



**1 May 2022 – 31 March 2024**

## **REPORT TO SCECSAL GENERAL COUNCIL**

*Nazeem Hardy*

*Library and Information Association of South Africa (LIASA)*

**18 April 2024**

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### **1. INTRODUCTION**

LIASA celebrated its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2022. The continued focus over the past few years has been the restructuring of LIASA into an Association that can better serve the needs of its members as well as the broader library and information sector in South Africa. There had been a recognition of the need to change the structure to be more responsive and this was evident in the elections of 2021, when key leadership positions in Branches and Interest Groups could not be filled. The approval of an amended Constitution has finally paved the way for this restructuring to come to fruition in 2024.

### **2. SCECSAL ACTIVITIES**

The 2022 LIASA Annual Conference was a joint LIASA-SCECSAL Conference hosted in Johannesburg, Gauteng, South Africa. The LIASA President has participated in scheduled SCECSAL meetings and the LIASA President-Elect has served on the committee that looked at the restructuring of SCECSAL.

### **3. CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT**

All LIASA training has been circulated to LIASA members under the banner of the LIASA/Clare Walker Professional Development Centre.

There was a total of 95 events hosted during the reporting period. Of these, 34 were Branch events, 57 were Interest Group events and 8 were national events. These were attended by more than 5 000 members. It should be noted that these relate to events where members could qualify for CPD points.

As part of continuing professional development (CPD) of librarians, 242 members were awarded Professional Librarian designations in 2023, of which 37 were new registrations. The number remains low and will become a focus area in the next year.

The LIASA/Clare Walker Professional Development Centre Management Committee

drafted the LIASA Transformation Policy which was approved on 20 May 2023 by the Representative Council. This committee also updated the LIASA CPD Policy which was also approved by the Representative Council on 20 May 2023.

#### **4. NATIONAL CONFERENCES AND ANNUAL GENERAL MEETINGS**

LIASA hosted two conferences during this time. The conference, held from 4-7 October 2022, was hosted in conjunction with the SCECSAL Conference and was held in Johannesburg at the Radisson Hotel and Convention Centre. The theme for this conference was “Against all odds: Resilience of libraries in a post-truth world”. This was also the first conference held in person since the Covid-19 pandemic forced us to host online conferences and seminars.

The 2023 LIASA Annual Conference was hosted in Cape Town at the Lord Charles Hotel. It took place from 10-13 October 2023 under the theme “Libraries Writing the Next Chapter”.

The Annual General Meeting (AGM) adopted a motion to extend the term of office of the LIASA Executive Committee until May 2024, this in order to finalise and set in motion the restructuring of LIASA. It is included the adoption of the Interim Council which consisted of the LIASA Executive plus incoming chairpersons of LIASA Branches and Interest Groups. This structure replaced the Representative Council with an Interim Council. The motion furthermore proposed the adjournment of the AGM to February 2024 in matters dealing specifically with the restructuring. The Interim Council was tasked to finalise the draft of the Amended Constitution which would then be presented at the adjourned AGM for adoption and thus pave the way for restructuring of the Association. A quorum of the adjourned AGM approved the amended constitution and the election of a Board to replace the Interim Council and Executive Committee is now scheduled for the 20<sup>th</sup> of May 2024.

#### **5. PUBLICATIONS**

Regular communication with members remains a priority for LIASA to ensure the success, sustainability and growth of the Association. LIASA has traditionally followed its usual channels of communication and while these have been extensively used this year, the Association has increased the use of social media to communicate with members.

##### **LIASA-in-Touch**

The LIASA-in-Touch (L-i-T) continues to be extremely popular with our members. It attracts interesting and informative contributions from members and has become a true showcase of activities and achievements for the Association. It is published quarterly under the editorship of Ms. Nohra Moerat. Following a decision at the 2023 LAISA AGM, the L-i-T has been published in digital format only.

##### **SAJLIS**

The South African Journal of Libraries and Information Science (SAJLIS) is the official research and accredited academic publication of LIASA. It is published under the editorship of

Prof Mpho Ngoepe. The journal is published using open source software, in the open access platform, OJS, and is available as an open access title. We'd like to acknowledge and thank Stellenbosch University Library for hosting the Journal since 2012. SAILIS changed its publishing cycle and all submissions are published in one issue for the year. Articles are added to the issue when ready. A total of 32 peer reviewed articles were published during this time.

#### Website

The LIASA Website at <http://www.liasa.org.za> serves as the most immediate communication tool with members, stakeholders and the broader library and information services community.

#### Online Mailing List

The LIASAOonline mailing list facilitates ongoing and prompt communication with members on a regular basis.

#### Social Media

LIASA has various social media channels that it utilizes for communication purposes. This includes Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, TikTok and Instagram. Not all of them are utilized consistently though. The most used channel is Facebook as most members are active in that space. YouTube is used for uploading and sharing the various recordings of webinars, workshops and other online events. The number of followers are listed in the table below.

Social Media Platform	Followers
Facebook	4042
Twitter	2074
YouTube	321
Tiktok	71
Instagram	178

#### Media coverage

LIASA featured in a number of newspapers during the year, the majority of which formed part of the SALW 2022 coverage. The President had also been interviewed for a number of publications on topical issues related to libraries. Several EXCO members were also interviewed on several radio stations, mostly related to SALW. Representative Council members were also featured on both radio stations as well as in newspapers.

## 6. PARTNERSHIPS/COLLABORATIONS

One of LIASA's key strategic directions is advocacy and building and strengthening of stakeholder relationships. The aim is to promote a positive image of South African librarianship and information work and to participate in the global professional community.

**IFLA** – LIASA is a current paid-up member of the International Federation of Library Associations. The President represented LIASA at IFLA WLIC 2022 in Dublin, Ireland from 26 – 29 July 2022. The President and President-Elect were also present at IFLA WLIC 2023 in Rotterdam in the Netherlands from 21-25 August 2023. Several LIASA members serve on IFLA structures.

**AfLIA** - LIASA is a current paid-up member of the African Library and Information Associations and Institutions (AfLIA). LIASA members serve on AfLIA structures.

**SCECSAL** – LIASA is a current paid-up member.

**National Council for Library and Information Services (NCLIS)** – LIASA serves as an ex officio member and is represented by the President.

**National Library of South Africa (NLSA)** – The NLSA continues to host the LIASA National Office on its Pretoria campus.

LIASA also reached out to other associations during this time including CILIP and ALIA to look at potential collaborations related to Continuing Professional Development.

## **7. OTHER ACTIVITIES AND INITIATIVES**

South African Library Week (SALW) 2023 was celebrated under the theme “Libraries: telling powerful stories” from 20-26 March 2023. The 2024 South African Library Week was celebrated under the theme “Libraries foster social cohesion” from 18-24 March 2024. The 2024 event was the first in-person celebration of this key library event on the LIASA calendar since the Covid-19 pandemic. The funding received for these events saw a focus on an increase in marketing initiatives during these celebrations. The major funding received for SALW has been provided by the South African Department of Sport, Arts and Culture.

South African Librarian’s Day is celebrated annually on 10 July, which is the date celebrating the birth of LIASA. An online event was hosted in 2022 to celebrate LIASA’s 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary and featured key LIASA members from various sectors addressing our members on the day. The 2023 celebrations focused on celebrating events by various institutions honouring librarians on this day.

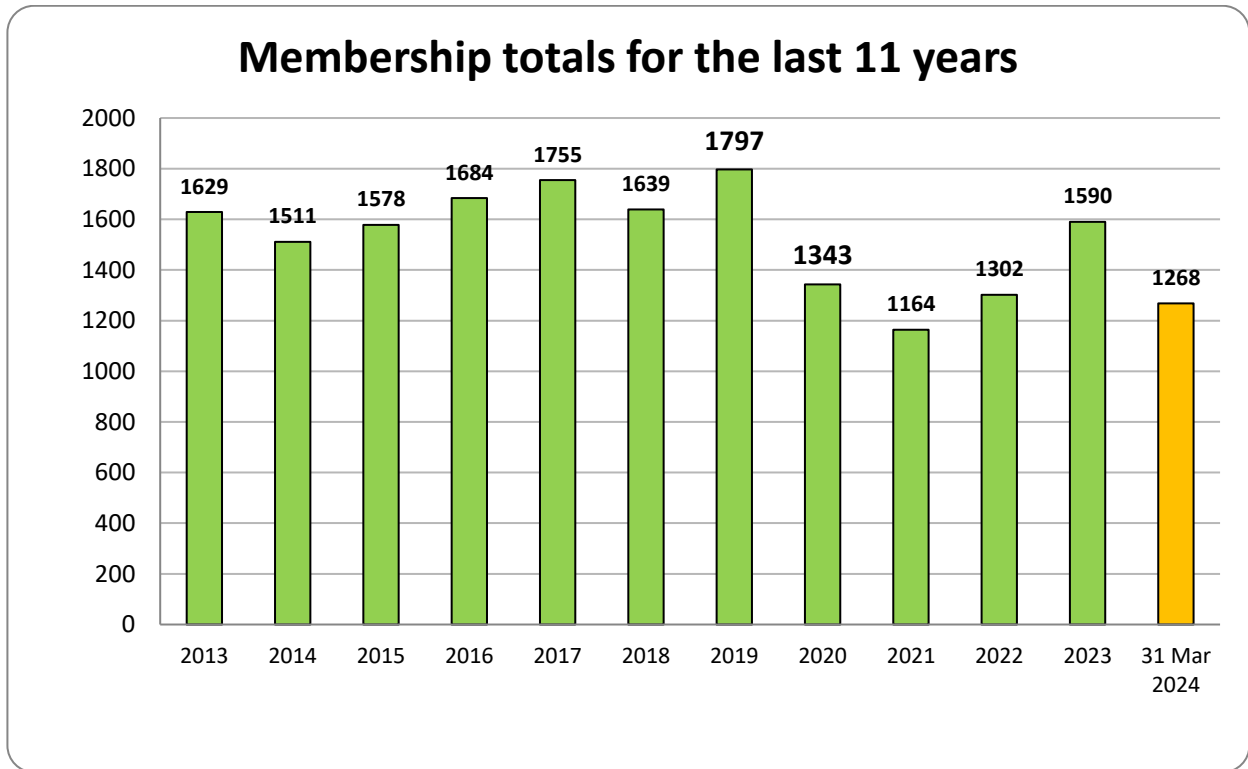
## **8. MEMBERSHIP**

The LIASA membership year is annually from 01 January to 31 December. In 2022 an overall membership increase of 11.8% from the 2021 membership total of 1 164 was registered.

The 2023 membership total saw an increase of 22% from the 2022 membership total in turn.

As can be seen from the graph below, the 2024 membership total at the end of March has surpassed the 2021 total and as this will not be the final membership figure, it is too soon to report on the increase or decrease of the total for this current year. We will normally

see an uptake of membership when the announcement for our annual conference is made and that will most likely see an increase in membership over the 2023 total.



The breakdown of membership categories can be seen in the table below.

Membership Category	Total 2022	Total 2023	Total 2024 *
Individual Member	843	1017	815
Student Member	30	55	52
Unemployed Member	86	99	96
Pensioner	29	39	35
Intern	20	52	36
Professional Librarian	234	243	177
Institutional Member	65	85	57
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1307</b>	<b>1590</b>	<b>1268</b>

\* Total as at 31 March 2024 1268

## 9. MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

LIASA Executive Committee for the period 2021 – 2024

Mr. Nazeem Hardy	LIASA President	<a href="mailto:president@liasa.org.za">president@liasa.org.za</a>
Mr. Charlie Molepo	LIASA President-Elect	<a href="mailto:President-elect@liasa.org.za">President- elect@liasa.org.za</a>
Ms. Rebecca Senyolo	LIASA Secretary	<a href="mailto:secretary@liasa.org.za">secretary@liasa.org.za</a>
Mr. Danie Malan	LIASA Treasurer	<a href="mailto:liasatreasurer@liasa.org.za">liasatreasurer@liasa.org.za</a>
Ms. Linda Ntaka	LIASA Public Relations Officer	<a href="mailto:liasapro@liasa.org.za">liasapro@liasa.org.za</a>

## 10. OFFICIAL CONTACT ADDRESS

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