



# ANNOUNCEMENT OF CONFERENCE & CALL FOR ABSTRACTS FOR PAPERS

## 4<sup>TH</sup> AFLIA CONFERENCE & 6<sup>TH</sup> AFRICAN LIBRARY SUMMIT

AFLIA, is the Library and Information Association for Africa, with a mandate to among others, improve libraries and information centers, and equip library and information personnel with 21st century knowledge and skills that will enable them to offer cutting edge needful modern services to people on the African continent for improved lives.

AFLIA will hold its 4<sup>th</sup> Conference and 6<sup>th</sup> African Libraries Summit for:

LIS practitioners in all Library types

LIS educators

LIS policy makers

Organizations and Professionals working in partnership with African libraries

**Theme:** Fourth Industrial Revolution, Sustainable Development and African Libraries

### Sub-themes:

- 4IR, Libraries and development Initiatives in Africa
- COVID-19 and other pandemics realities and 4IR in Africa
- Open Science adoption in Africa
- Opening up data and knowledge for 4IR integration in Africa
- Open Educational Resources (OER); possibilities and pathways
- Research Data Management in Africa for 4IR
- Open repositories and liberalisation of knowledge for sustainable development
- Creative Commons, Public Domain, Copyright Limitations, Exceptions and opening up knowledge in Africa
- Open Licensing, creativity and knowledge production in Africa
- Machine learning, information ethics and 4IR
- Artificial Intelligence, robotics and information provision
- Cloud computing, Internet of Things and 4IR in Africa
- Essential literacies for 4IR
- Libraries and Smart Cities

- Fake Science, Fake news and development in Africa
- Algorithms, equity and access to information
- Futuristic and Innovative Thinking for sustainable development; roles of libraries
- Bridging the challenges of digital literacy, Internet access and device-poor households
- De-colonisation of knowledge for 4IR
- Libraries as spaces for innovative technology start-ups

## Expected Outcomes

It is expected that by the end of the Conference and Summit, participants would have been able to:

- ✓ Understand the different strands and possibilities of 4IR as well as how libraries fit into knowledge creation, dissemination and innovativeness needed to drive the revolution in Africa.
- ✓ Know what and how to provide as access and use of information before, during and after unexpected pandemics.
- ✓ Expand their knowledge as pertains to the roles librarians play in ensuring that information ethics is promoted and adhered to as the possibilities of machines that read, write and analyze information make inroads into Africa and the world.
- ✓ Rethink library spaces and information services that would engender innovative thinking and start-ups.
- ✓ Have enhanced capacity in driving the Openness movement that will boost the availability of knowledge and data in online spaces without algorithmic biases.
- ✓ Comprehend and lead knowledge creation campaigns through Creative Commons modules including Open Licensing and robust Copyright Limitations and Exceptions for Africa.
- ✓ Be equipped to propagate and assist Africans to acquire the necessary literacies and thinking skills for the 4IR.

## Important Dates (Deadlines)

### Papers

Submission of Abstracts for papers - 15<sup>th</sup> October 2020

Notification of Acceptance/Rejection - 15<sup>th</sup> December 2020

Submission of full papers - 15<sup>th</sup> March 2021

Submission of presentation slides (PowerPoint) - 15<sup>th</sup> April 2021

### Posters

Submission of description for Posters – 15<sup>th</sup> November 2020

Notification of Acceptance/Rejection – 31<sup>st</sup> December 2020

Submission of the representation(picture) of full poster – 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021

### Ignite Talks

Submission of description for Ignite Talks – 15<sup>th</sup> December 2020

Notification of Acceptance/Rejection – 15<sup>th</sup> January 2021

Submission of presentation slides (PowerPoint) – 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021

### Big Ideas Podium

Description for Big Ideas Podium – 15<sup>th</sup> December 2020

Notification of Acceptance/Rejection – 15<sup>th</sup> February 2021

Submission of full presentation - 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021

## **Guidelines for Submission of Proposals for Presentations**

AfLIA as the trusted voice for African Library sector wishes to guide librarians to ensure that quality presentations are made at the conference. Here are the guidelines to assist you with preparing your paper proposal and presentations.

### **Submission Guidelines**

#### **\*\*\* Plagiarism Check**

Taking credit for another person's work is inappropriate and a criminal offence. AfLIA expects librarians and all authors to give due credit to all sources quoted and used in their papers. Plagiarized works will not be accepted and may incur penalties.

#### **1. Papers**

##### **a. Requirements and Format**

Proposals must address the theme and sub-themes and could be written in English, French or Portuguese. It must be an original work of the speaker(s) and must include:

Title of proposed paper.

Name(s) of speaker(s).

Official Title of speaker(s) or Professional role.

Speaker's institutional affiliation, if any.

Speaker(s) e-mail address, telephone/fax numbers.

Abstract of the proposed paper.

Short professional profile (five lines) of speaker(s).

Completed papers (10 -12 pages) should be scholarly, organized with clear logical presentation of ideas, arguments and points, proof-read and copy edited before submission for review.

## **b. Abstract**

- Identify the area(s) of interest in the theme and subthemes of the AfLIA conference. Ensure that you have a clear understanding of the chosen area(s). This will assist you to think and search coherently with the appropriate keywords for knowledge and information on the area(s).
- The abstract should be a minimum of 350 words and should not exceed 500 words.
- The abstract should not make references to other works.
- The main constituents of the abstract should not have been presented in any other conference or previously published online or offline.
- The abstract should be made up of the objectives/scope of the paper proposal; methods and procedures/process of investigation/research where applicable; results; observations; conclusions; and recommendations.
- The inclusion of at least four keywords is mandatory.

## **c. Technical details**

- Only Microsoft Word documents will be accepted for review. Papers in other formats will be sent back.
- Use 12pt, Times New Roman font.
- Maintain 1.5 line spacing within paragraphs and 2.0 spacing between paragraphs.
- First line of each new paragraph should be indented.
- No insertion of headers or footers.
- Ensure that all sources referred to or quoted in the body of the paper are listed in the references section and vice versa.

## d. PowerPoint presentation

AfLIA expects PowerPoint slides that highlight key points with appropriate visuals and are not overly crowded with words.

- Each paper is expected to have 12 -15 slides maximum.
- Slides should be done in Baskerville Old Face 36pt.
- No slide should have more than 35 words.
- Copied visuals must be attributed in small print.

## 2. Posters

There will be a Poster session at the Conference/Summit.

Poster Proposals must address the main theme or sub-themes and could be written in English, French or Portuguese. To submit a proposal to participate in the Poster Session, please provide the following information:

- Presenter's name, institution and email
- Poster title
- Poster description (limit 200 words)
- Goal(s)
- Target audience
- Theme of Poster

The topic could be described on a printed poster or by photographs, graphics and pieces of text that are attached to graphics or photographs. Poster presenters are expected to be present to explain their posters and to hand out leaflets, or other information materials, they have available for viewers.

Each presenter can therefore present only ONE poster.

**TIPS FOR A GOOD POSTER** - Present new ideas or present an application of technology; Have a clear library relevance or perspective geared towards either of the themes; Describe a project that is ongoing or near completion, not one that is yet to start.

## 3. Ignite Talks

Opportunities will be given for participants to share short, sharp, passionate, insightful, inspiring 6 minutes Ignite Talks on the 'what, how, why and when' as pertains to the theme and subthemes of the conference. These Talks must be accompanied with related, meaningful and impactful visuals (PowerPoint, Spark Adobe, Canva or video clips).

To submit a proposal to present an Ignite Talk, please provide the following information:

- Presenter's name, institution and email
- Ignite Talk title
- The subtheme it addresses
- Ignite Talk description (limit 150 words)
- A short video (not more than 10MB) of the presentation (optional)

### **Furthermore...**

The full and final presentation must not exceed **4 slides** in timed automatic sequence. Links to videos might be embedded in the slides, however the entire presentation must not go beyond 6 minutes. Endeavour for each slide to have meaningful pictorial content.

## **4. Big Ideas Podium**

Big Ideas on how Libraries can drive the integration of 4IR in Africa; or amazing issues about 4IR with compelling arguments that you would want to share. The Big Ideas Podium is for innovative and creative thinkers in the profession who can stir others up and help the Africa Library sector see the future of libraries as pertains to the 4IR.

**Note:** It requires librarians with artistry in the spoken word - fluency, poetical, dramatic and thought-provoking cadence/delivery.

To submit a proposal to present on Big Ideas Podium, please provide the following information:

- Presenter's name, institution and email
- Big Ideas title
- The subtheme it addresses
- Big Ideas description -100 words limit that must be accompanied with audio/spoken clip (3minutes maximum)

The full and final presentation must not exceed **550 words**. PowerPoint slides will not be required. Big Ideas presenters will rehearse exhaustively with the conference organizers at the venue before their presentations.

## **5. Submission of Proposals**

Please email your proposal and all other enquiries to [programofficer@afia.net](mailto:programofficer@afia.net) with a copy to [secretariat@afia.net](mailto:secretariat@afia.net).

## 6. Changes, Cancellations, Withdrawals

AfLIA views the submission of abstracts for papers and descriptions for posters/Ignite Talks/Big Ideas podium as commitment to register and be present at the 2021 Conference. Nevertheless, if there are situations that prevent the author(s) from being present, it is incumbent on such person(s) to make alternative arrangements for the presentation and communicate such in writing to the AfLIA Secretariat [secretariat@afia.net](mailto:secretariat@afia.net) ; with a copy to [programofficer@afia.net](mailto:programofficer@afia.net) at least 6 weeks before the conference.