2023
ANNUAL REPORT

AfLIA

African Library & Information Associations & Institutions

AfLIA

Connecting Africa's Library and Information Communities

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From the Executive Director

The African Library and Information Associations and Institutions (AfLIA) in 2023 continued its work and was able to hold a hybrid face-to-face and virtual conference, for the first time after the Covid-19 pandemic, bringing back our networking which we missed very much. In addition, we continued the innovative ways to serve our members which we discovered when the pandemic happened. We thought outside of the box then and found out what we could do more, outside of face-to-face training or meetings. The new areas we ventured into have opened newer grounds we can use to enhance the capacity of our members and users to serve their communities better. These have been very useful innovations.

Within this year we brought on some new partnerships to assist AfLIA deliver on its mandate. We continued to respond to some relevant calls for funding proposals, the outcomes of which we are still waiting for.

Time flies. AfLIA celebrated its 10 years of existence in May 2023 as part of its conference. We welcomed and swore in our newly elected Officers for the 2023-2025 term, a new Governing Council, in May, and they have already started working earnestly.

Our appreciation goes to the Governing Council members, old and new and active partners, membership and the focused and hardworking AfLIA staff.

AfLIA is poised to add on new service areas as requested by our members and then bring in more innovative services as it begins its next decade.

Helena Asamoah-Hassan, PhD
Executive Director

Who We Are

AfLIA is an independent international not-for-profit organization, which pursues the interests of library and information associations, library and information services, librarians and information workers and the communities they serve in Africa.

Our Vision

The trusted voice of the African library and information community in Africa's development.

Our Mission

To lead, empower and be a platform for the library and information community to actively promote and drive development agenda through dynamic and innovative services to transform livelihoods in Africa.

Our Values

AfLIA has the following as its core values:

- Professionalism and Inclusivity
- Integrity, Transparency & Accountability
- Innovation & Creativity
- User focused
- Information as a Human Right

Where We Work

AfLIA is a pan-African association so its area of work is the whole geographic area known as Africa including its islands.

What We Do

- Advocacy for freedom and equitable access to information through improved facilities and human capacity of libraries, for individual and national development in Africa.
- Support human, organizational and infrastructural development of the library and information profession and services by building capacity through training to offer relevant services to communities.
- Pursue partnerships and collaboration by forging and maintaining links with other relevant organizations and associations for mutual benefits and also for those of the African people through libraries.
- Advocacy with governments and agencies - favourable library policies to be included in National Development Policy.
- Position libraries as information centres and partners on the national and global development agenda.
- Mobilise resources to support library projects and membership services in Africa.
- Organise fora for knowledge sharing and networking for librarians in Africa to support improved library and information service delivery.

We do all these with the cooperation of National Governments, National Library Associations, the different types of Libraries in Africa and our partners.

Summary of Objectives

- **Support and strengthen:**
    - Support the library and information profession that anticipates and responds to the needs of communities in Africa.
    - Drive high standards in library and information services and professional practices in Africa.
- **Visibility & advocacy:**
    - Promote libraries and information centres as vital institutions that enhance people's lives through equitable access to knowledge, information and innovative services
    - Put the library and information profession on the national and continental agendas.
- **Free access to information:**
    - Embrace the principles of freedom of access to information… enshrined in the Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and Article 9 of the African Charter of People's Rights.

Our Activities in 2023

Membership

Currently, AfLIA has members in 40 out of the 54 countries of Africa and is actively working to expand membership to the rest of the Continent. On, and on, we march towards covering all countries in Africa. After every webinar, seminar or conference an invitation to be AfLIA members are sent directly to the persons on the participant list.

Communications

The Communications Team continued to maintain a high level of professionalism and creativity in producing content promptly for the benefit of member institutions and other stakeholders. It is important to note that content produced on the website was not only restricted to AfLIA but also content from member institutions, strategic partners and other sources, once approved by the Executive Director.

Activities of the Communications Office focused on building on the significant strides made in building a world-class AfLIA brand. It continued to work closely with other departments – Training and Capacity Building, Membership, Resource Mobilization, Programs and Projects - to implement activities and disseminate news and information about the Association through our established channels and tools, i.e. website, newsletters and social media.

Newsletters and News Alerts
The AfLIA Newsletter and News Alerts remain important communication tools for sharing news and updates about AfLIA, news and updates relating to the LIS profession, ongoing and upcoming events, scholarships and funding opportunities, as well as information on resources.

Each month, at least two news alerts were created and disseminated to member institutions, and AfLIA's general mailing list.

These newsletters contained brief updates including urgent announcements, information on upcoming events, scholarships, fellowships and other CPD opportunities, summary of past events useful for those who missed the live sessions, as well as targeted information for Sections of AfLIA, donors etc.

Website

The AfLIA website (https://web.aflia.net/) is the principal source for disseminating our news and information. The Communications desk managed the AfLIA website on an ongoing basis. News, events, announcements, scholarship opportunities, reports, statements, library stories and other blogs related to the AfLIA, African Library sector and the global library space were published and made accessible to the general public.

On the average, the website received 456,000 requests (hits), 21,750 unique visitors, 4000 requested files **per month**. In 2023, the AfLIA website was mainly accessed from Africa (33.5%), North America (29.6%), Asia (20.1%) Europe (16.1%) and 0.7% from South America and Oceania. News, events, blogs, reports and other communications shared on the AfLIA website saw an overall increase of 25% in traffic compared to 2022.

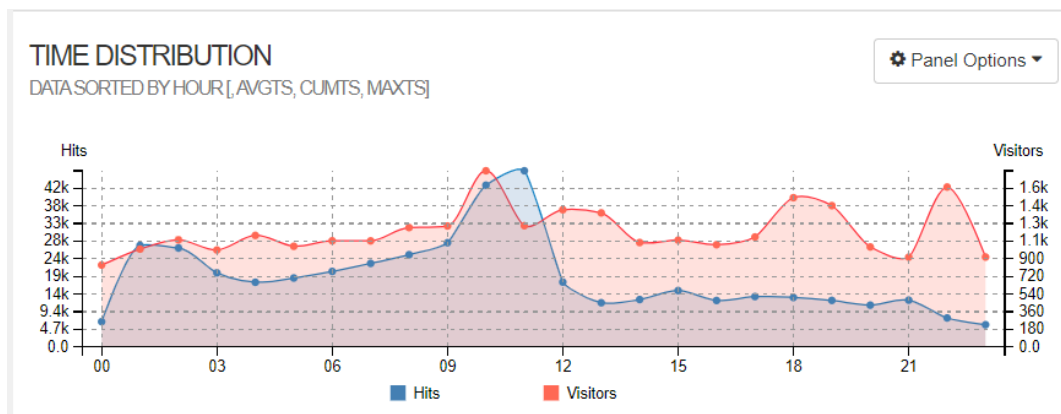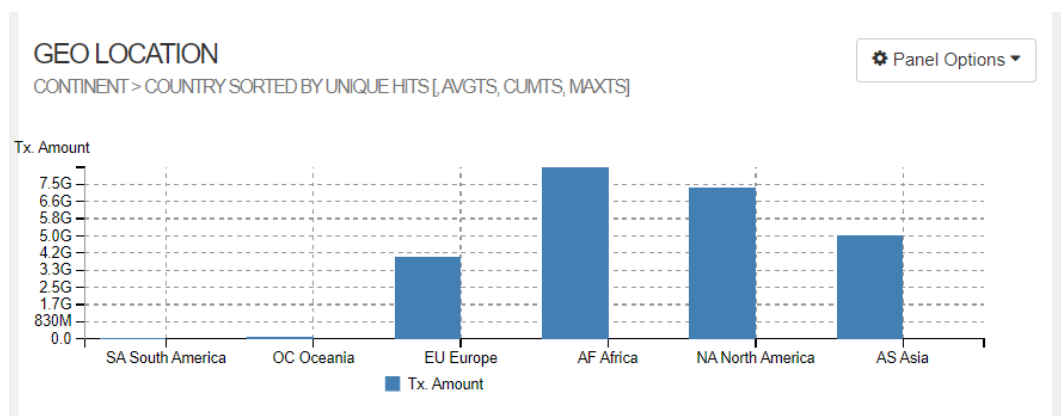**Fig 1: Average time spent on website per hits and visitors**

Fig 2: AfLIA Website access by location

Social media - Facebook, Twitter and YouTube

Throughout 2023, at least, three posts were made every week on our social media platforms (Facebook and Twitter). Every news article, event, blog post or other official publication (reports, statements, resources, etc.) published on the website was cross-promoted on AfLIA's Facebook and Twitter handles. Our social media posts included customized artwork (images) which enhanced online engagements on our socials. Hashtags were also used as part of most posts to strategically improve traffic to our posts.

An assessment of the traffic sources to the website reveals that the majority of our audience accesses the website via posts made on AfLIA's social media portals.

AfLIA's YouTube Channel hosts recordings of our webinars to provide opportunities for continuous learning and engagement through knowledge and resources shared via the webinars.

As of the end of 2023, our YouTube channel gained 116 new subscribers, representing a 40% increase compared to 2022, with approximately 5000 views and 18,000 impressions, representing a 6% improvement relative to last year.

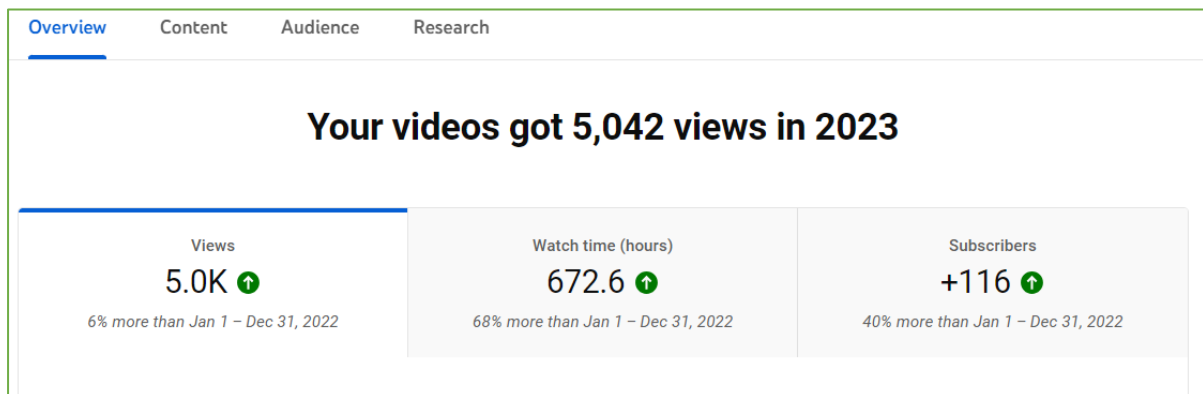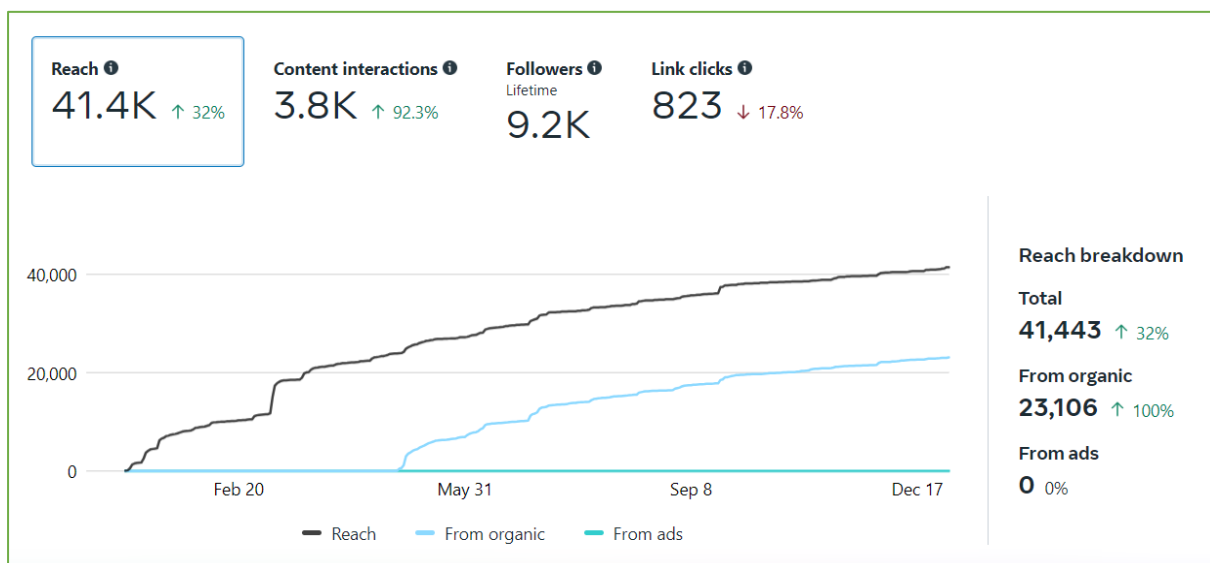**Fig 3: Channel analytics for AfLIA YouTube**

Fig 4: AfLIA Facebook Analytics for 2023

The AfLIA Wikidata Online Course Project

AfLIA runs the Wikidata course titled **Promoting Open Knowledge Practices in African Libraries through Wikidata**. The project targeted Librarians across the African continent. The purpose was to enhance the visibility of library collection, promote usability and contribute to the global access to information enshrined in the UN2030 agenda. There were two **English cohorts and a French cohort** to ensure inclusivity of all languages in Africa. The project also focused on creating awareness of the importance of open knowledge and building the capacity of librarians in Africa. In addition, a pre-conference workshop was organized to establish networking and collaboration among Librarians and the Wikimedia community across Africa and beyond.

The AfLIA Wikidata Online Course consisted of two cohorts, each lasting between 8-10 weeks. Participants in each cohort were required to attend or view a minimum of four live training sessions or session recordings, actively engage in at least four live learning circle sessions, submit all assignments, complete all training modules, and create a minimum of 15 items on a self-selected topic on Wikidata. Among the respondents to the evaluation survey, 53.8% belonged to Cohort 2, while 37.1% were from Cohort 1. Notably, 9.1% participated in both cohorts. To enhance course completion, Cohort 1 participants who had not met the course requirements were allowed to join Cohort 2 and finish the course.

Webinars

The following webinars were held:

- The African Librarysites platform: Officially Launch & Orientation from 7th - 9th February 2023.
- Openness, the public good and African librarians - Thursday, 23rd February, 2023

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- The IFLA Guidelines for Professional LIS Education Programmes: Consideration and Application in Africa - 22 May 2023
- AfLibWk 4.0 webinar series: African knowledge to the world 14-26 May 2023
- Conversations on UNESCO OER Recommendation and Open Knowledge: An overview for African librarians on 16th and 17th August 2023
- International Literacy Day celebration on 8th September 2023 webinar titled *Promoting literacy through community engagement for the African community and public libraries* to celebrate the International Literacy Day was held **on 8th September 2023.** The resource persons were the officers of the Public and Community Libraries Section, AfLIA. The webinar can be accessed through this link on AfLIA's YouTube channel - https://youtu.be/pcRTs9Gyxso?si=RUrzxGTFpaqnCio
- Conversations on how librarians can open up and celebrate African traditional knowledge, 4-5 October 2023. Another outcome of the AfLIA and OER Africa MoU was a webinar on how African traditional knowledge and local history, in the form of living documents and vibrant oral traditions, can be opened up to the world, and made available via open licenses. The recordings of the webinars are on AfLIA's YouTube channel and can be accessed through this link - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T94ttC0-A4E
- AI and Library & Information Science Education and Practice in Africa on Wednesday, 25th October 2023

Liaison & Activities with Sections

There were contacts and meetings held with Presidents of Library Associations, Heads of Library Sections of AfLIA, Graduates of AfLIA programs, Governing Council members as well as some librarians.

1. Links with Presidents of National Library Associations were to collect the current list of new Executives of National Library Associations to update the existing list with AfLIA for easy communication between AfLIA and the various Associations. This is to also forestall the situation where some Immediate Past Presidents forget to inform AfLIA when their terms of office elapse and a new Team comes in.

2. Links were also made with the various Executive officers of the Library Sections and the Regional Representatives on their activities for the year and also to ensure that they report their activities to the AfLIA Secretariat. Duties and responsibilities for the various positions within the AfLIA Library Sections and Regional Representatives were sent to them to make their work easy. Three out of the seven (7) Sections were able to conduct activities as follows:

3. Library Education & Training Institutions Section – LETIS: organized a webinar entitled AI and Library & Information Science Education and Practice in Africa for its members on 25th October 2023.

4. The Public and Community Libraries Section celebrated International Literacy Day by organizing a panel discussion on the topic "Promoting Literacy through Community Engagements" for African Public and Community Libraries on 8th September 2023.

5. The Academic Library and Library Consortium Section also organized a webinar on the role of Academic Libraries in the adoption and use of open educational resources. Participants were introduced to OER copyright and licensing roles of Academic Libraries, the benefits and challenges of adopting OER, as well as how libraries can advocate for OER in their universities.

AfLIA Homecoming

The team organized a three-day homecoming from 5-7 December for AfLIA Leadership Academy and INELI Alumni.

- The theme for the 2023 AfLAc homecoming was **Library Leaders of today and tomorrow**. The event was held online on 5th December 2023 and consisted of three presentations, a breakout session to enable members to share ideas on what is next for AfLAc, networking and also a plan for 2024. In all 20 participants were in attendance.

- The theme for the 2023 INELI-SSAf homecoming was **See how far we have come**. The event was held online from 6th to 7th December 2023, with presentations. Graduates from Cohorts 1 to 2 were all invited to the event to share their experiences after graduating from the course and to also find out the impact they are making on their communities. Participants during the breakout session discussed topics like **Adventures with what INELI taught me**; **What Next and a plan for 2024**. The feedback indicated that almost all the participants who attended the homecoming had progressed in their various workplaces after the INELI training.

Monthly Activities

January 2023

- AfLIA Wikidata Online Course project- The project team reviewed and finalized course content. uploaded to Moodle (AfLIA Training platform) for Cohort 1.

- Preparations towards setting up of AfLIA Conference repository begun. In collaboration with the IT Officer and Figshare, a suitable MoU was developed to facilitate a partnership between AfLIA and Figshare to provide free online repository hosting services for AfLIA conference proceedings.

- African Librarysites was launched - Coordinated the launch of the African Librarysites, the platform for the continental source of consolidated library location data for development. Three orientation sessions (English, French and Portuguese) were organised to sensitize and develop the capacity of African Librarians on how to use the

African Librarysites platform to enhance the visibility of their libraries. Review, validation and approval of data submissions on the platform is ongoing.

African Librarysites platform URL – https://africanlibrarysites.org/
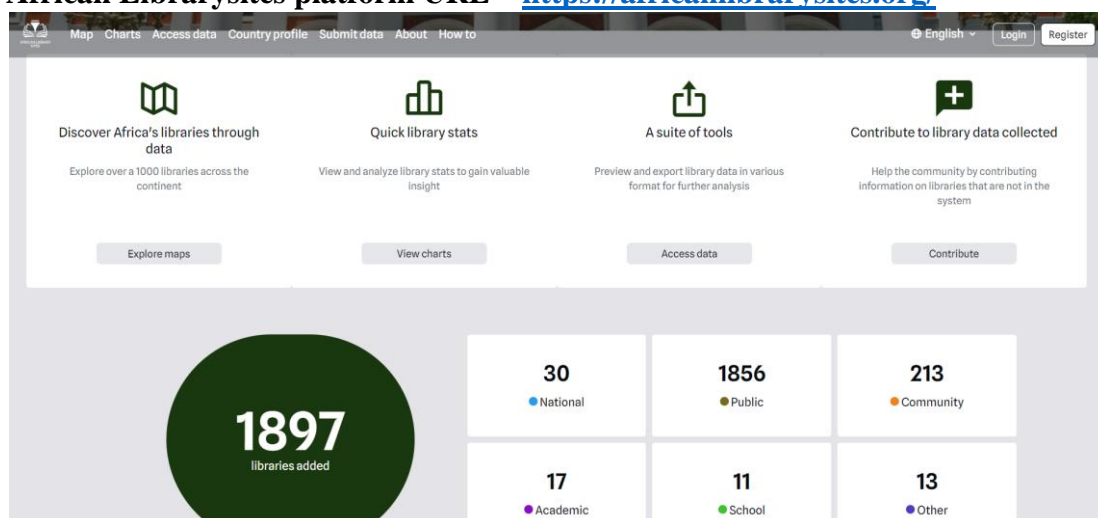
- The AfLIA Conference was announced and the registration portal was opened after a standalone conference and registration platform with all the necessary information about the conference for delegates and exhibitors had been developed. The website provided information such as the program schedule for the conference, pre and post-conference workshops, travel and accommodation information, conference registration, information for exhibitors and attendees.

- On 10th January, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed between AfLIA and OER Africa to among other things;

- provide opportunities for joint investigation of potential applications of open licensing to advance the objective of professional development and training in libraries and library institutions in Africa
- Lead African library and information science professionals to understand the differences and similarities between OER, OA, open knowledge, and open data and explore how these concepts can add value to the roles and functions of African librarians.
- Develop comprehensive continuous professional development (CPD) frameworks for University Senior Managers, Academics, and Academic Librarians, focused on supporting the implementation of effective OER practices at African universities and libraries

The MoU has birthed an Openness course as AfLIA worked with staff from OER Africa to develop the course which has five modules on

- What is Openness
- Copyright and Open licenses
- Open content and OER
- Open Access journals

- Open Science and Open Data

The course is already on AfLIA's Moodle platform. It will be piloted from 24th January 2024. Participants have already been recruited.

- AfLIA celebrated the 2023 World Read Aloud Day on 31st January with a webinar titled; *African stories to the world*. The activity was shared widely through a blog post in the early learning resource network - https://www.earlylearningresourcenetwork.org/blog/world-read-aloud-day-23-africa-got-here-first-0

February 2023
- SPARC Africa monthly meetings began.
- AfLIA Figshare MoU was signed
- A webinar titled Openness, the Public Good and African Librarians was organized on 23rd February to answer those questions and more. https://web.aflia.net/webinar-openness-the-public-good-and-african-librarians/ The webinar was borne out of the AfLIA's MoU with OER Africa.
- The second Cohort of the Early Literacy Development course was concluded on the 24th.
- An extension of the Wikidata course (extra funds and time) was applied for.

March 2023
- An article announcing AfLIA's strategic partnership with Figshare to host the AfLIA conference repository published on the AfLIA website
- African Librarysites platform- Ongoing review, validation and approval of data submissions on the platform.
- Graphics were created on Canva for the 2023 International Women's Day celebration which was celebrated on March 8th. The views of women librarians were sought as pertains to the theme of the Day: *DigitAll – Innovation and Technology for gender equality*. This saved AfLIA the cost of taking on graphic artists. The posters were all shared through AfLIA's social media handles as a way of promoting AfLIA and African libraries.

April 2023

- AfLIA celebrated World Book Day on April 23rd with a virtual reading session of a book– *A mouse in the house* from Storyweaver with KNLS, Nakuru, Kenya and Ghana Library Authority. The activity was recorded and uploaded on YouTube and can be accessed here - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=665jNxTeYdk&t=86s
- Webinar: **How can AI assist African Librarians**- The presentation highlighted the general issues of awareness, perception, adoption and the implications of AI on African library education, research and service delivery. This was one of the outcomes of the AfLIA and OER Africa MoU where a panel discussed and examined the role of Artificial Intelligence in libraries and how African librarians can begin to key into AI. It was held on **24th April, 2023.** It was recorded and uploaded to AfLIA's YouTube channel and can be accessed through this link - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cLZ_BPUL-Us
- Library Publishing Workshop – concept note for a training workshop for funding from Hewlett Foundation finalised and registration of applicants for the workshop. In collaboration with the SPARC Africa Management Committee, the program schedule for the Library Publishing Workshop was developed and finalised.

May 2023

- The *African Knowledge to the World* webinar series had **5 webinars held from 17ᵗʰ April – 10ᵗʰ May 2023** to get African librarians ready for the 2023 African Librarians Week. The details are captured here - https://web.aflia.net/aflibwk-4-0-webinar-series-african-knowledge-to-the-world/ .
- Two hundred and sixty librarians registered to participate in adding knowledge and references to Wikipedia and sister projects. Details of the activities of African Librarians during the week are aptly recorded and are available at:

https://outreachdashboard.wmflabs.org/courses/AfLIA/African_Librarians_Week_2023_-_AfLibWk_4.0_1Lib1Ref_(May_2023)?enroll=

- **African Librarians Week 2023 (AfLibWk 4.0) -** African Librarians Week (AfLibWk 4.0) was held from 14 – 26 May 2023. It was the 4ᵗʰ event organized since 2020 with the theme '**African Knowledge to the World'**. The purpose of the event was to help fill the gaps in African knowledge content on Wikidata and add authentic sources to articles on Africa that required citation. The team realized that much of the data on Wikidata and its sister projects were not captured by Africans, it was, therefore, a necessity for Africans to get on board and strengthen the narratives on Africa to reflect what exists.

  Prior to the event, the existing champions were contacted to recruit and train other Librarians in their countries on editing and adding citations to articles. The training was organized for the new Champions to help them better understand the various clauses on Wikipedia and its sister projects. Both the existing and newly recruited champions were trained on Wikidata to edit and add African items to the repository. In addition, training for French-speaking countries was organised. Participants added content, created articles and added missing references to existing articles on Africa in the online encyclopedia. In all Two hundred and forty six (246) African Librarians contributed to Wikipedia by adding the following:

2023 AfLibWk Statistics

Articles Edited	2.59K
Articles Created	797
Student Editors	206
References Added	2.89K
Words Added	880K
Article Views	1.32M
Commons Uploads	270
Total Edits	14K

- Following this, Wikimedia Foundation and Wikipedia Library offered shopping vouchers as prizes ranging from $100 to $30 for the five topmost contributors (1st Prize – $100, 2nd Prize – $70, 3rd Prize – $50, 4th and 5th Prizes – $30). The awardees were

to use their vouchers to buy any Wikipedia paraphernalia and souvenirs from the Wikipedia online Store.

In addition, the top 30 contributors received special **Certificates of Excellence** whereas every other participant who contributed at least 25 citations/references to Wikipedia during the campaign, also received Certificates of Participation. Participants confirmed that the program offered them the opportunity to understand the difference between Wikimedia projects especially between Wikipedia and Wikidata. With continuous training on Wikidata and Wikipedia participants (librarians) are gradually changing their perception of Wikimedia projects. Some participants had the opportunity to contribute by creating new articles and items, editing articles and adding references on both Wikipedia and Wikidata for the first time. The event has helped to bridge the digital divide gap that existed.

AfLIA Conference

Introduction

The **5th AfLIA Conference and 7th African Library Summit**, the most anticipated library conference in Africa after the COVID pandemic – AfLIACon2023 was held in-person and virtually from 22-26 May at Erata Hotel in Accra, Ghana and it was very successful. There were over 100 participants from 20 countries across the globe in attendance.

Two pre-conference workshops organized by Wikimedia Foundation and IFLA Africa Section preceded to main conference. The workshops offered Librarians the opportunity to gain an understanding of how Wikidata works. It also exposed the LIS Community to the IFLA Guidelines for Professional LIS Education Programs. The Conference is the biggest forum for LIS professionals and practitioners in Africa to share thought-provoking and insightful ideas through paper and poster presentations. The main theme for the conference was '**Future of learning, libraries and sustainable development in Africa'** with 15 sub-themes to give librarians irrespective of the library type the opportunity to participate. There were 23 papers, 4 ignite talks and 6 poster presentations.

It brought together distinguished library practitioners, library educators, National librarians, and National Library Association officers as well as stakeholders in the book and knowledge sector from Botswana, Cameroon, Eswatini, Ethiopia, Gambia, Ghana, Israel, Kenya, Mexico, Mozambique, Namibia, Nigeria, Rwanda, South Africa, Tanzania, Uganda, UK, USA, and Zambia to exchange data, ideas and share solutions to advance knowledge in the library and information science sector towards achieving sustainable development in Africa. It was a busy week of unending insight-sharing, engaging discussions, thought-provoking presentations, and fun-packed networking activities.

Pre-Conferences

Before the main conference, two pre-conferences were held. The first was a physical training on Wikidata, which gave librarians hands-on practice on how to make libraries visible using wikidata as a platform, at the conference venue. The second training was a hybrid webinar on the IFLA Guidelines for Professional LIS Education Programs: Consideration and Application in Africa, specifically for the Library Education and Training Section members.

Main Conference Opening Ceremony

Inspiring and heart-warming speeches characterized the opening ceremony. It was chaired by Dr. John Tsebe while Hon. Yaw Osei Adutwum, the Minister of Education represented by his Deputy Minister Rev. Ntim Fordjour declared the conference open. The keynote address was given by Mr. Hayford Siaw, the Executive Director of the Ghana Library Authority. He highlighted the interconnections between libraries, learning and sustainable development in Africa.

Main Conference

The conference provided an opportunity for participants to:

- have a general overview of how AfLIA as the continent's voice for the library sector is working on fitting African librarians into the future of learning through their various training programs that are geared at continuous capacity development for these professionals.

- share their insights, research findings, and practical experiences through thought-provoking presentations and discussions on openness and knowledge as a common good and the critical role that this concept plays in how education and learning in Africa can be more equitable, relevant, inclusive, and available to everyone where they are. Particular attention was paid to the UNESCO OER Recommendation and a draft toolkit for African librarians on how to engage with the document.

  The participants' understanding was enriched and broadened on the different perspectives of the use of indigenous languages for learning and knowledge creation including translation of storybooks for children on an open platform as a pathway for decolonization of education and knowledge.

- have meaningful dialogue on how different library types support e-learning at various levels of education as well as how the curricula in African Library schools can be adjusted to ensure that African librarians continue to perform this role given the constant technological changes and innovations in the knowledge and education sector. A clearer understanding of how libraries can be empowered to lead in driving the development of STEAM education as a salient aspect of the future of learning was acquired.

- better understand the role of Wikimedia projects in promoting visibility and external identifiers for authority control for African library collections and broadening the skill set of African librarians in collaborative digital content creation, open linked data, and use of online resources for information provision. Innovative services that showcase what African libraries of different types are doing concerning inclusive and quality learning were also highlighted especially within the poster session.

The conference was also used to celebrate AfLIA's 10th anniversary and the launch of a Festschrift in honour of Dr. Helena Asamoah-Hassan, the Executive Director of AfLIA. The Festschrift, is edited by Prof. Ismail Abdulahi and Dr. Victoria Okojie. Prof. Perpetua Dadzie, the Immediate Past Librarian of the University of Ghana, launched it.

As part of the 10th anniversary, awards were given to the pioneers of AfLIA for their immense support and contributions to the association. The former 2nd lady of Ghana Mrs. Matilda Amissah, herself a professional librarian presented the awards to the awardees on behalf of AfLIA.

Members also had the opportunity to visit the newly constructed AfLIA Secretariat. The conference also featured meetings of the different AfLIA Sections as they strategized on further engagements for the library types. It was climaxed with a conference dinner for delegates to unwind after the hectic week of learning and discussions.

Annual General Meeting and Induction of Council Members
The Annual General Meeting was held on 26th May for members to deliberate on the way forward for the Association. The President Mr. Alim Garga also handed over to the newly elected President Prof. Rosemary Shafack for 2023-2025. The 1st President of AfLIA, Dr. John Tsebe, inducted the newly elected 2023-2025 Governing Council members into office and they are as follows:

2023-2025 Council Members

Prof. Rosemary Shafack	President
Sarah Iyaloo Negumbo	Vice President
Mr. Alim Garga	Immediate Past President
Dr. Helena Asamoah-Hassan	Executive Director
Mr. Kepi Madumo	Chairperson: National Libraries Section/ Rep. Southern Africa

Dr Mac-Anthony Cobblah	Chairperson: Academic Libraries & Library Consortia Section
Andrew Mankone	Chairperson: Parliamentary Libraries Section
Lynn Jibril	Chairperson: National Library Association Section
Antonneta Madziva	Chairperson: Public and Community Libraries Section
Dr. Sarah Kaddu	Chairperson: Lib. Education and Training Inst.(LETIS) Section
Richard Fodjour	Chairperson: Special Libraries Section
Velly Koumba Landry	Regional Representative: Central Africa
Eric Nelson Haumba	Regional Representative: Eastern Africa
Maha Abbas	Regional Representative: North Africa
Mrs. Neemat Abdulrahim	Regional Representative: West Africa
Sulemana Sogoba	Regional Representative: French-speaking West Africa
Tendayi Madziga	Regional Representative: Portuguese Speaking Africa
Doreen Appiah	Secretary (AfLIA Staff)

Conference Recommendations

Delegates recommended the following among others to improve the Conference and the Association.

- That AfLIA provides more in-depth and if possible, physical trainings to lead African librarians into a deeper understanding and adoption of the different strands of Openness so that they can ably lead the charge in working with other stakeholders to integrate the concept into learning in the continent at different levels of education. This will aid greatly in achieving inclusive and quality education in the continent.

- That the UNESCO OER Recommendation draft toolkit should integrate practical pathways that African librarians can easily follow as well as templates that can be adapted for OER policy and reporting.

- That a central repository to be managed by AfLIA should be developed for OERs created in Africa and each subscribing institution can have a sub-domain.

- African librarians should use appropriate methodologies in conducting research as well as ensure that they investigate their topics widely and thoroughly to give balanced and quality presentations that will trigger further inquiries and innovative library and information science services.

Closing Ceremony

The AfLIA President stated that the 5th AfLIA Conference and 7th African Library Summit & had been successful. She thanked the AfLIA Secretariat for organizing the 1st ever post-COVID face-to-face conference for members. She also thanked all Partners, Sponsors, and Exhibitors of the Conference, the Management and Staff of Erata Hotel for their unflinching support in making the Conference successful and finally thanked the delegates for making time out of

their busy schedules to attend the Conference. The President declared the 5th AfLIA conference closed at exactly 3.48 p.m. GMT on 26th May 2024.

Post-conferences

After the main conference, a two-day post-conference workshop was organized by SPARC Africa in collaboration with OER Africa for librarians involved in journal publications. The SPARC Africa Library Publishing post-conference workshop was organized from 27- 28 May 2023. The workshop consisted 23 delegates, including trainers from South Africa and participants from Cameroon, Ethiopia, Ghana, Nigeria, Rwanda, Uganda and The Gambia.

Participants were empowered the workshop participants with the necessary skills and knowledge to utilize the Open Scholarship Continental Platform effectively and deliver an outstanding 'library as a publisher' service. They also received training on how to journal and book titles and gained insights into providing ongoing support for the management of these publications.

June 2023

- Technical review of the performance of the African Librarysites platform – AfLIA collaborated with platform developers to peruse the effectiveness of all functionalities and fix identified bugs. Ongoing review, validation and approval of data submissions on the platform,
- AfLIA Wikidata Online Course- Participants, both English and French of Cohort 1 graduated. Recordings were edited and uploaded to the AfLIA YouTube channel for course participants.
- A virtual community consultation (open discussion forum) to review UNESCO Guidelines for Regulating Digital Platforms was held. The outcome of deliberations and suggestions were submitted to UNESCO.
- The request for an extension of the Wikidata project was granted.

July 2023

- The first Cohort of the Wikidata ended in July. The final report which has the statistics and details of the course and which has been accepted can be accessed through this link - https://meta.wikimedia.org/wiki/Grants:Programs/Wikimedia_Alliances_Fund/Promo

ting_Open_Knowledge_practices_in_African_Libraries_through_WikiData/Final_Report

- A 21 -page resource on Open Licensing for the AfLIA/OER Africa Whatsapp group was created. It was published on 10th July and is online as an AfLIA resource. It can be accessed here - https://web.aflia.net/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/Learning-about-Open-Licensing-2023.pdf

- AfLIA submitted a group report on the outcomes of AfLIA's Community Consultation on UNESCO Guidelines to UNESCO for consideration.

- AfLIA Wikidata Online Course – A call for applications was published for Cohort 1 & 2 and participants were asked to enrol for the course via the AfLIA training platform.

- Certificates of completion were designed and sent to eligible participants of Cohort 1 - AfLIA Wikidata Online Course.

August 2023

AfLIA did extensive work with NBA on the *UNESCO OER Recommendation and Open Knowledge: An Overview for African librarians.* The 57page document was published on 1st August 2023. It is openly licensed and can be accessed through this link - https://web.aflia.net/wp-content/uploads/2023/08/UNESCO-OER-Recommendation-Overview-for-librarians-_230802_093332.pdf

Two webinars were held on the 16th and 17th of August titled *Conversations on UNESCO OER Recommendation and Open Knowledge: An Overview for African Librarians*. The recording of the webinar can be accessed through these links -
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T94ttC0-A4E&t=110s and
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=njtVIOvCBS8

September 2023

- AfLIA Wikidata Online Course – Cohort 2. The weekly virtual training sessions for English and French participants – Cohort 2 continued. Recordings were edited and uploaded to the AfLIA YouTube channel for course participants. A detailed questionnaire to collect data for evaluating the impact of the course on participants was developed and finalized In English, and translated into French.
- Certificates of excellence for top contributors of the 2023 African Librarians Week campaign were designed and sent to winners.

October 2023

- **National INELI-SSAf (INELI Cohort 3)**

The INELI 3 course commenced on **October 2022** and ended on **September 2023**. Participants of Cohort 3 were from **Namibia, Nigeria and Seychelles**. The course consists of nine modules (**Time Management, Innovation, Community Partnerships, Change Management, Value of My Library, Taking Smart Risks, Time for Reflection, Using Data to Make Decisions, and Advocacy in Action**) with several sub-topics in each module.

Although some of the modules from the continental INELI were taken out, the remaining modules were essential to all Librarians who wish to gain knowledge outside the classroom, contribute to the sustainable development agenda and change the modalities of library service in their countries. The modules consist of assignments, quizzes, forums, group work/discussions and surveys.

A total of seventy-two (72) participants from **Namibia 20, Nigeria 32 and Seychelles 20** were enrolled in the course with eighteen (18) mentors from the aforementioned countries, however, 37 participants were able to graduate. Each Mentor was assigned four participants to guide or coach. Three (3) national coordinators were appointed, one from each country to oversee the mentors and ensure that participants sail through the course successfully.

The graduation ceremony was held on 30th October 2023 for 37 participants.

- The third Cohort of the Early Literacy Development course was held from 10th October – 31st November. These are the figures for those who have been trained in the Early Literacy Development course.

Cohort	Year	Registered	Completed		Total
1 (Pilot)	Apr-May 2022	54	16 (Certificates of Excellence)	15 (Certificates of participation)	31
2	Nov 28, 2022 – Feb 2023	31	17 (Certificates of Excellence)	7 (Certificates of participation)	24
3	Oct – Nov 2023	135, but only 79 showed up	48 (Certificates of Excellence)	6 (Certificates of participation)	54

- Also on 10th October, the Director, Human Capacity Development and Training virtually joined a panel discussion in the Internet Governance Forum which was held in Kyoto, Japan. The event was captured through this link - https://dig.watch/event/internet-governance-forum-2023/broadband-from-space-can-it-close-the-digital-divide-igf-2023-ws-468
- AfLIA Wikidata Online Course - survey deployed via SurveyMonkey and data collection for pre and post training evaluation begins for the AfLIA Wikidata Online Course. Cohorts 1 and 2 involved in the survey. Data validation, translation, analysis and first draft of evaluation report completed this month.
- Early Literacy Development Course – Cohort 3- the weekly virtual training sessions for the Early Literacy Development Course – Cohort 3 were coordinated. Ongoing technical and learner support for participants was offered. The Early Literacy Development Course for Cohort 3 was from 10th October to 14th November 2023. The course assisted Public and community librarians to
    - explore ideas and activities that will help to develop children's pre-reading skills,
    - Understand the skills children need to learn to become confident readers and writers,

- Familiarize themselves with some methods that can be used to help children who are learning to read, or who are struggling with their reading,
- Look at what they can do to improve the mother tongue language resources in their libraries

Recordings were edited and uploaded to the AfLIA YouTube channel for the course participants.

November 2023

- AfLIA Wikidata Online Course project - Finalized the comprehensive pre and post-training evaluation technical report for the AfLIA Wikidata Online Course. The final report to the Wikimedia Foundation for the AfLIA Wikidata Online Course project was submitted and accepted.
- IFLA Impact Evaluations Train the Trainers Workshop – AfLIA Staff, Stanley Boakye Achampong, attended the **Impact Evaluations Train the Trainers Workshop**, organized in The Hague by IFLA, for information professionals with considerable experience in impact evaluation and assessment. The workshop aimed to train a cohort of impact evaluators (2 from each region) who will then step down acquired skills and knowledge for the benefit of other African librarians, to also know how to assess the impact of their library services and initiatives or projects.
- Virtual graduation was conducted on 30th November 2023 for graduates of the Early Literacy Development Course – Cohort 3.

December 2023

- A non-technical report on outcomes of the AfLIA Wikidata Online Course was developed from the training evaluation report on the AfLIA Wikidata Online Course with the aim of sharing learnings and key insights from the project with the general public.

- 2023 AfLAc and INELI Homecoming events were held for AfLAc (AfLIA Leadership Academy) on 5th December 2023 with the theme – *Library leaders of Today and Tomorrow (LoTT) and* for INELI SSAf from 6-7th December with the theme; *"See how far we have come!"* Recordings were edited and uploaded on the AfLIA YouTube Channel.

- The setting up of the AfLIA Conference repository was completed. Final review and typesetting of AfLIA conference papers, posters, and other presentations to make them upload ready for the AfLIA Conference repository was done. Final proceedings including papers, posters and other presentations at the AfLIA Conference was uploaded on the AfLIA conference repository for open access. Authors were informed about the availability of their works in the repository. A general announcement was made on social media and via newsletter for all stakeholders including members and the public to visit the repository.

Repository URL - https://aflia.figshare.com/
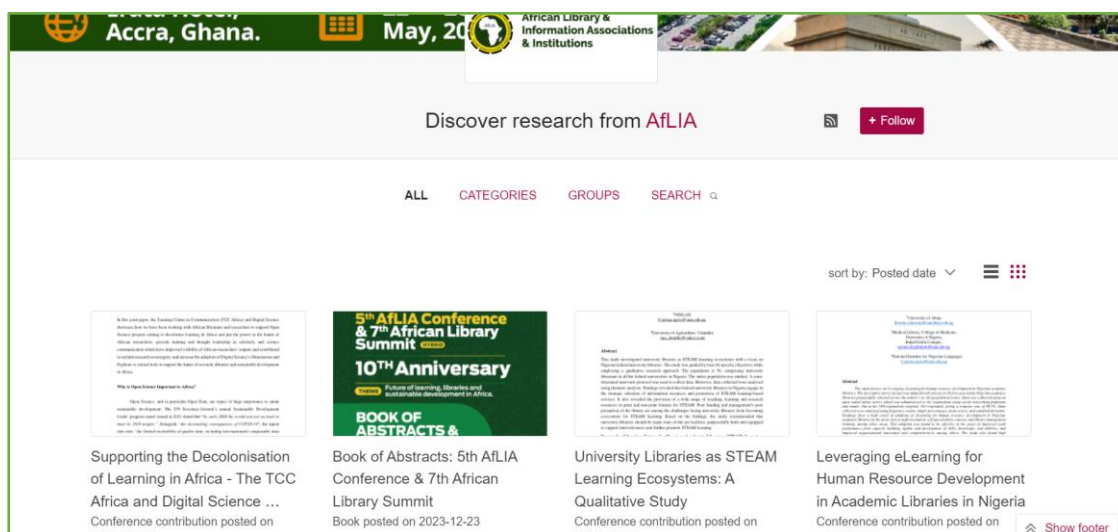
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- Insights from the AfLIA Wikidata Online Course was published- A non-technical web article that shares insights and learnings from the pre and post-training evaluation report was published on the AfLIA website and Wikimedia's blog (Diff)

- Early Literacy Development Course – Cohort 3- Certificates of Completion were designed and sent to eligible participants of the third cohort course.

- A Committee to plan for the 2024 Homecoming for Early Literacy Development Course (ELDC) graduates has been set up and one meeting has been held. Members of the Committee are drawn from those who participated in the course (Cohort 1, 2 and 3).

New Partnerships

While maintaining its existing partners, AfLIA signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with two new partners. The new partners are as follows:

- On 10th January 2023, an MoU was signed between AfLIA and OER Africa to among other things; provide opportunities for joint investigation of potential applications of open licensing to advance the objective of professional development and training in libraries and library institutions in Africa; lead African library and information science professionals to understand the differences and similarities between OER, OA, open

knowledge, and open data and explore how these concepts can add value to the roles and functions of African librarians and Develop a comprehensive continuous professional development (CPD) frameworks for University Senior Managers, Academics, and Academic Librarians, focused on supporting implementation of effective OER practices at African universities and libraries

- In February an MoU was signed between AfLIA and Figshare for Figshare to host AfLIA conference repository published on the AfLIA website. The goal of this MoU is for Figshare and AfLIA to work in collaborative activities that support awareness of open science and data repositories, to support the research and education communities in Africa.

Our Partners

- **Africa Union -**Agreement towards the development of African Information and Knowledge Society, National, Academic and Community Libraries, etc, to enhance the delivery of the right information to the right person at the right time and development of Library and Information professional associations as promoters and drive force for equitable access to information, knowledge, and innovative services in Africa.

- **Bibliotheca Alexandrina of The Arab Republic of Egypt (BA)** - promotion of cooperation in the field of library and information sciences, capacity building and establishing African libraries networks and disseminating information among African libraries.

- **Black Caucus of the American Library Association, Inc (BCALA)-** to establish cooperation between AfLIA and BCALA on issues relating to library and information services, library resources and services sharing, to promote research and learning in all fields.

- **CILIP -** to carry out best practices in the development of Library Professional standards and accreditation including pursuance of development agendas framed on UN 2030 SDGs; exchange of ideas and information on conferences; professional exchanges enhancing professional experience and development; Cooperation in the advancement of knowledge and access to information as a human right; and a discussion of the creation and distribution of best practice content and potential publishing partnership with Facet Publishing.

- **EBLIDA -** best practice development of Library Legislation; implementation of UN 2030 Sustainable development Goals; and exchange of ideas and information on conferences

- **eLearning Africa (eLA)** - promotion of research and learning in all fields in Africa.

- **Electronic Information for Libraries (EIFL)** - capacity building of African public librarians.

- **Immersive Stories, Africa Lab** –The collaboration between the parties under this MoU is for running a pilot programme on immersive storytelling. The programme is aimed at teaching African librarians and the communities they serve best research, journalism, and storytelling practices using immersive technology. The workshop will run for 4-6 weeks. Librarians/communities are expected at the end of that period to produce.

- **International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA)** - joint projects to strengthen the library field in Africa.

- **Mentors without Borders -**   to establish a mutually beneficial relationship built on the basis for the development of a close partnership between MWB and AfLIA for teaching software development. The program is aimed at teaching mentees about web development, mobile development or artificial intelligence/machine learning. In this program, the students will learn and practice under the direct supervision of software development experts. Students will develop their skills in HTML, CSS, Javascript, C++, Java, Python, Kotlin or Swift. Students will also learn database skills, Agile software development practices and test-driven development principles.

- **Neil Butcher and Associates Early Literacy Development -** This project with AfLIA focuses on the following specific outcome: Deepened insight into how to build sustainable alternative African publishing systems as a contribution to early literacy and accompanying growth of local publishing, which can play a significant role in supporting early literacy acquisition in local languages

- **South African Institute of Distance Education (SAIDE)-** to work together on the African Storybook initiative and equitable and meaningful access to knowledge, skills and learning through the adoption of open learning principles and distance education methods.

- **The Technology & Social Change Group (TASCHA), University of Washington** - research into the status of libraries in Africa.

- **The Wikipedia Library -** collaboration on organizing webinars on Wikipedia topics relevant for libraries and librarians; Organizing the first African Librarians Week; Hosting a progressive course model on AfLIA's Moodle platform

- **World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO**) - intellectual property rights and access to information.

- **Women's Global Education Project (WGEP**) - promotion of research and learning in Africa.

- **Yaounde African Parliamentary Institute (IPAY) -** to provide a non- exclusive framework for partnerships between the parties in the implementation of their action programmes for the training and capacity building of parliamentary staff in the fields of documentation and institutional information.

Staff

Bless K. Dzah, Accountant
Doreen Appiah, Program Officer
Eunice Jones-Arthur, Administrative Assistant (Membership)
Helena Asamoah-Hassan, Executive Director
Michael Thompson, Webmaster
Nkem Osuigwe, Human Capacity & Training Director
Stanley Boakye-Achampong, Research Coordinator & Communications Officer

Governing Council Members (May 2021 – May 2023)

1. Prof. Rosemary Shafack   President
2. Mr Alim Garga   Immediate Past President
3. Ms. Sarah I. Negumbo   Vice President
4. Ms. Velly Koumba Landry   Central Africa Representative
5. Mr. Eric Haumba   East African Representative
6. Mrs. Maha Abbas   North Africa Representative
7. Mr. Kepi Madumo   Southern Africa Representative
8. Mrs. Neemat Abdulrahim   West Africa Representative
9. Mr. Souleymane Sogoba   French speaking West Africa Representative
10. Mr. Tendayi Madziga   Portuguese speaking Africa Representative
11. Mr. Kepi Madumo   Chair: National Libraries Section
12. Mrs Antonneta Madziva   Chair: Public Libraries Section
13. Mrs. Lynn Jibril   Chair: National Library Associations Section
14. Dr. MacAnthony Cobblah   Chair: Academic Libraries & Consortia Section
15. Mr. Richard Fodjour   Chair: and Special Libraries Section
16. Dr. Sarah Kaddu   Chair, Education &Training Institutions Section
17. Vacant   Chair: IFLA Africa Section
18. Dr. Helena Asamoah-Hassan   Executive Director

Co-Opted

19. Dr John Kgwale Tsebe   1st President of AfLIA
20. Mr. Mandla Ntombela   2nd President of AfLIA
21. Doreen Appiah   Secretary to the Council

Contacts

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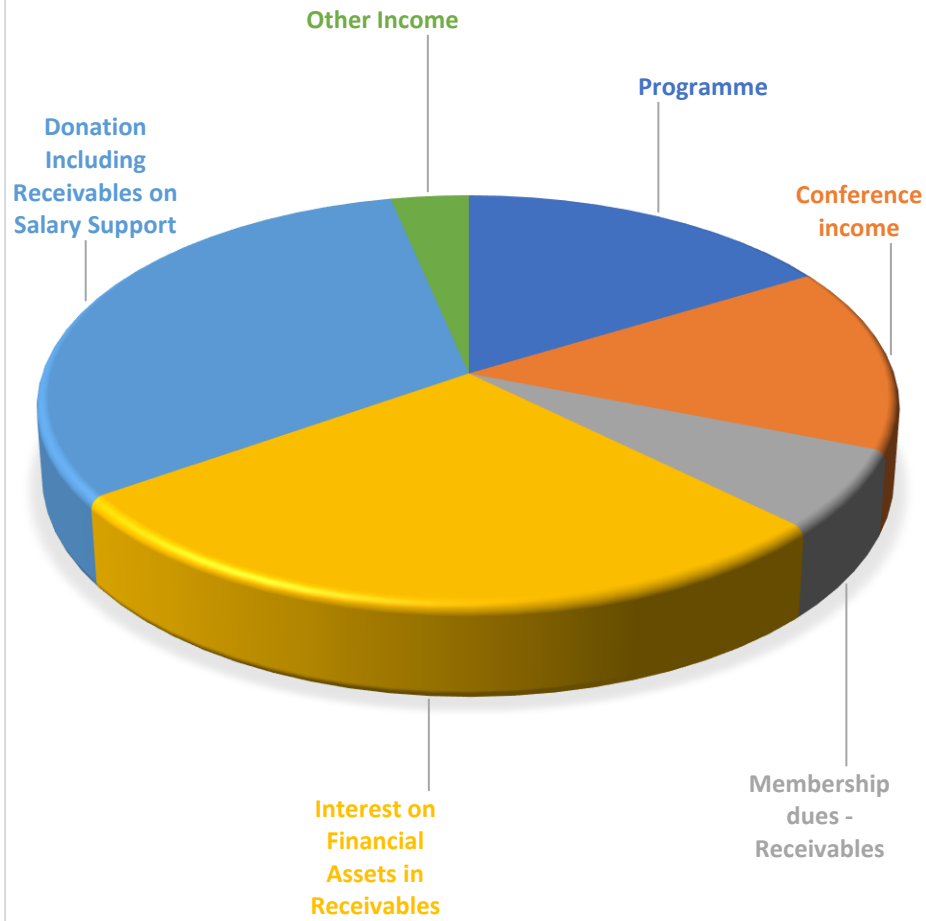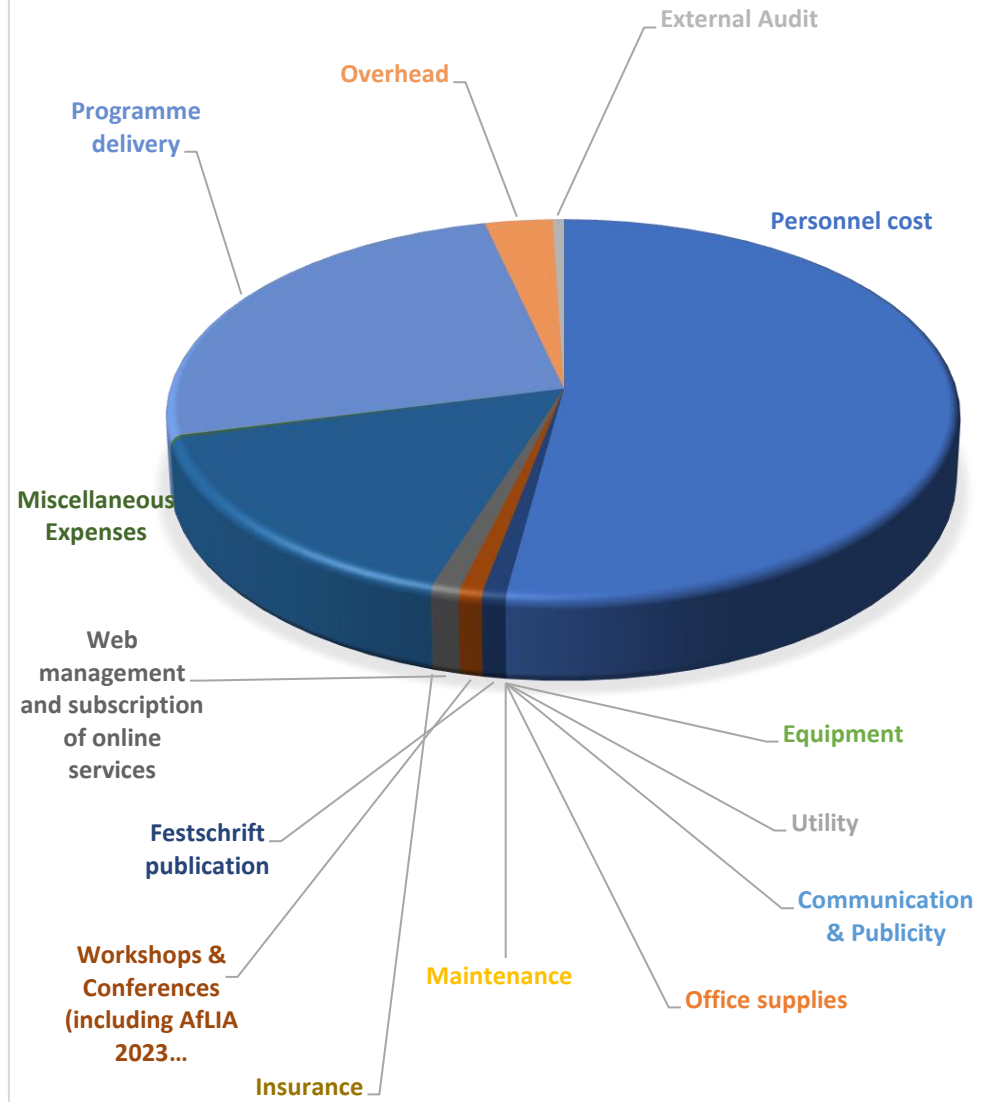Flicker: flickr.com/photos/15543599 6@N07/
YouTube: https://www.youtube.com/c/AfLIA/

Financial Report

AfLIA INCOME AND EXPENDITURE 2023

INCOME	US$	%
Programme	139,951.00	16
Conference income	125,252.40	15
Membership dues – Receivables	54,550.00	6
Interest on Financial Assets in Receivables	239,526.98	28
Donation Including Receivables on Salary Support	269,063.30	31
Other Income	28471.27	3
Total	**856,814.95**	**100**

EXPENDITURE	US$	%
Personnel cost	297,600.00	40
Office supplies	2,650.48	-
Utility	3,115.00	-
Maintenance	3,900.34	1
Communication & Publicity	2,850.67	-
Equipment	1,850.00	-
Festschrift publication	12,183.24	2
Workshops & Conferences (including AfLIA 2023 Conference in Accra)	145,985.37	19
Web management and subscription of online services	3,975.81	1
Insurance	6,985.00	1
Programme delivery	169,476.00	23
Overhead	97,585.79	13
External Audit	5,000.00	1
Total	**753,157.70**	**100**

2023 - INCOME GRAPH

- Other Income
- Programme
- Conference income
- Donation Including Receivables on Salary Support
- Membership dues - Receivables
- Interest on Financial Assets in Receivables

2023 - EXPENDITURE GRAPH

- External Audit
- Overhead
- Programme delivery
- Personnel cost
- Miscellaneous Expenses
- Web management and subscription of online services
- Festschrift publication
- Workshops & Conferences (including AfLIA 2023...
- Insurance
- Maintenance
- Office supplies
- Communication & Publicity
- Utility
- Equipment