THE XXVII SCECSAL CONFERENCE
27 April - 1 May 2026
Avani Victoria Falls Resort | Livingstone, Zambia

Preliminary Conference Programme
Updated: 9 February 2026

Pre-Conference Events

Saturday, 25 April 2026

Time	Pre-Conference Events
09:00 - 13:00	• Pre-Conference Events (TBD)
14:00 - 18:00	• On-Site Registration (Closes at 16:00) • Pre-Conference Events (TBD) • SCECSAL Local Organizing Committee Meeting (16:30 – 18:30)

Sunday, 26 April 2026

Time	Pre-Conference Events
09:00 - 13:00	• On-Site Registration • Pre-Conference Events (TBD)
14:00 - 17:00	• On-Site Registration • Pre-Conference Events (TBD)

Main Conference

Day 1: Monday, 27 April 2026

Time	Onsite Registration
07:30 - 08:30	On-Site Registration
08:00 - 08:30	**Newcomers Session** Room: (TBD) Moderator: **SCECSAL Secretariat**

Time	**Plenary Session 1:** Welcome Session Room: (TBD) Chairperson: (TBD)
08:30 - 08:45	Welcome Remarks: • Chairperson, Organizing Committee • SCECSAL Secretary General • LIAZ President • SCECSAL President • Announcements

08:45- 09:15	**Keynote Address:** *African Libraries and Information Services at the New Crossroads* - **Dr Tuesday Bwalya**, Head-Technical Services Department, University of Zambia Library, **Zambia**
09:15 – 09:45	**Tea/Coffee Break & Networking**

Time	**Plenary Session 2: Libraries, Information Services and Sustainable Development** Room: (TBD) Chairperson: **Dr Charles Banda**, Chief Librarian, University of Zambia
09:45 – 12:15	• *Impact Stories in Support of SDGs: Selected Public Libraries in South Africa* - **Nokuthula Musa**, National Library of South Africa, South Africa; Dr Mpilo S. Mthembu, Department of Information Studies, University of Zululand, South Africa & Dr Siyanda E. Kheswa, Department of Information Studies, University of KwaZulu-Natal, **South Africa** • *Enhancing Environmental Sustainability through Green Library Initiatives: A Case Study of Kawempe Youth Centre and Community Library* - **Amanda Irene Birungi**, Makerere University, Uganda & Dr Sarah Kaddu, Makerere University - College of Computing and Information Sciences, **Uganda** • *Taking Library Services to Rural Underserved Schools in Dedza District Malawi* - **James Kimani**, Book Aid International, **United Kingdom** & Leticia Chinkhumba, Sunnymoney/Solar Aid, Malawi • *Promoting Inclusive Education Through Assistive Technologies and Accessible Digital Textbooks (ADTs): The Role of Academic Libraries in Kenya* - **Dickens Wendo**, National Defence University, **Kenya** • *Unpacking the Empowerment Effects of Telecentres Beyond Users: Evidence from Malawi* - **Sellina Kapondera**, Mzuzu University, **Malawi**; Panteli Niki, Lancaster University, **United Kingdom** & Roberta Bernardi, University of Bristol, **United Kingdom** • *Enhancing Youth Entrepreneurship in Namibia: An Integrated Analysis of Financial Inclusion and Information Access Barriers* - **Pachalo Msiska**, University of Namibia and Dr Chiku Mnubi-Mchombu, University of **Namibia** • *Influence of Social Media on Food Choices of University of Zambia Students: Opportunity for the University Library to Promote Healthy Diet Adoption and Preventive Health Education* - **Dr Pamela A. Marinda**, Saniva Ngoma & Geofrey Maila, Department of Food Science and Nutrition, University of **Zambia** • *The Role of Academic Libraries in Promoting Mental Health to Library Users Through Reading for Pleasure: A Case Study of Aga Khan University Library Tanzania* - **Dr Jackline E. M. Kiwelu**, Aga Khan University, **Tanzania**; Augustine Gitonga, Aga Khan University, **Kenya** & Lilian Jeptoo, Nairobi University, **Kenya**
12:15 -12:45	Open Information Session
12:45 - 13:45	**Lunch Break**

Time	**Plenary Session 3: SDGs and Libraries** Room: (TBD) Chairperson: **Mr. Felix Majawa**, Coordinator for Continuing Professional Development, Mzuzu University, **Malawi**
13:45 – 15:15	**Panel Discussion 1: Advancing the SDGs through Libraries and Information Services in the SCECSAL Region** Room: (TBD) Moderator: (TBD) This panel will focus on how libraries in the SCECSAL region are contributing to advancing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). It will feature presentations of 4-5 short SDG stories from libraries and LIS professionals, followed by a moderated

panel with selected presenters and experts who will discuss lessons, challenges, strategies, and recommendations to strengthen libraries' contributions to sustainable development.

Presentations:

- *Libraries for a Bumper Harvest* - **Namakau Mayungo,** Assistant Librarian, Solwezi Municipal Council, **Zambia**
- *Beyond Retirement: Reconnecting Librarian Wisdom Through WhatsApp for SDG Action* - **Dr Ayanda A. B. Lebele,** Botswana International University of Science & Technology, **Botswana**
- *Bridging the Divide: From One Desktop to Educational Tablet Literacy* - **Famous Simpelwe,** Luapula Provincial Library, **Zambia**
- *Enhancing SDG Discoverability Through Metadata Innovation* - **Marguerite Nel** & **Mxolisi Sokhela,** University of Pretoria, **South Africa** (To be confirmed)

Panelists:

- **Prof. Wales Singini,** Vice Chancellor, Mzuzu University, Malawi
- **Dr Pamela A. Marinda,** Department of Food Science and Nutrition, University of Zambia, Zambia
- **Prof. Kaitano Dube,** Professor of Tourism Geography, Vaal University of Technology **South Africa**
- **Dr Euphrasia Ngandwe,** Chief Librarian, Chalimbana University, Zambia
- **Dr Ayanda A. B. Lebele,** Director of Library Services, Botswana International University of Science and Technology, **Botswana**

15:15 – 15:45	**Tea/Coffee Break & Networking**

Time	**Parallel Session 1: Partnerships, Advocacy, and Strategic Positioning for Sustainable Libraries** Room: (TBD) Chairperson: **Michael Phiri,** Sales and Services Officer, National Savings and Credit Bank, Zambia
15:45 - 17:15	*Zimbabwe Parks and Wildlife Management Authority's Stakeholder Engagement in the Establishment of Libraries in some Rural Schools in Kariba, Zimbabwe* - **Mkhokheli Moyo,** Zimbabwe Parks and Wildlife Management Authority, **Zimbabwe** and Chiedza Linda Chipapami, Zimbabwe Open University, **Zimbabwe** *The Impact of Partnerships on the Promotion of Library and Information Services for Sustainable Communities* - **Dr Lesiba Ledwaba,** University of South Africa and Mpho Masingi, University of **South Africa** *Collaborative Partnerships and the Revitalization of Primary School Libraries in Eswatini: A Multiple-Case Study of Five Donor-Supported Schools* - **Lungile Dlamini,** Eswatini College of Technology, Eswatini; Dr Ntombikayise N. Mathabela, University of Eswatini, Eswatini and Marjorie B. Mavuso, Nazarene Compassionate Ministries Eswatini, **Eswatini** *Response to Crisis and Change: The Botswana International University of Science and Technology (BIUST) Library Strategic Partnerships as Drivers of Library Service Innovation* - **Dr Ayanda Lebele,** Botswana International University of Science and Technology, **Botswana**
17:15	**End of Day 1**

Time	Parallel Session 2: Digital Technologies and Reading Culture Room: (TBD) Chairperson: **Ms. Pauline Namulomba Nchemba**, Librarian and E-Learning Coordinator, Levy Mwanawasa Medical University, **Zambia**
15:45 - 17:15	• *Academic Libraries as Enablers of Open Science of Public Universities in Zambia: A Survey-Based Analysis* - **Inonge Imasiku**, Pilate Chewe & Sarah Gwayi, University of **Zambia** • *Impact of Open Access Publishing on Equitable Access to Scholarly Research in Kenyan Universities* - **Janet Njoora**, St. Paul's University, **Kenya** • *Access to Digital Literacy Technologies Among Marginalised Learners in Namibia* - **Esther Tobias**, & Prof. Dennis N. Ocholla, University of Zululand, **South Africa** • *Remote Access to Digital Resources Using Myloft Remote Access Service at Mzuzu University in Malawi* - **Felix Majawa**, Maloto Chaura, & Fiskani Ngwira, Mzuzu University, **Malawi**
17:15	**End of Day 1**

Time	Parallel Meetings
15:45 - 17:45	SCECSAL Management Board Meeting

Time	Networking Event
19:00 - 20:30	Welcome Cocktail (Venue TBD)

Day 2: Tuesday, 28 April 2026

Time	Plenary Session 4: Partnerships and Libraries Room: (TBD) Chairperson: **Ms. Kaoma Lamba Daka**, Lecturer, Department of Library and Information Science, University of **Zambia**
08:45 - 09:00	• Welcome to Day 2 & Announcements • Open Information Session
09:00 - 10:00	**Panel Discussion 2: Building Partnerships for Sustainable Library and Information Services** Room: (TBD) Moderator: **Dr Buhle Mbambo-Thata**, University Librarian, National University of **Lesotho**
	Panel Discussion: This session will explore how strategic partnerships with government departments, development agencies, NGOs, communities, and the private sector can contribute to strengthening African libraries. It will highlight examples of successful collaborations and lessons learned. A moderated discussion will invite participants to share their experiences and practical strategies for establishing and sustaining impactful partnerships that enhance LIS expertise, reinforce library institutions, and foster supportive policy environments, enabling more effective and efficient library and information services across the continent. Moderator: **Dr Buhle Mbambo**, University Librarian, National University of **Lesotho** **Panelists:**

	• **Julia Gelfand**, 2026 Fulbright Scholar at the Botswana International University of Science & Technology (BIUST) Libraries, **Botswana** • **Gracian Chimwaza, PhD** Executive Director, Information Training & Outreach Centre for Africa (ITOCA), **South Africa** • **Dudziro Nhengu, PhD**, Journal Assessment Officer, AJOL (African Journals Online) • **Mkhokheli Moyo**, Zimbabwe Parks and Wildlife Management Authority, **Zimbabwe**
10:00-10:30	**Tea/Coffee Break & Networking**

Time	**Plenary Session 5: Official Opening Ceremony** Room: (TBD) Master of Ceremony: (TBD)
10:30 - 12:30	Opening Ceremony Programme (TBD) to include: • Guest of Honour Address • Keynote Address 3: *Harnessing AI and Data in African Libraries for Africa's Development* - **Dr Edmund Balnaves**, CEO of Prosentient Systems (**Australia**) and Chair of the Information Technology Section of the International Federation of Library Associations (IFLA) • Group Photo with Guest of Honour • Opening and Tour of Exhibition by Guest of Honour
12:30 - 14:00	**Lunch Break**

Time	**Parallel Session 3: Innovation in Library and Information Service** Room: (TBD) Chairperson: **Ms. Mutinta Nabuyanda**, Librarian, National Institute of Public Administration, Zambia
14:00 - 16:00	• *Redefining Academic Libraries in the Era of Digital Transformation and Disruptive Technologies* - **Prof. Ruth Hoskins** & Haward Hogo, PhD, University of KwaZulu-Natal, **South Africa** • *Embracing Innovation: Transforming Library and Information Service Delivery for the Future* - Diana **Oguna**, University of Kabianga, **Kenya** • *Inclusive Higher Education in Ghana: Are Academic Libraries Leading the Way?* - Dr Diana Atuase, University of Cape Coast, **Ghana** & Dr Joseph Ngoaketsi, University of South Africa, **South Africa** • *Human Libraries as Dynamic Repositories of African Futures* - **Nelly Luyali**, Kenya Medical Training College, **Kenya** & Prof. Tom Kwanya, The Technical University of Kenya, **Kenya** • *Evaluating the Role of Student-Led Knowledge Ambassadors Program in Enhancing Library Utilization. A Case Study of the Ongwediva Campus Library* - **Melba Sitwala**, Jatty Maart, Josef Gabriel, Frans Samuel & Antonius Lukas, International University of Management, **Namibia** • *The Untapped Potential of Mobile Reading Apps in Building a University Reading Culture* - **Azenath Ateka**, United States International University - Africa, **Kenya** & Prof. Tom Kwanya, The Technical University of **Kenya**
16:00 - 16:30	**Tea/Coffee Break and End of Day 2**

Time	Parallel Session 4: Policy and Legal Issues in Libraries and Information Services Room: (TBD) Chairperson: **Dr Chiku Mnubi-Mchombu**, Principal Librarian-Law Subject Librarian, University of Namibia
14:00-15:00	• *Beyond Barriers: A Thematic Analysis of Library Policies for Persons with Disabilities in Selected Higher Education Institutions in Tanzania* - **Agatha Mashindano**, The University of Dodoma, **Tanzania** • *Policy, Legal, and Advocacy Influences on the Sustainability of Libraries and Information Services in Tanzania* - **Dr Grace Msoffe**, The University of Dodoma, **Tanzania** • *Cybersecurity vs Academic Freedom: Balancing Open Access with Zambia's New Cyber Laws* - **Chitundu P. Chisunka** & Prof. Zawedde Nsibirwa, University of KwaZulu-Natal, **South Africa** & Thabiso M. Mwiinga, University of **Zambia**
Time	Parallel Session 5: Knowledge Management in Organisational and Development Contexts Room: (TBD) Chairperson: **Dr Raymond Sikanyika**, Chief Executive Officer, KWILANZI, **Zambia**
15:00-15:45	• Applying Demerest's Modified KM Model and Stankosky and Baldanza's KM Framework in Health Sector NGOs Knowledge Management Research - **James Kimani** & Prof. Dennis Ocholla, University of Zululand, **South Africa** • Knowledge Management Practices for Sustainable Agriculture Development in the Kingdom of Eswatini: The Case for Eswatini Water and Agricultural Development Enterprise - **Mfanaleni Mkhatshwa** & Bukhosi Dlamini, University of **Eswatini**
16:00 - 16:30	**Tea/Coffee Break and End of Day 2**

Day 3: Wednesday, 29 April 2026

Time	Optional Training Sessions and Optional Venue: (TBD)	LIAZ Annual General Meeting Venue: TBD
08:30 - 13:00	• Training Course: *Strengthening Skills, Organizations, and Policy Environments through Capacity Development* • Optional Tours	LIAZ members
13:00 - 14:00	**Lunch Break**	
14:00 - 17:00	• Workshops (TBD) • Optional Tours • Side Events	LIAZ members

Time	SCECSAL Cultural Evening and Awards
19:00 - 22:00 [Arrival: 18:30]	• Cultural Evening Dinner • SCECSAL Excellence Awards Presentations • Rhythms of SCECSAL [*A segment of the Cultural Evening where delegates from participating countries take the stage to share expressions of their national and creative identities. Through cultural or modern dance, poetry, song, or other artistic performances, this segment showcases the diversity, unity, and shared spirit of the SCECSAL community*]

Day 4: Thursday, 30 April 2026

Time	Plenary Session 6: Empowering Libraries, Information Professionals and Users for Transformative Services Room: (TBD) Chairperson: **Dr Sarah Kaddu**, Dean - East Africa School of Library and Information Science (EASLIS), Makerere University, Uganda
08:25 - 08:30	Welcome to Day 4 & Announcements
08:30 - 09:00	Keynote Address: *Strengthening LIS Human Capital in Africa for a Digital Future* - **Prof. Ruth Hoskins**, Dean - Teaching and Leaning, University of KwaZulu-Natal. South Africa
09:00 - 11:00	• *Educating Information Professionals for the Algorithmic Age: AI Integration in LIS Curricula in Eastern and Southern Africa* - **Justin Chisenga**, PhD, AgriFutures Institute, **Zambia** & **Perpetual M. Katsriku**, Research Harvest Initiative, **Ghana** • *University Libraries in Uganda and Tanzania at New Crossroads: Exploring the Research Data Management (RDM) Kwanza Project* - **Robert Buwule**, Mbarara University of Science and Technology, **Uganda**; Neema Florence Mosha, Nelson Mandela African Institute of Science and Technology, **Tanzania**; Marc Goovaerts & Dr Sadia Vancauwenbergh, Hasselt University, **Belgium** • *Assessing the Current State of the NNB: Challenges and Opportunities* - **Hedwich Helrin Meyer**, National Library of **Namibia** • *Generation Z and the Future of Government Ministry Library Services: Bridging Information Access, Governance, and Social Change in Kenya* - **Joash S. Aminga**, Office of the Deputy President, **Kenya** • *Assessing the 21st Century Library and Information Science Core Competencies: A Study of Librarians at Karatina University*, Kenya - **Dr Everlyn Anduvare**, Karatina University, **Kenya** • *Copyright Competencies of Academic Librarians in Sub-Saharan Africa: A Systematic Review* - **Esther Wanyingi**, Augustine Gitonga & Prof. Peter Gatiti, Aga Khan University, **Kenya**
11:00 - 11:30	**Tea/Coffee Break & Networking**

Time	Parallel Session 6: Data, Analytics, and Cybersecurity in Libraries and Information Services Room: (TBD) Chairperson: **Julia Gelfand**, 2026 Fulbright Scholar at the Botswana International University of Science & Technology Libraries (BIUST), Botswana
11:30 - 13:15	• *Bibliometric Analysis of Publications at the Malawi Liverpool Wellcome Programme: Demonstrating Growth in Health Research and Science* - **Teddie Chima**, Malawi Liverpool Wellcome Programme, **Malawi** • *Harnessing Big Data Technologies for Enhanced Resource Management and Informed Decision Making in Academic Libraries* - **Sabbath Kivuva** & Prof. Arnold Mwanzu, Aga Khan University, **Kenya** • *Data Privacy and Information Security in Libraries in Uganda: A Case Study of Uganda Institute of Information and Communication Technology Library* - **Elizabeth Nalunkuma**, Uganda Institute of Information and Communications Technology, **Uganda** • *Data Privacy and Information Security Among Academic Libraries in Africa: A Systematic Review* - **Neema Mosha** & Prof. Patrick Ngulube, University of **South Africa**

	• *Cybersecurity Capacity Building in the Age of Digital Libraries* – **Dr Nkiruka Iwundu**, University of Cape Town, **South Africa**/University of **Nigeria**, Nsukka & Prof. Hussein Suleman, University of Cape Town, **South Africa**
13:15 - 14:15	**Lunch Break**

Time	**Parallel Session 7: Strategic Marketing of Library and Information Services** Room: (TBD) Chairperson: **Ms. Matilda Muchinga Kagele**, Librarian (Public Services & Marketing), University of Zambia
11:30 - 13:15	• *Data Veracity as a Catalyst for Perceived Reliable Library Services Among Graduate Students* - **Aloysius Mwanje**, University at Buffalo, **United States of America** • *Harnessing Traditional and Social Media: A Strategic Approach to Enhancing Visibility and Support for Public Libraries in Namibia* - **Katrina Ndeshipanda Shikuni** & Helena Hainghumbi, Ministry of Education, Innovation, Youth, Sports, Arts and Culture, **Namibia** • *Digital Marketing Strategies and Tools Adopted in Academic Libraries in Zimbabwe* - **Vengesai Garande**, Harare Institute of Technology, **Zimbabwe** • *Marketing Library Services in Health Training Centres: Strategies for Greater Visibility and Use* - **Menete Omagano Petrus**, Ministry of Health and Social Services, **Namibia** • *Strategic Marketing of Library Resources in the Digital Age; A Case Study of the National Library of Namibia* - **Maria Nepolo** & Aina Megameno Sakaria, Namibia Library & Archives Service, **Namibia**
13:15 - 14:15	**Lunch Break**

Time	**Plenary Session 7: Artificial Intelligence and Libraries - Part I** Room: (TBD) Chairperson: **Prof. Peter Gatiti**, Associate Vice Provost and University Librarian, Aga Khan University, **Kenya**
14:15 - 16:30	• *Integrating Intelligent Information Systems in Kenyan TVET Libraries: Redefining Access and Service in the Digital Transformation Era* - **Wilson Wambui**, Kenya National Library Service, **Kenya** & Prof. Tom Kwanya, The Technical University of **Kenya** • *The Ethical Use of Artificial Intelligence in South African Law Libraries: The Role of a Law Librarian* - **Maropene Ramabina**, North-West University, **South Africa**; Anthea Paulsen, University of Cape Town, South Africa; Shadia Alli, Fasken, **South Africa**; Karabo Moleya, Bowmans, **South Africa**; Elisca Coetsee, ENSafrica, South Africa & Hesma Van Tonder, University of the Free State, **South Africa** • *Assessing Artificial Intelligence Readiness for Service Delivery: A Case Study of Mzuzu University Library* - **Shadreck Dzoole**, Mzuzu University, **Malawi** • *Bridging the AI Knowledge Gap: Libraries Leading the Literacy Movement in the Digital Age* - **Darlington Musemburi**, Riverside Senior School, Zimbabwe & Sandra Gorondondo, University of **Zimbabwe** • *Bridging the AI Gap: Perceptions and Readiness for Integrating Artificial Intelligence into Digital Reference Services in Zambian Academic Libraries* - **Thabiso Mwiinga**, Matildah Muchinga, Abel M'kulama, Kaoma Daka & Chitundu P. Chisunka, University of **Zambia** • *Artificial Intelligence Adoption in Libraries: A Necessary Transition? Tanzanian Library and Information Association Perspectives* - **Dr Christian Mubofu**, The Mwalimu Nyerere Memorial Academy, **Tanzania** • *Enhancing AI Literacy Among Library Professionals in Resource-Constrained Academic Environments: A Case Study of the National University of Lesotho* - **Prof. Wole Michael Olatokun** & Lineo Lucia Mafitoe, National University of Lesotho
16:30	**Tea Break and End of Day 4 Activities**

Day 5: Friday, 1 May 2026

Time	Plenary Session 7: Artificial Intelligence and Libraries - Part II Room: (TBD) Chairperson: **Ms. Karen Chitamaluka**, Senior Assistant Librarian, Solwezi Municipal Council, Zambia
08:55 - 09:00	Welcome to Day 5 & Announcements
09:00 - 10:30	**Panel Discussion 3: AI and Library and Information Services in Africa** Room: (TBD) Chairperson: **Ms. Karen Chitamaluka**, Senior Assistant Librarian, Solwezi Municipal Council, Zambia Moderator: **Mr. Ching'embu Kanyiso**, LIS Activist & Registry Officer at Prudential Life Assurance **Zambia** This session will explore how Artificial Intelligence (AI) can transform African libraries and information services by enhancing access, streamlining services, and positioning libraries as hubs of innovation. It will also examine critical challenges and, through interactive discussion, identify fears and concerns while sharing strategies for ethical and inclusive AI adoption. This moderated session will also consider how libraries can leverage AI responsibly to achieve sustainable impact. **Panelists:** • **Dr Edmund Balnaves**, CEO, Prosentient Systems, **Australia** and Chair - Information Technology Section of the International Federation of Library Associations (IFLA) • **Prof. Tom Kwanya**, Department of Information Science, Language and Communication Studies, Technical University of **Kenya** • **Ms. Nokuthula Musa**, Executive Director: Core Programmes, National Library of **South Africa** • **Mr. Wilson Kabucho Wambui**, Head of Facility, Kenya National Library Service, Nakuru Preservation Facility, **Kenya**
10:30 -11:00	**Tea/Coffee Break & Networking**

Time	Plenary Session 9: SCECSAL General Assembly Room: (TBD) Chairperson: **Ms. Jacinta Were,** Independent SCECSAL President, **Kenya**
11:00 - 13:00	SCECSAL General Assembly President [Attendance: Open to All]
Time	**Plenary Session 10:** Closing Session Room: (TBD) Master of Ceremony: (**TBD**)
13:00 - 13:30	Closing Session Programme, to include, among others: • Best Conference Paper Award • Best Paper Presenter Award • Guest of Honour Closing Statement
13:30	**Closing Lunch and End of the Conference**