Marry-Your-Rapist Law. Do you know in 12 countries, rapists go freely if they marry their victims? Source: UNWomen, 2019.

Marital Rape. Do you know, only 77 countries have legislation that explicitly criminalises marital rape? Source: UNWomen, 2019.

Are you aware that, Women are less likely to report sexual abuse as they fear: retaliation, rejection, victim-blaming and stigmatization? Source: United Nations OHCHR, 2019.


Libraries provide free and welcoming meeting spaces. It provides programmes and services designed to meet the needs of women and girls.

Photo credit:

Bonaventure Mwankama
The Cape-town declaration was signed by African ministers in 2015 to:

• Provide the necessary resources for the development of African libraries to respond to modern day challenges
• Provide access to emerging technologies; Support the establishment of a Pan African library organisation to provide a platform for networking and resource mobilisation.
• Encourage the establishment of institutional partnerships between libraries in the continent for exchange of knowledge and experiences.
• Fast-track implementation of continental innovative strategies to improve ICT and knowledge management
• Encourage the implementation of fair and balanced copyright laws to facilitate access to information for all.
• Fast-track the implementation of the outcomes of Library Summits held in 2011, 2013 and 2015 respectively; Support the work of the African Library and Information Association and Institutions (AFLIA); and National Libraries, National Library Services, National Library Associations and Councils;
• Encourage the use of e-books and virtual libraries more effectively to facilitate cultural and scientific exchange and encourage a culture of reading in the continent; Promote library policies on access to information as part of a universal human rights approach as well as rights of people to knowledge;
• Encourage the development and promotion of local content in African libraries as part of the promotion of African Renaissance and Pan Africanism;
• Encourage the sharing of skills, collection and preservation of African stories from our own communities;

The 3rd Ministerial Roundtable for African Ministers with oversight responsibilities for Libraries was held on the 29th November 2019 in Accra, Ghana under the auspices of the Ministry of Education, Ghana Library authority in collaboration with Ghana Library Authority. National Library Directors took turns to provide updates on the progress of work done in their respective countries since the Cape-town Declaration and Durban Communique.
IFLA AFRICA SECTION NEWSLETTER

AFLIA honored Dr. John Tsebe.

AFLIA heartily congratulates Dr. John Tsebe the immediate past President, AFLIA, as he is conferred with the well-deserved LIASA Lifetime Achievement Award.

Dr. Tsebe leadership skills, his in-depth knowledge and understanding of management and human nature as well as his deep grasp of Library and Information science has made him a global icon in LIS.

AFLIA is proud of you, Dr. John Tsebe.

LIASA recognises Dr. Tsebe (LIASA, 2009)

Dr. John Tsebe, for long a leading figure in the library profession in South Africa and also further afield in Africa and internationally, received one of the profession’s highest honours, the SALI Trust / LIASA Lifetime Achievement Award, during the LIASA Annual Conference gala dinner held at the International Convention Centre in Durban. The award, presented jointly by the South African Library and Information (SALI) Trust and the Library and Information Association of S.A. (LIASA), honoured Dr. Tsebe for his extraordinary leadership, commitment, service and achievements in the library and information services field in South Africa.

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The Study Hub roll-out Lusaka Province. Today the 11th of December, 2019 Heads of Departments and the school librarians at The Kamwala Secondary School were trained on policies that govern the establishment of libraries in schools and the need to have functional libraries that are learner centered. The Study Hub program is being rolled out and school managers are happy to see the impact libraries and librarians are making in society. Together we

The Zambia Library services held a reading adventure training program for school teachers and librarians from private and community schools. A 3 days training program covered several topics in Library management and organization, Making sounds with words, segmentation and other literacy skills essential to all who teach young children. The Every Child can Read program was the beginning of ZLS many commitments to ensuring governments efforts towards the achieving the goals set out in the UN vision 2030 SDG Goal 4 Quality Education is enhanced and achieved for the Africa we we want.
Libraries are made for users

Who is the user community of your library? Only those that walk through your doors? Or those that live nearby? Think about it.

Let's take it further...

How do you engage your user communities?

This is a core area in all the training programs of AfLIA’s - know your community, work in and work with them and don’t be aloof as a librarian!

Not surprising then that participants in AfLIA training programs in the National Library of Nigeria recently visited an IDP (Internally Displaced Persons) camp in Peyegi Kuje, Abuja. They disseminated information on HIV preventive measures and the importance of reading/encouraging their wards to take schooling seriously.

The group also donated food items, clothing, sanitary wares and reading materials.

Thank you, Oluchi Iche Kalu, Omon Ize-Iyamu, Lola Mafe, Folashade Adepoju Baba Mohammed and others for putting into practice what you learned and for projecting AfLIA. (Source, AFLIA facebook)
News from Senegal

The library of sheikh anta diop university in dakar is located in front of the Atlantic Ocean at the end of the grand axis that crosses the campus and is its spine. On both sides of this axis have been built over the years, the university's main educational and research institutions. The Library, therefore, has a central and privileged place on the university's wide campus. The architectural and aesthetic choices that were made during its construction and later extension helped to give this building its imposing character and made it the most visible building of the university.

Planted in the heart of the university, like a centuries-old baobab, the library symbolizes on campus, the distinguished place that documentation must occupy in academic and research settings. The site on which the library was built allows it to be the point to which the members of the university community in search of knowledge, and from there, to be a point of reach and spread of information And ideas to these places of reflection, experimentation and training that are the faculty, institutions and laboratories.

The Center of the scientific, educational and cultural activities of the university, the library makes available to users, in an airy and functional building, large spaces of work, studies and research, collections of various documents, as well as Modern technological supports to facilitate users access to scientific and technical information.

Library for teaching and research, it has 1729 seats in its public services. Its work and research rooms are spread over two levels from a lobby located on the ground floor on both sides of a large central atrium and indoor gardens. Its open-access collections are distributed in thematic spaces in the reading rooms and provide access to documentation related to all disciplines subject to a teaching or research program at the university.

A reception and information service, a journal and reference service, loan banks distributed in reading and research rooms, many terminals connected to the library catalogue and international information networks through the internet, allow Users benefit from rich and varied information resources with the assistance of staff.

Centre of excellence located in the heart of the university, the library aims to be for the university community an effective educational support, a dynamic research tool, a source of access to knowledge and for Senegal, a tool for development. " Source, presentation of the bu of the ucad .

[Image of library building]
Quotes on Libraries

"Libraries store the energy that fuels the imagination. They open up windows to the world and inspire us to explore and achieve, and contribute to improving our quality of life. Libraries change lives for the better."

— Sidney Sheldon

"It is a man's duty to have books. A library is not a luxury, but one of the necessities of life."

— Henry Ward Beecher
The National Library of Nigeria is the apex Library and the giant memory of the nation. It is the intellectual store-house and the databank of learning in the remembrance process.

Established by Act No. 29 of 1970. Its mandate is:

- To establish and maintain in accordance with this Act, the National Library of Nigeria, and to provide in accordance with this Act such services as in the opinion of the Board are usually provided by national libraries of the highest standing.

Professor Lenrie O. Aina is the National Librarian/Chief Executive Officer of the National Library of Nigeria. Here, he talks about the effort made to complete the National Library headquarters in Abuja, the reading campaign, and more. Excerpts:

Prof biggest challenge ever since he became the national Librarian has been the completion of the National Library headquarters, the construction began in 2016 and was abandoned in 2014. Prof other initiative is to retain and train his staff by taking them to conferences regularly both national and international. (source,
The most famous library in Africa is the Library of Alexandria — the modern tribute to the famed library of antiquity.

Located on the shore in Alexandria near where the ancient library stood, the Library offers enough room for over eight million books. The cost of construction of the marvel has left the library with limited funds to purchase books, though. As of right now, the collection is at about one million, half of which were donated from the National Library of France. The library holds the largest collection of French-language books in Africa and the sixth largest in the world. The rest are mostly in Arabic and English.

Source: mentalfoss.com (2019)
Africa section open forum IFLA 2020, Dublin, Ireland

**THEME: Working together: building strong information structures for sustainable society.**

The IFLA Africa section invites Librarians, Information Scientists and other interested professionals to submit proposals for the Open Forum to be held during the 86th world Library congress from 15-21 August 2020 Dublin, Ireland. In line with the Congress theme, “Inspire, Engage, Enable, connect”, the Africa Section is organising a Session on the theme: “Working together: building strong information structures for sustainable society”.

African Libraries play a central role as in today’s information led economic, social and cultural development. Different types of libraries serve as “motors” that drive the creation; access and usage of information and knowledge needed for this societal transformation. The Africa section is inviting you to send in your projects, programmes, good practices to show case how Libraries work together in building strong information structures for sustainable society.

Full details on the : IFLA 2020 website.