

**REPORT ON THE AUTHOR OF THE YEAR AWARD FOR THE
PERIOD 2004-2006 TO BE PRESENTED TO THE SCECSAL XVII
CONFERENCE, DAR ES SALAAM, TANZANIA, 10TH - 14TH JULY
2006.**

Presented on behalf of MALA

By

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MALA President

INTRODUCTION

The SCECSAL Author of the Year Award funds have been growing at very slow pace since the establishment of the Fund in the mid eighties. The following are the principles governing the Fund:

1. That each member National Library Association should contribute US\$10.00 annually towards the fund with effect from 1986.
2. That only active members of National Associations within the SCECSAL region would be eligible for the award.
That the award would comprise the following:
 - (a) Certificate
 - (a) Cash prize of US\$100 or its equivalent.
3. That the prize would be reviewed as and when sufficient funds became available.
4. That the Award should be confined to the field of Librarianship-information work such as library, documentation and archives.
5. That journal articles and monographs would be considered but not dissertations or theses.
6. That nominations would be made by the author's own National Library Association.
7. That the nominating association should forward two copies of the selected publication, including as much detail as possible about the author, to the Library Association expected to host the next SCECSAL Conference.
8. That the panel of judge should consist of five persons selected by member associations of SCECSAL. The judges would come from different members of SCECSAL except the nominating association. The judges would include a prominent member outside the field the field of Librarianship.

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THE SITUATION BETWEEN 2004 AND 2006

During this period there have been no payments except those, which may be made here at this conference. The explanation for this situation could be lack of initiatives from member associations to prompt payments.

However, it should be noted that the problem of non-payment membership contributions is not being experienced with respect to this Fund alone but also by COMLA, IFLA and members associations themselves in their own jurisdictions.

THE CURRENT STATUS OF FUNDS

The amount of money currently available is as follows:

Balance brought forward:	US\$1340
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Of the total amount shown, US\$500 is cash while the rest is in the bank in Malawi.

ARREARS

An amount of US\$350 is outstanding in form of unpaid membership contributions by some member association as indicated on the accompanying sheet. MALA sent out invoices/reminders to all Library Associations who have arrears. It is pleasing to note that some Library Associations have settled their arrears during the conference. These are Uganda, Botswana, Tanzania and Kenya. MALA is worried with Zimbabwe and Namibia who have not made any payment towards the award since its inception.

CONCLUSION

It is MALA's hope that member associations will ensure that every year they pay their US\$10 annual contributions so that the Award funds keep growing. MALA is very willing to continue being the custodian of the Award funds and thankful for the trust shown so far by other member associations.