that may wish to Host the Secretariat of AFLIA - Dr Shawky - to prepare Document for bidding to Host the Secretariat by end of January 2012 – to include office space, facilities, staff.
3. Plans for funding AFLIA including the writing of proposals to be begun. **Africa Section** to write Proposals for funding to set financial base for AFLIA.
4. National Library Associations and National Libraries in Africa to be informed of the outcomes of the Exploratory Team's meeting
5. National Associations to be encouraged to attend SCECSAL conference in Nairobi for the inauguration of the Association.
6. **Interim Council** to be appointed/elected in Nairobi for 3 years 2012-2015 to lay foundation for activities and election in 2015 at the 2nd Africa Library Summit/Conference.
7. **Chair of Africa Section** to inform IFLA Secretary-General about the Exploratory Committee meeting and outcomes and to copy IFLA President and President-elect.
8. **Chair of Africa Section** to inform African National Library Associations and National Libraries about the outcomes of the Exploratory Committee's meeting.
9. **Dr. Buhle Mbambo-Thata** (as convenor of the African Library Summit), to write to Jacinta to give a slot (Plenary Session 1.5 hours) to talk about the Summit at SCECSAL which has one of its outcomes, the setting up of the AFLIA.
10. Members on the Planning Team representing the regions should begin to sensitise National Associations and National Libraries in their region and in association with the

IFLA Africa Regional Office compile a comprehensive list of National Associations in the region and also link up with the CDNL Chair (Mr. Tsebe) to compile list of National Libraries in their region so that the bids for hosting (to be sent by 1st of March 2012) and subsequent communications can be made. **Action by : Shawky -North Africa; John Tsebe-Southern Africa; Rosemary Gitachu – East Africa; Alim Garga-Central Africa and Helena Asamoah-Hassan- West Africa.**

11. Planning Team to complete reviewing the Bid Document by end of February 2012 and send to IFLA Africa Section for information and comments.
12. The Document to be sent to National Associations and National Libraries by 1st of March 2012.
13. 1st indication of interest without much detail by 31st March 2012.
14. Closing date for detailed responses on 1st May 2012.
15. Planning Team evaluates the bids received from 1st-30th May 2012.
16. Send information to IFLA-L about idea of forming AFLIA after the Secretariat host has been chosen.
17. Announce AFLIA Secretariat Host at the SCECSAL Conference in June 2012.
18. Report progress of activities at the February 2012, August 2012 meetings of the Africa Section.

CONCLUSION

We are working hard to meet the deadlines we have set, since we desire that the momentum gathered at the Africa Library Summit should be sustained and the interest to be alive so that AFLIA will be introduced and launched at SCECSAL.

We also hope that the desire to establish AFLIA will be communicated to the African Library Community, especially National Library Associations (to enable them discuss with their membership) and National Libraries (to enable them plan to lobby their governments) before the Bid to Host its Secretariat comes out to ensure that people understand what the Bid request is about.

The appointment /election of an Interim Council at SCECSAL will further strengthen the resolve to form the association as they will be working with the Secretariat Host, which will be known by end of May 2012, to move plans and actions forward.

It is therefore important for the Africa Section Standing Committee to encourage National Association Presidents and National Librarians in Africa to attend SCECSAL.

Thank you

Helena Asamoah-Hassan (Dr.)
Chair of the Exploratory Committee