AfLIA Conference and 5th African Library Summit was packed with amazing presentations, insightful contributions and engagement from the conference attendees, display of useful products and services by exhibitors and beautiful networking atmosphere.

AfLIA is the trusted voice of the African library and information community in Africa’s development. It drives equitable access to information and knowledge for all. AfLIA believes in Professionalism and Inclusivity, Integrity, Transparency & Accountability, Innovation & Creativity, Customer focus and Access to Information as a Human Right. Indeed, AfLIA connect’s Africa’s library and information communities.
2019 is an amazing year at Botswana Book Project - Our first shipment of books for 2019 was delivered in Feb 2019! A second will come around June 2019. Additionally, 5,000 solar study lights will be arriving in February. (Anderea, 2019)

The Botswana Book Project has been donating books, literacy materials to the youth and people of Botswana, in sub-Saharan Africa since 1998; and individual solar study lights since 2014. They are a solely volunteer-run non-profit/non-governmental organization that relies on donations to help meet our mandate of developing a culture of reading and increasing literacy in Botswana.

We need IMMEDIATE assistance to cover the internal delivery, logistics, and clearance costs for the 5,000 solar study lights. They are expected in country as early as 12 February and we are scrambling to secure the funding after our funding fell through on today, 8th February. We need to secure P2,000 ($192 USD) to pay clearance agent and Gabcon for delivery of the container, and an additional P1,000 ($96 USD) to cover offloading (taking the boxes off the shipping container) and other local logistical expenses. Please donate now and share with all your friends, colleagues, and other interested parties. (Anderea, 2019)

Please help us continue to increase literacy projects and bring the joy of books and culture of reading to our beloved Botswana by sharing this post and donating today.

Thank you so very much for your support. Ke a leboga,

Andrea Malenya, RPCV Botswana 2007-2011
Director, Botswana Book Project
A Workshop on International Advocacy Programme (IAP) for West African Librarians was organized from the 1st to 4th November, 2017 at the Balme Library-University of Ghana in Accra, Ghana. This was a collaboration between the national library associations in Ghana and Nigeria with their respective local IAP Teams with funding from IFLA. The theme was ‘Awareness Creation, Advocacy and relevant Data Collection Strategies for UN 2030 Agenda for Librarians in West Africa’. Dr. Helena Asamoah-Hassan and Dr. Victoria Okojie were the main resource persons. The IAP team from Nigeria were Dr. Osuigwe, Nkem Ekene and Dr. Okiy, Rose Bini. The IAP team from Ghana were Mr. Samuel Bentil Aggrey and Mr. Edward Addo-Yobo. There were 25 participants from Ghana, Nigeria, Togo, Benin, Ivory Coast, Senegal, Burkina Faso, Mali, Gambia and Sierra Leone. The GLA is still grateful to IFLA for the funding and the resource persons.
Anglo-American actress and script-writer, Emily Mortimer, has worked in major productions and films such as Match Point by Woody Allen, Shutter Island by Martin Scorsese, The Bookshop, Mary Poppins Returns, Lars and the Real Girl with Ryan Gosling, or The Kid with Bruce Willis. In a video shared on social media, Emily Mortimer announces her support.

“I encourage everyone to donate to and support Libraries Without Borders so that more kids and families can have more access to the education and information they deserve.”

Having long been invested in the issues of access to culture and knowledge, particularly within prisoners, Emily Mortimer will soon meet with our US team in order to discover the network of libraries that we have created in laundromats in Detroit and Baltimore, as well as in refugee camps all over the world.

“It is rare to find people like Emily Mortimer. Her openness and passion greatly moved me! This motivates us to continue our fight to bring knowledge and information to those who are most in need all over the world.” Jérémy Lachal, General Director of Libraries Without Borders.

Emily Mortimer now joins a team of ambassadors at Libraries Without Borders. With Augustin Trapenard, french journalist and ambassador of the association for the past year, this team gathers artists and writers such as Marie Darrieussecq, Geneviève Brisac, Ollivier Pourriol and Arthur Dreyfus.

(Libraries without boarders web, 2019)
Annual conference 30 Sep –04 Oct 2019
Durban, South Africa.

The Library and Information Association of South Africa (LIASA) is the SAQA accredited Professional Body for the Library and Information Services sector and a non-profit organization uniting and representing all institutions and people working in libraries and information services in South Africa. It strives to unite, develop and empower all people in the library and information field into an organization that provides dynamic leadership in transforming, developing and sustaining library and information services for all people in South Africa.

21 years ago the library and information community of SA launched a unified Library and Information Association departing from the old way of existing as separate associations based on race and qualifications. This important step enabled all library and information workers to speak with one voice and to promote their services to their users, the broader community, civil society and decision makers. These efforts contribute to the understanding of the important role that libraries play in a democratic society, advancing literacy, making the basic human right of freedom of access to information a reality, and in promoting tolerance and respect among all South Africans.
On the 30th of April 2019, BIUST Library coordinated a book launch event, where 14 books published by 11 experts from the University’s Faculties of Engineering and Science to recognise their hard work. This event was seen as an effort to acknowledge the reality that knowledge sharing is very important constituent of today’s fast moving information led economy. The University encourages sharing of research and scholarly investigation through different forms and processes like seminars, public lectures, journal and book publications.

The books launched were authored by BIUST teaching and research staff and this is seen as society empowerment and scholarly engagement that will go on for as long as the books are available and accessible to the different user communities. The scope coverage of these books is of current topical issues such as communication networks, smart manufacturing, Nano engineering as well as bio-mechatronic products which brings elements of biological systems.

Dr. Ayanda Lebele
Basic life skills Academy at National Library of Nigeria. (Open space)
Interestingly learning is taking place.

By Olochi Iche Kalu
Day of the African Child. Humanitarian Action in Africa:

Children’s Rights First.
Celebrating the African CHILD 16th June, 2019.
The day aims at raising awareness for the situation of children in African, and on the need for continuing improvement in education. It encourages people’s spirit of abundance to share something special with a child in Africa.

Participants of African Child Day 2019 Program at Eastwood Library
(Source, AFLIA, website)

Zambian school children participating in programs to mark Day of the African Child (AFLIA Website).
2019 African woman's day. Kenya National Library Services

Knls lusumu celebrating African woman in style. Women were enlighten on skills that can empower them financially, during this celebration weaving, table mats, door mats, showels etc and nutritional food were made.

We celebrate women for just who they are, their achievements and their contributions to the world, whether big or small. While we celebrate the contributions of women, there's need to be cognisant that gender inequality still exists.

In Africa, and across the world, statistics show that women's access to education, health, and resources is still worse than that of men, and more needs to be done to change this dynamic. After the celebration, it should not be "business as usual", there's need to continue working for change to ensure gender equality.

International Women's Day is a time to reflect on progress made, to call for change and to celebrate acts of courage and determination by ordinary women who have played an extraordinary role in the history of their countries and communities the United Nations says.

According to the UN, it is also an opportunity to consider how to accelerate the 2030 Agenda, building momentum for the effective implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, especially goal number 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls; and number 4: Ensure inclusive and quality education for all and promote lifelong learning.
Theme: "Leadership roles in international librarianship: how can information professionals from Africa, Asia & Oceania, Latin America & Caribbean be part of it?"

Date 20-21 August 2019.

Venue Bibliotheca Alexandria, Alexandria, Egypt

Organizers Division V. (Regions) joint with Management of Library Associations Section and LIS Education in Developing Countries Special Interest Group

Satellite Meeting focus.

The IFLA Division V. (Regions) which includes regional sections of Africa – Asia & Oceania – Latin America & Caribbean jointly organizing this satellite meeting as a pre-conference of 85th World Library and Information Congress, in the beautiful and historical Bibliotheca Alexandria, Alexandria, Egypt on August 20-21, 2019.

This satellite aims to get input and new ideas to increase the participation of professionals from the Division V regions in all IFLA Sections Standing Committees and others strategic functions. Its purpose is to discuss and understand the presence, participation, contribution and impact of the Africa – Asia & Oceania – Latin America & Caribbean professionals in the Information and Library Science field at the international level. More precisely, to understand, measure and analyse the environment of the participation of professionals from this region in the strategic positions in the national, regional and international associations to make sure that the culture, vision, characteristics, and needs from those regions will be better understood and considered in all decision making levels/process.

It will be open for any professional with the interest to participate in the discussion about leadership roles in international librarianship in Africa, Asia & Oceania, Latin America & Caribbean. So, we welcome research papers, case studies, experiences and papers with innovative and practical perspectives on current and forward looking on the role of libraries and librarians at international level.
We invite you to Africa’s open session for the ATHENS 2019 world congress.

Congress Programme
13:45 - 15:45 Lambrakis

Session 223, Libraries at the Centre of Community Transformation - Africa Section (SI)

Chair: Rosemary Shafack (Buea, Cameroon)
Chair: Nthabiseng Kotsokoane (Johannesburg, South Africa)

1. Public libraries and the development agenda in Nigeria
Victoria Okojie (University of Abuja, Abuja, Nigeria)
Rose Bini Okiy (University of Africa, Toru-Orua, Nigeria)

2. Collaboration and partnerships in redesigning library spaces: the use of eLearning classrooms as multipurpose facilities and as mobile classrooms in city of Johannesburg libraries.
Jeff B Nyoka (City of Johannesburg Municipality - Library and Information Services: ELearning Johannesburg, Johannesburg, South Africa)

Tuelo Ntlotlang (Botswana International University of Science and Technology, Palapye, Botswana)

4. Professional Volunteerism in Children and School Libraries in Africa: An Imperative for Children’s Information Literacy and Education
Jonathan Ndubuisi Chimah (Ebonyi State University Library, Abakaliki, Nigeria)
Udo Nwokocha (Abia State University Library, Uturu, Nigeria)
Paper in English