



**National Information Workers Association of Namibia**

**1 May Year 2022 – 31 March Year 2024**

## **REPORT TO SCECSAL GENERAL COUNCIL**

*Namutenya Hamwaalwa  
Chairperson*

*National Information Workers Association of Namibia*

**26 April 2026**

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### **1. INTRODUCTION**

This report summarizes the National Information Workers Association of Namibia's activities from May 1st, 2022, to March 31st, 2024

### **2. CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT**

1. Empowering Library leaders: on 26 May 2022, NIWAN participated in the IFLA Management of Library Associations webinar, presenting on Empowering Library Leaders. The presentation aimed to share the measures that NIWAN implemented to empower library leaders. One of the strategies shared was the utilization of librarians trained through the Strengthening Innovative Library Leaders (SILL) project. The project was implemented by the Namibia Library and Archives Service in partnership with the Mortenson Center for International Library Programs and funded by the Global Libraries Program of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation in 2015.

2. Mental Health (28th June 2022): On June 28th, 2022, NIWAN organized a session to observe how COVID-19 has impacted the mental health of individuals in the country. The session was led by a psychiatrist who provided guidance on how to take care of one's mental health as well as that of their family. The meeting was attended by 45 members.
3. Wikipedia awareness and edit- a-thorn project launch: The Association co-hosted a launch of the project which is being spearheaded by some of the NIWAN members on 22 June 2022, the Wikipedia Awareness and Edit-a-thon Project was launched with the goal of encouraging contributions to Wikipedia from Namibia. Over 50 participants attended the launch
4. Financial Literacy session: In light of the current economic downturn, it has become essential to train our members to become financially literate. The training was conducted on the 21st July 2022 by experts from the Financial Literacy Initiative (FLI), which is a national platform under the Ministry of Finance & Public Enterprises. The initiative is focused on enhancing financial education for individuals and micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises and it was attended by 40 participants.
5. Academic Writing: On 19th August 2022, a training session was organized with the aim to equip the members with the knowledge and tools to guide the students in perfecting their academic writing skills. The session was attended by 35 members.
6. Job seeking techniques and Interview preparations: This session was held on the 13 October 2022 with the aim to prepare members, especially new graduates, with job seeking techniques and interview preparation skills.
7. Students' engagement: On 19<sup>th</sup> October 2022, NIWAN held an engagement event at the University of Namibia to raise awareness about the benefits of joining the association, networking with fellow professionals, and receiving mentoring early in one's career.



*UNAM LIS students*

8. Advocacy: NIWAN Conducted a Session with the Parliamentarians Committee on ICT on the 10th October 2022 to advocate for inclusive and equitable access to information for development, in support of education and knowledge through the establishment and development of libraries and Archives in the country.



*NIWAN Members with Parliamentarian Committee members on ICT*

9. The association conducted various webinars on different topics such as building bridges, crafting our future (23 May 2023), Records as a strategic tools (23 June 2023), exploring innovations and knowledge management Training Course in in collaboration with the International University of Management (IUM), held on the 6<sup>th</sup> of July 2023) and 21 July 2023, respectively, the importance of Library Associations held on the 10 October 2023 in collaboration with IFLA Management of Libraries Association Section.
10. The Chairperson attended IFLA Regional Workshop & Regional Division Committee Meeting for Sub-Saharan Africa in Kenya Nairobi from 16-19 November with a focus: Building a Stronger and More Sustainable Library Field.

### 3. NATIONAL CONFERENCES AND ANNUAL GENERAL MEETINGS

1. Conference: NIWAN co-organised a 2022 Information Science Annual Conference held at UNAM from the 24 - 25 October 2022 under the theme “Digital Transformation and the Management of Information and Knowledge. The aim of the conference was to share ideas, research findings, and deliberate on issues of information technology to improve efficiency and delivery at workplaces. The conference was attended by librarians, archivists and general information professionals from different institutions and it was attended by over hundred participants. Key outcome of the conference is a call to review the National legislatives on libraries and Archives to reflect the industrial transition.
2. General Meetings: NIWAN had an Annual general meeting on 22 November 2023. Key discussion was on the finalization of the review of NIWAN the constitution. The meeting also identified a need to review the Strategic Plan for the Association.

### 4. PARTNERSHIPS/COLLABORATIONS

NIWAN collaborated with UNESCO on the development of the Namibia Archives Application. This application is a digital platform that aims to enhance access to historical records from various archival institutions in Namibia. The App is developed to make archival information from different archival institutions easily accessible and thus highlight the rich documentary heritage being preserved at different institutions.

### 5. MEMBERSHIP

NIWAN has a total number of 54 paid up members as of the 10<sup>th</sup> of April 2024 as per the table below:

<b>Membership Category</b>	<b>Female</b>	<b>Male</b>	<b>Total</b>
Professional members	30	10	40
Honorary members		1	1
Student members	7	6	13
<b>Totals</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>54</b>

There has been a decrease in membership, however, the number is gradually increasing.

## 6. MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Below are the members of the executive committee, the term of these members is ending at the end of April 2024.

Chairperson:	Ms. Namutenya Hamwaalwa:	<a href="mailto:hnamutenya@gmail.com">hnamutenya@gmail.com</a>
Deputy Chairperson	Ms. Foibe Shaambeni	<a href="mailto:fshaambeni@gmail.com">fshaambeni@gmail.com</a>
Secretary	Ms. Rachel Maswahu:	<a href="mailto:brmaswahu@gmail.com">brmaswahu@gmail.com</a>
Deputy Secretary	Ms. Teopolina Shuumbili:	<a href="mailto:tshuumbili@gmail.com">tshuumbili@gmail.com</a>
Treasurer	Ms. Aletta Dunn	<a href="mailto:alettadunn@gmail.com">alettadunn@gmail.com</a>
Additional Member	Ms. Frieda Mwanyangapo	<a href="mailto:fnlukileni@gmail.com">fnlukileni@gmail.com</a>

## 7. OFFICIAL CONTACT ADDRESS

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