IFLA - BUILDING STRONG LIBRARY ASSOCIATIONS (BSLA)
MANILA GLOBAL MEETING PRESENTATION
29 May to 2 June 2016
Presentation outline

• Location of Zimbabwe (LF)
• Country & Association profile
• ZimLA 2014 Strategic Planning Project
• Strategic Planning Outcomes
• ZimLA 2015 Advocacy & NIP Project (JL)
• What was achieved – Effective Advocacy & importance of NIP
• Success stories (LF)
• Forthcoming activities
• Challenges and solutions
• Future of Libraries and Association
• Questions and conclusion
Location of Zimbabwe in Africa
Country and Association profile

• Current population stands at more than 14 million people
• Broad types of libraries, e.g. public libraries, academic libraries, special libraries and government libraries
• National Library Association first established in 1947 as the Central African Branch of the South African Library Association with only about 3 qualified librarians
• Changed to Library Association of Rhodesia and Nyasaland in 1959
• Changed to Rhodesia Library Association in 1967
• Changed to Zimbabwe Library Association in 1980, at Independence.
Country and Association profile…cont.

- The Association went dormant from 2004 to 2010
- Had about 25 members in 2014 before the Kumasi workshop
- The Association represents library and information professionals in Zimbabwe regardless of status.
- Anyone with interest in the profession can join the Association.
BSLA Project: Strategic Plan

The Project was premised on the following goals:

- Formulate the Vision, Mission, Values and Action Plan for ZimLA
- Hold strategic planning workshop
- Formulate strategic initiatives and action plans with achievable targets
- Circulate to all ZimLA members the draft strategic plan for inputs
- Implement, monitor and evaluate the strategic plan.
Strategic Plan Workshop Outcomes

- Strategic Planning workshop successfully held on 27 June 2014
- Facilitated by Ms Ujala Satgoor, the then LIASA President being the facilitator
- Strategic Plan draft finalised for member input
- Finally launched at the ZimLA Kariba International Conference in 2015
- Being finalised for publication and placement on website
ZimLA’s Vision, Mission & Values

Vision
To be an association of excellence for innovative and creative information professionals and strategic partners.

Mission
To promote and uphold professional development and standards amongst Library and Information sector for the provision of quality and dynamic services to benefit the citizens of Zimbabwe.

Values
Professionalism
Accountability
Transparency
Excellence
Diversity
Integrity
IFLA Call for 2015 Project Proposals

- BSLA workshops and activities at existing events e.g. national and regional library association conferences;
- A series of BSLA workshops and activities;
- IFLA advocacy projects or policies;
- Projects for smaller number of associations in the region to form alliances or partnerships in pursuit of advocacy goals.
Project submission to IFLA-BSLA in 2014

• Chose to respond to bullet 2 and 3
• Advocacy workshop to revise and include libraries and Access to Information for All in draft National Information and Communication Technology Policy
• Final submission 31 December 2014
Project Goals

- To hold workshop on Advocacy and NIP framework
- To advocate for the review of current draft national ICT policy
- To recommend the addition of Role of Libraries and Access to Information for All in draft National ICT policy
- To rally support from print and electronic media to publicise and promote role of libraries and Access to Information for All in national development
Project Activities

- Hold Advocacy and NISP workshop in 2015
- Meetings with policy and decision makers and advocate for the inclusion of Access to Information for All in National ICT Policy
- Rally support and publish news items in local print and electronic media on role of libraries and Access to Information for All in national development
- Follow-up ZimLA meetings to assess and evaluate the project
What has been achieved to this day?

• Resource person challenges in 2015 (UNESCO & UNECA experts on NISP)
• Discussions with Foreign Affairs Officials
• Submission of letter to Minister of Primary & Secondary Education for UN Representation on SDGs
• Bureaucratic complexities (who to report to)
• Failure to hold workshop in 2015
• Reconvening of workshop in 2016
Advocacy plan of action

Resource Person: Mrs Nthabiseng Kotsokoane

- Meeting with new NLDS Council
- NLDS Council to include NIP in its strategic activities
- Advocate for NIP with all relevant Ministries & Departments
- Consult widely with all stakeholders on NIP formulation
- Hold stakeholder consultative road shows in all provinces
- Cause addition of NIP to draft National ICT Policy
Meet Ma Kotsokoane
NIP draft template

*NIP formulation Facilitated by Mr John Tsebe*

To Use suggested template:
- Introduction
- Purpose
- Policy Goals
- Policy Principles
- Process chart
- Important knowledge and decisions required
Effective Advocacy

- Advocacy without a cause ineffective
- NIP a very good cause to advocate for libraries
- Policy enables libraries and librarians to take control of their growth and development/destiny
- Policy will guide in decision-making processes and avoids inconsistencies
- There will be need to communicate the NIP to all citizens
- This will increase ACCOUNTABILITY among librarians, line Ministries and Departments
- Most importantly, the NIP must be written and continuously kept up to date
Success Stories

- Revived the Association from a period of inactivity, 2004 - 2010.
- Membership drive underway.
- Staggered membership fees to attract membership during economic hardships.
- Participated in two, counting this one, international programmes such as the BSLA programme and successfully prepared and submitted 2 IFLA-ALP funded BSLA projects.
- Partnered with sister national associations, e.g. LIASA, LIAZ, BLA and SWALA
- Organised successful annual conferences since 2010 to date.
- Minister attended Kariba Conference
- Increased visibility through facebook, twitter and flickr
- Functional ZimLA website (www.zimla.org)
- Quarterly Association newsletter
About Us

Zimbabwe Library Association (ZimLA) is the professional association that represent the interests of library and information professionals in Zimbabwe. Read more

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Studying Opportunities In Zimbabwe

Zimbabwe has various training opportunities for new entrants in library and information sector to help improve information management skills and keep abreast of trends in the information fraternity. Schools are dotted across the country as follows; Read more

Join/Renew/Update Membership

Hurry!!! Hurry!!! Renew/join/Update ZimLA membership for opportunities for members to meet in Special Interest Groups, reduced conference packages, Networking and information exchange. Read more

ZimLA Advocacy Workshop Held In Harare To Increase Advocacy Initiatives

Submitted by zimlatech on Tue, 2016-05-10 12:37

Events
Lobby and advocate for the value of the profession

By Lantern Fusion, ZimLA President

holders to join us in these celebrations and to spread the celebrations atmosphere. However, we also need to do some introspection as to the achievements national and international forums. The Association greatly recognize and appreciate the work they did and appeal to upcoming professionals in LIS to take up the bus-
Forthcoming activities – 2016/2017

• ZimLA 50th jubilee celebrations conference with the theme: *ZimLA @ 50: Transforming information into knowledge tools* 5 – 7 July 2016


• National Information Policy formulation follow up meeting of NEC & Branch Executive

• Supporting IASL in promoting school libraries by celebrating ISLM.
Challenges: and how we are addressing them

- Funding: Membership subscriptions main source of funds whereas membership has still not yet reached satisfactory levels.
- Conference registration helping out.
- Support from international organisations, especially IFLA-BSLA, to fund projects such as training.
- Constitution needs revisiting to be in sync with LIS dynamism and address governance issues.
- LIS does not have one responsible Ministry.
- Presently dealing with the Ministry of Primary and Secondary Education where NLDS belongs.
The future of the association and libraries in our country

- Make significant contribution and active participation in government developmental activities contained in the Zim Asset.
- Increase membership to cover 100% of LIS professionals in Zimbabwe.
- Promote visibility of the LIS profession and the Association
- Contribute to the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals.
Any questions?

- We would want to find ways of engaging the government on a number of issues but we do not have a particular Ministry housing us as LIS profession making it difficult for us to have a starting point. How are other National Associations doing it?

- We would want to engage and collaborate with other National Associations particularly in the area of research and new developmental trends in the profession.

- Collaboration is so important to us and we implore other Associations to do the same.
I THANK YOU