

MALAWI LIBRARY ASSOCIATION



COUNTRY REPORT 2014

INTRODUCTION

On behalf of Malawi Library Association and its members, the president of MALA wishes to express his gratitude for all SCECSAL members for having graced the occasion of SCECSAL XXI, 2014 in Malawi. Below is the report on MALA activities and projects during the past two years.

Memorandum of Understanding

Between NLA and MALA

MALA is in strong partnership with the Norwegian Library Association; currently the NLA is sponsoring 30 students at Masters Level in six years, ten students for two years. NLA has also supported the program at Mzuzu University as training institution with learning materials and equipment.

Training

MALA continued to conduct the year long certificate course in Library and Information Science. Most of these school leavers take MALA as their bridging course for the Diploma in Library and Information Science at Mzuzu University's Department of Library and Information Science.

Workshop

MALA organized four workshops on the Library Management System- Koha Integrated Library system and Digitization in 2012 and 2013.

Publications by MALA

The association continues to produce *MALAWI LIBRARY AND INFORMATION JOURNAL and MALA Update*. The Journal, which contains professional articles from members, comes out annually whilst MALA Update is produced every three months.

Website

In order to be visible within and outside the country, MALA has a website which is up and running.

Author of the year Award

MALA continued to be the keeper of the author of the year award money which is supposed to be contributed by each association within the region. Each association is supposed to contribute \$10 per year. So far the amount of money which the Malawi Library Association has in the author of the year bank account is just above \$2500. Again it should be noted that no library association within SCECSAL made its annual contribution of \$10 in six years.

Membership to International Associations

MALA has subscribed to the following professional bodies:

- IFLA
- SCECSAL

Future plans

- Reconstituting regional and sub-committees
- Reviving MALA secretariat
- Constitutional review conference

Challenges

The association has been faced with a number of recurring challenges. The major challenge that we have had to deal with is getting the library and information professional to become active MALA members. This is major hiccup as without membership there is very little that can be achieved.

MALA is not yet registered.

The other major challenge is funding; some activities that the executive committee desire to organize as way of selling the association to its members of the profession and the public are hampered by the lack of funding.

The other challenge that has been facing the association for a while now is lack of office space which makes it difficult to keep the documents of the association safely.