



AfLIA

ANNUAL REPORT

2021

Connecting Africa's
library & information
communities

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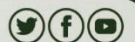


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From the Executive Director



The African Library and Information Associations and Institutions (AfLIA) this year had to continue introducing innovative means to serve its members because the pandemic was this raging on. We could not for the first time, in the Association's existence, hold a face - to -face AfLIA Conference and African Library Summit and had to do so virtually, which we all know is not the best as the networking aspect was lost. We also had to swear in our newly elected Officers for the 2021-2023 term virtually. These are aside several other activities we had to find innovative ways to carry out. In all these we were able to satisfy the demands of our users. Human capacity building activities continued virtually and

activities with government officials to support effective policies for library services in-country also continued. albeit slowly.

Within this year we signed some partnership Agreements to assist AfLIA deliver on its mandate. We set our hands on responding to the few calls for proposals for funding. Unfortunately, we were not able to secure any funding. We will continue to try our hands on new calls hoping to be successful as we believe in the cliché that we need to try, try and try again, if we first do not succeed in we should not give up.

We welcomed a new Governing Council in May who have already started working earnestly and we sadly bid farewell to some members of the Governing Council who had served for some time on the Council, right from the beginning of AfLIA. We really do appreciate efforts put by these persons to the growth of AfLIA

Our appreciation goes to the Governing Council members, active partners, membership and focused and hardworking staff. AfLIA marches on to chalk more successes.

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.

Membership

Currently, AfLIA has members in 38 out of the 54 countries of Africa and is actively working to expand membership to the rest of the Continent. On, 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

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.

Website

The AfLIA website (<https://web.aflia.net/>) is the principal source for disseminating our news and information. Regular server and website updates were conducted as part of efforts to create a more user-friendly and convenient landing page and website for our audience.

The Communications Office constantly monitored and regularly updated the website to provide relevant content for membership and the general public. By the end of 2021, a total of 36 posts

were published on the AfLIA website including 22 news items, three blog posts, seven events (webinars, online training sessions, workshops etc.), two reports and two AfLIA Statements.

For the first time ever, AfLIA flagship conference, the 4th AfLIA Conference & 6th African Library Summit was held virtual mainly due to COVID-19 pandemic. The decision to hold a fully virtual conference necessitated the development of a dedicated sub-domain to serve as a conference web-page (<https://web.aflia.net/conference-2021/>), where all information about the conference, ranging from conference registration for participants and exhibitors, registration fees, exhibitors' packages, conference schedule, profile of speakers, FAQs about the event, and other technical details navigating the virtual conference platform, were published and made available to the public. The conference page proved significantly instrumental in providing relevant information for conference participants.

The sub-domain developed for the purposes of promoting the African Librarians Week (<https://web.aflia.net/aflibwk/>), was reviewed and updated with current information for running the 2021 edition of the campaign. It continued to serve as a central point to obtain all information and resources about the African Librarians Week.

Newsletters and News Alerts

AfLIA relied on Newsletters and News Alerts as key tools to keep its membership, partners and other followers updated on all happenings in AfLIA as well as the LIS world. The Newsletters were disseminated on a monthly basis while the News Alerts were intermittently sent out to make urgent announcements and draw attention to recent and upcoming activities that could be of interest to our audience. As at the end of 2021 activity year, 29 newsletters and news alerts had been disseminated.

On an ongoing basis, the Communications and Membership Offices collaborated to keep the contact details of all persons and institutions on our mailing list up to date. Besides the membership mailing list, AfLIA's General Mailing list had 859 subscribers as at the end of 2021, representing 12.3% increase in subscription from 2020. These subscribers are persons who have voluntarily subscribed to receive updates from AfLIA via email. Subscribers on this General Mailing List do not receive news updates and any other information exclusively meant for members. AfLIA continues to use General mailing list category of subscribers as critical pool to market the Association and attract new membership.

Social media - Facebook, Twitter and YouTube

Social media served well as a convenient bridge between AfLIA and its audience. Facebook, Twitter and YouTube significantly enhanced the AfLIA brand. Our social media followers received real-time updates on happenings in AfLIA, Africa and the global LIS sector. AfLIA maintained a stronger social media presence throughout 2021 by promoting our news and events and constantly engaging our audiences. Every news item, blog post, official statements and reports, events published on the website was announced on Facebook and cross-posted on Twitter. Averagely, at least six social media posts were made on Twitter and Facebook weekly.

The hashtags introduced by AfLIA in 2020 continued to be instrumental in facilitating information spread, and generating internet traffic towards our social media platforms. Among such include:

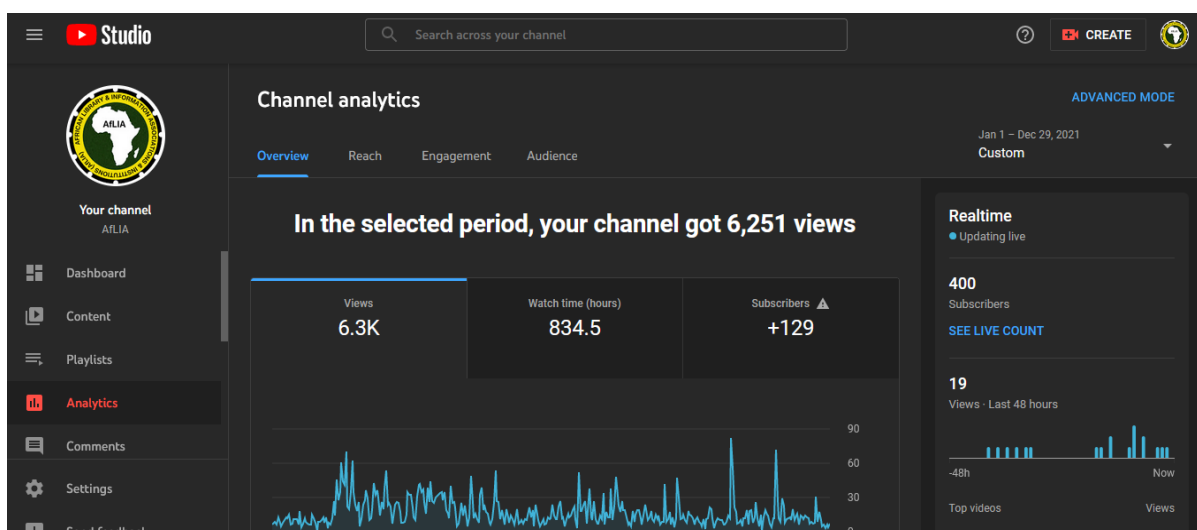
- #AfLIA2021 was introduced and used to drive social media campaigns for the 4th AfLIA Conference & 6th African Library Summit.
- #AfLibWk was to drive the social media campaign for the second edition of the African Librarians Week campaign in May 2021.
- #AfLIAWebinars was used to help spread information about webinars organized by AfLIA and attract participation.
- #WikiAfLibs was to drive social media campaigns for the Wikipedia in African Libraries project.

2021 Facebook Stats (@aflianetwork)	2021 Twitter Stats (@afliacon)
➤ 5,945 likes and 6506 followers	➤ 314 tweets made
➤ 61,700 people reached through posts	➤ 10,604 profile visits
➤ 10,411 engagements on posts made	➤ 2,149 total followers
➤ 1,350 posts shared by audience	➤ 221,657 total impressions on tweets
➤ 4,199 reactions on posts	➤ 885 total mentions



Snapshot of AfLIA's Twitter Account 2021

Similarly, the total number of subscribers on AfLIA's YouTube Channel increased to 400, a 99% increase, from the level of subscription in 2020. In 2021, a total number of eleven new videos were uploaded to the YouTube Channel comprising of recordings of AfLIA's live webinars, training sessions for 2021 African Librarians Week, among others. In summary, videos on AfLIA's YouTube Channel garnered close to 6,300 views and a total of 834.5 hours of watch time with 51,500 impressions and reactions to the videos.



Snapshot of AFLIA YouTube Channel Analytics for 2021

Webinars

List of webinars organized by AFLIA in 2021

Sessions	Dates	URL
Webinar Series – Libraries in Development: Advancing Library Visibility in Africa (3 SESSIONS)	30th June, 2021 7th July, 2021 14th July, 2021	https://web.aflia.net/webinar-series-libraries-in-development-advancing-library-visibility-in-africa/
AFLIA membership: What’s in it for me and my library? (1 SESSION)	4th August, 2021	https://web.aflia.net/webinar-aflia-membership-whats-in-it-for-me-and-my-library/
Early literacy development in African Libraries – Survey findings (1 SESSION)	8th September 2021	https://web.aflia.net/webinar-early-literacy-devt-in-african-libraries-survey-findings/
2021 OAWeek – AFLIA celebrations to promote structural equity for Open Access (2 SESSIONS)	26th October, 2021 28th October, 2021	https://web.aflia.net/2021-oaweek-aflia-celebrations-to-promote-structural-equity-for-open-access/
Copyright issues and African Libraries (3 SESSIONS)	20th October, 2021 17th November, 2021 1st December, 2021	https://web.aflia.net/e-resources-during-covid-19-copyright-and-licensing-issues/
Webinar: Promoting visibility for research through DataCite DOIs (1 SESSION)	1st December, 2021	https://web.aflia.net/webinar-promoting-visibility-for-research-through-datacite-fois/

COL- Coursera Workforce Program

The COL-Coursera Workforce Program continued into the first quarter of 2021. More recommendations were submitted to Commonwealth of Learning, Canada. All recommended

applicants benefitted from a fully sponsored access to over 4000 courses and specializations. The Wikipedia in African Libraries project successfully ended in September, 2021. The baseline and end-line evaluation assessments were conducted and published.

The ALVA Project

- ✓ The COVID-19 situation eased up a little bit in 2021, but it was not until the final quarter of the year that the ALVA Team gave the go ahead for Library sites data collection to resume, after studying and receiving favourable in-country updates on the pandemic across participating countries. Thus, monitoring and supervision of the data collection exercise resumed in 2021. Country-level progress of work on the Library Location data collection was shared with Champions to remind them of the data collection status as at when activities under the Library Mapping Workstream was halted temporarily.
- ✓ Document on Terms of Reference for the permanent Library sites platform and the proposed features were shared with another local vendor – Proweb Solutions Ltd. No expression of interest received from them after an initial Zoom meeting.
- ✓ Tech-Orient Ltd., Adriot Bureau and ONA submitted their expressions of interest on the Library sites platform for assessment. After several review processes, Tech-Orient Ltd was unanimously selected by the ALVA Team and top management of AfLIA and TASCHA, in June as the vendor to build the permanent custom interactive and integrated platform for African Libraries (Locations, Visualization and Data Hosting).

List of papers published in 2021 under the ALVA Project.

1. Young, J. C., Lynch, R., Boakye-Achampong, S., Jowaisas, C., Sam, J., & Norlander, B. (2021). Volunteer geographic information in the Global South: Barriers to local implementation of mapping projects across Africa. *GeoJournal*, 86(5), 2227-2243
2. Lynch, R., Young, J. C., Boakye-Achampong, S., Jowaisas, C., Sam, J., & Norlander, B. (2021). Benefits of crowdsourcing for libraries: A case study from Africa. *IFLA Journal*, 47(2), 168-181.
3. Young, J. C., Lynch, R., Boakye-Achampong, S., Jowaisas, C., & Sam, J. (2021). Public libraries and development across sub-Saharan Africa: Overcoming a problem of perception. *Libri*.

Our Activities in 2021

January 2021

- ✓ The call for participation for Cohort 1 of the Wikipedia in African Libraries Course opened on January 4th. Participants were onboarded from February 1st and the 1st Cohort ran for 12 weeks.

- ✓ Wikipedia in African Libraries Course learning interface on Moodle designed for both French and English participants. Course content uploaded and deployed to start training of participants.
- ✓ Progress meeting with ALVA Project country representatives (Champions) to discuss plans and strategies for facilitating the mapping of more public and community libraries in 2021, once the pandemic situation is manageable.
- ✓ A software development workshop was held on January - 22nd - 23rd and 29-30th 2021 by *Library Carpentry* resource persons. Each session lasted for 4hrs and the participants were taught the basics of programming and how to use github. Participants were drawn from all library types across Africa.

February 2021

Pilot testing of AfLIA conference registration platform, online payment portals and integrated invoicing and receipting system begins.

March 2021

AfLIA issues a Statement in Support of African Union's Digital Transformation Strategy.

April 2021

- ✓ AfLIA and TASCHA organizes a panel discussion at the virtual CIES 2021 Conference on 29th April 2021. Among other things, the discussion highlighted the key roles African Libraries as development partners in education, i.e. promoting education in all forms – formal, informal, adult education, ICT, sexual and reproductive health and literacy development among inmates.
- ✓ Registration for the **4th AfLIA Conference & 6th African Library Summit** was opened.
- ✓ An agreement was signed with Neil Butcher and Associates (NBA) in April to develop and run a course on early literacy development. Librarians in public and community libraries in eighteen (18) English speaking African countries are the target audience for the course. They will be taught how to use the literacy-rich environment of libraries to teach children vocabulary development, print and phonemic awareness in English and the mother tongue. A chat was held on Twitter on 20th April to publicize the partnership and get more librarians to fill a survey for gathering baseline data for developing the course. <https://web.aflia.net/aflia-partners-with-nba-for-early-literacy-development-project/>
- ✓ The UN SDG Book Club, African Chapter was launched on April 23rd (World Book Day) with the release of recommended books that clearly explain or have stories woven around SDG 1 and 2 for children aged between 6-12yrs. AfLIA, alongside with Pan African Writers Association (PAWA), African Publishers Network (APNET),

Borders, Literature for all Nations, Association for Development of Education in Africa (ADEA) and Pan African Booksellers Association(PABA), are members of the



Management Committee of the book club who call for nominations and selects books for each of the SDGs. <https://web.aflia.net/african-sustainable-development-goals-book-club-launches-on-world-book-day/>

May 2021

✓ The AfLIA Copyright and Legal Matters Working Group was inaugurated on May 5th, 2021. The Working Group will work towards ‘*identifying existing legal frameworks and barriers to the acquisition, use, digitisation, and long-term preservation of library resources and cultural documentary records and effective 21st century information and library services in Africa.*’ <https://web.aflia.net/copyright-and-legal-matters-working-group-clmwg-aflia/>

✓ African Librarians Week (AfLibWk 2.0) was held from 17th - 24th May 2021. This was a repetition of last years’ event with the theme ‘**Learning in Africa**’. The purpose of the theme was to help fill the gaps in African Contents on Wikipedia on the different types of learning in Africa. The team engaged the participants of the Wikipedia in African Libraries project (#WikiAfLibs) training. The existing champions were also contacted to recruit and train other Librarians in their countries on editing and adding citations to articles. A continent wide virtual training for both champions and the newly recruited participants was organised for both English and French speaking countries from 10th to 14th May. Participants added contents, created articles and added missing references to articles about Learning in Africa on the online encyclopedia. It was also to help WikiAfLibs participants practice what they have learnt. In all Two hundred and forty one (241) African Librarians contributed to Wikipedia by adding the following:

Indicator	Figure
Total number of references added	4.2K
Total number of new words added	888K
Total number of existing articles edited	2.34K
Total number of new articles created	486

Total number of article views	9.19M
Total number of multimedia files uploaded to WikiCommons	712
Total number of edits made	18.1K

Comparison between 2020 and 2021

Items	Figures (2020)	Figures (2021)
Total number of references added	10K	4.2K
Total number of new words added	659K	888K
Total number of existing articles edited	3.94K	2.34K
Total number of new articles created	19	486
Total number of article views	40.3M	9.19M
Total number of multimedia files uploaded to WikiCommons	81	712
Total number of edits made	27.8K	18.1K

✓ Comparing the events in 2020 and 2021, although there are significant increase in words added, common uploads and articles created, statistics of some of the items like articles edited, articles viewed and total edits reduced drastically, but the overall quality of the work was higher in 2021 than in 2020 as stated by some Wikipedia editors. This change in quality was attributed to the WikiAfLibs project. Awards were given to the top five to twenty participants with different items for their performance to encourage others to do better in the coming years. Participants confirmed that the program has offered them the opportunity to understand how Wikipedia as an online encyclopedia works. It has partly changed the perception that Wikipedia articles are not authentic sources. They also had the opportunity to contribute to the information on their countries in Wikipedia. <https://web.aflia.net/2021-african-librarians-week-aflibwk-2-0/>

✓ The 4th AfLIA Conference and 6th African Library Summit was virtually held from 24-27 May 2021 using the Whova Conferencing Platform. 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 theme for the 4th Conference was ***Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR), sustainable development and African libraries***. There were seventeen Sub-themes which covered current trends relating to the main theme for all types of Libraries to enable all Librarians participate in the conference. The aim of the theme was to help Librarians understand the different components and possibilities of 4IR and how they fit into knowledge creation, dissemination and innovativeness needed to drive the revolution in Africa. Over one hundred participants and exhibitors attended from over fifteen countries in Africa and

beyond. There were twenty- six (26) speakers. It started with a free preconference workshop organized by Wikipedia on 24th May 2021. There were motivational talks on topics such as *Intentional Librarianship- Even when doors are closed* and *Information diversity and libraries* by renowned African Librarians to motivate both upcoming and existing Librarians to do better in the profession. Additionally, panel discussion on trending topics in librarianship were made. Some of the topics discussed included:

- *Institutional Repositories in Africa -Maintaining Functional Institutional Repositories – Where we are.*
- *various overlays of Openness in knowledge creation / dissemination, where libraries fit in and why the practice is needful for driving 4IR in Africa.*
- *Strategizing for 21st Century LIS Curriculum in Africa*

✓ Newly elected AfLIA Governing Council was inaugurated for the 2021-2023 term. The President Mr. Mandla Ntombela also handed over to the newly elected President Mr. Alim Garga for the 2021-2023 term.

June 2021

✓ Certificates of participation developed and distributed to attendees and moderators of the 4th AfLIA Conference and 6th African Library Summit.

✓ The final convening and graduation of INELI-SSAf Cohort 2 participants which was postponed indefinitely due to COVID-19 pandemic was organized virtually on 21st and 22nd June 2021. The President of AfLIA gave the opening address for the two days convening to commence. The convening was attended by INELI-SSAf Cohort 2 Innovators, INELI Mentors, some Governing Council members, AfLIA Staff and friends of the innovators. The participants made presentations on projects they had undertaken as INELI-SSAf Innovators. Most the projects were on community needs, how they engaged community members and the impact of the projects on their library services. Among the presentations were motivational talks on *Who is a leader* and *Engaging stakeholders for innovative services*. In addition to the presentations, virtual talk tables on *Looking into the future* and *Innovative library services during crisis periods* were held to help equip the innovators. The Director of Training also took time to explain the **Pathways for National INELIs** to the Mentors in other to prepare them for the next steps. The graduation ceremony was conducted by the Executive Director of AfLIA on 22nd June 2021. Certificates and Kente sashes were presented to all innovators and Mentors. In all 31 innovators graduated. The Executive Director encouraged innovators to build on the knowledge they had acquired through the training and raise the flag of AfLIA high. They were asked to be advocates for AfLIA and recruit new members as the individual membership has been approved during the 2021 Annual General Meeting of AfLIA. The Participants expressed their gratitude to AfLIA management for the training, the exposure and the network opportunities given to them. They confirmed that through the training, they are now able to engage with all types of

stakeholders, be it Government officials, NGOs, Community leaders or even their own colleagues. The group promised to use the knowledge acquired to help build the LIS profession in their various countries to make AfLIA proud.

- ✓ The call for the 2nd Cohort of the Wikipedia in African Libraries course opened on June 1st. Participants were onboarded in batches for this Cohort as it was the last opportunity for the course to be taught by a facilitator, the Wikipedian in Residence. The course ran from **July to September** (12weeks).

July 2021

- ✓ Certificates of completion were developed and distributed to successful Cohort 1 participants of the Wikipedia in African Libraries project.
- ✓ AfLIA, in collaboration with TASCHA, organized a three-part webinar series on the theme, “Libraries in Development: Advancing Library Visibility in Africa”. The series was dedicated to sharing in-depth findings from the two phases of a research conducted on development organizations (Webinar 1) and another one on current data practices in African library systems (Webinar 2). The third session was designed as a panel discussion to discuss the findings and recommendations. Library Directors from Ghana, Kenya and South Africa constituted the panel for discussion.

August 2021

- ✓ As part of AfLIA’s MoU with Bibliotheca Alexandrina, their Library Section (BAIFA) extended a discounted offer to recommended applicants from AfLIA member institutions who were interested in enrolling in “Professional Digital Marketing Diploma”. The diploma was being offered as a partnership between the Bibliotheca Alexandrina and the Digital Marketing Institute (DMI) in Dublin. In total, 54 applications were received out of which AfLIA recommended 14 of them for the partial scholarship from the DMI. These recommended participants were librarians from member institutions.
- ✓ Second batch of Cohort 2 applicants for the WikiAfLibs Course onboarded to the training program.
- ✓ AfLIA announced personal / individual membership and was published on the website and widely circulated via newsletter, news alert and social media.
- ✓ A panel discussion on **AfLIA membership: What's in it for me and my Library?** Was held on 4th August.
- ✓ A manuscript titled “African Library and Information Associations and Institutions (AfLIA): Africa’s success story” was written and submitted as a chapter contribution to the book, *International Library and Information Science Practice: Excellence in Leadership, Management and Mentorship*. This book is a festschrift in honour of Dr. Helena Asamoah-Hassan.

- ✓ Concept note for promoting reading culture in Africa was developed and submitted in response to an RFP from Africa Publishing Innovation Fund (APIF). Concept note was accepted and full proposal requested by APIF.

September, 2021

- ✓ Awards and souvenirs to the top contributors of the African Librarians Week 2020 and 2021 editions were distributed via courier to respective winners across Africa. Among some of the awards included branded t-shirts, branded water flasks, branded diaries, branded pens, branded flash-drives and card holders.
- ✓ Proposal for promoting reading culture in Africa was developed and submitted in response to an RFP from Africa Publishing Innovation Fund (APIF).
- ✓ AfLIA held a webinar with Neil Butcher and Associates to discuss the findings of the Early Literacy Development survey on 8th September in commemoration of the World Literacy Day - <https://web.aflia.net/webinar-early-literacy-devt-in-african-libraries-survey-findings/>
- ✓ Approval for Personal/Individual membership granted by the AfLIA Governing Council. To commence in January 2022.

October, 2021

- ✓ SPARC Africa Management Committee, a section of AfLIA was established, chaired by Dr. Reggie Raju of University of Cape Town. The Research Coordinator of AfLIA was appointed as Secretary to the Committee.
- ✓ A review was done of the draft of the curriculum for the Early Literacy Development course being developed by a consultant with sponsorship from Neil Butcher and Associates (NBA) of South Africa.
- ✓ AfLIA Secretariat worked with the Library Education and Training Institutions Section as well as the Academic Libraries and Library Consortia Sections to mark the 2021 Open Access Week with two major activities intended to lead discussions and promote action plans needed to sustain ongoing efforts that ensure structural equity for open access across the continent, whether through information infrastructure, governance structures or community discussions.
- ✓ On October 26, the LETIS Section organized a webinar to share the key findings and recommendations for the 2021 Open Access Survey.
- ✓ The Academic Libraries and Library Consortia, on October 28, organized a panel discussion on the topic: Open Access: The Global vs African Perspectives.

- ✓ AfLIA published an official statement stating its position on Public Lending Rights.
- ✓ The first webinar by the AfLIA Copyright and Legal Matters Working Group titled '*Copyright Basics and why it is important to libraries*' was held on Wednesday, October 20th to acquaint librarians and other information workers in the African Library sector on the role of copyright regulations in the provision of information services.
- ✓ The Library Education and Training Institutions and Academic Libraries and Library Consortia Sections of AfLIA teamed up to celebrate the 2021 Open Access Week. A survey was done to get qualitative and quantitative data on the '*state and level of awareness of Open Access and its policies among library and information workers in academic/research institutions and LIS schools, and the capacity of such policies to address structural equity in knowledge creation, dissemination and access.*' A webinar was held on **26th October** to discuss the key findings of the survey carried out by the Library Education and Training Institutions Section. Also, on **28th October**, a webinar titled Open Access: The Global vs African Perspectives was held as part of the Open Access Week 2021 - <https://web.aflia.net/2021-oaweek-aflia-celebrations-to-promote-structural-equity-for-open-access/>

November 2021

- ✓ The Director of Training, Dr. Nkem Osuigwe and Programs Officer, Ms. Doreen Appiah participated in a panel discussion at the WikiIndaba 2021 Conference along with AfLIA's WiR, Alice Kibombo. The theme for the discussion was "Wikipedia in African Libraries: milestones attained, challenges and outcomes".
- ✓ AfLIA also set up a virtual exhibition booth during the WikiIndaba 2021 Conference and had further interactions with attendees who wanted to know more about the successes and setbacks for the WikiAfLibs project.
- ✓ Full report of the baseline (Pre-research study) and the end-line (evaluation study) have been finalized and published on AfLIA website. Reports have been shared with the Wikipedia Foundation as part of final project reporting requirements. Final project report for the WikiAfLibs project was done and submitted for approval by the Wikimedia Foundation.
- ✓ As more knowledge goes online, librarians and other information workers in the African Library sector need to understand the intricacies of using e-resources. The second webinar on Copyright - Library rights: L & Es (LAMs, education & research) and licensing was held on Wednesday, 17 November 2021.

December, 2021

- ✓ Webinar - On 1st December, AfLIA and DataCite collaborated to present a webinar that was meant to promote visibility for research through DataCite DOIs and

to expand the understanding of African librarians on issues concerning persistent digital identifiers and the role they play in making research more visible and discoverable - <https://web.aflia.net/webinar-promoting-visibility-for-research-through-datacite-DOIs/>. DataCite hosted the webinar.

✓ The third webinar in the Copyright series titled ‘Copyright governance: advocacy opportunities for librarians – national, regional, international (national copyright office, ARIPO/OAPI, AfCFTA, WIPO, WTO)’ was held on 1st December to educate librarians on how to advocate for better copyright provisions that will favour access to information for all.

✓ Certificates of completion were developed and distributed to the successful Cohort 2 participants of the Wikipedia in African Libraries project.

✓ The Leadership of AfLIA Leadership Academy (AfLAc) in collaboration with AfLIA Secretariat organised its maiden homecoming event on 7th and 8th December for AfLAc graduates. The Theme for the event was ‘*Mitigating the Covid-19 crisis through Innovative information services*’ The purpose of the event was to bring together the alumni of AfLAc on one platform to share ideas on their new projects after the program. A steering committee was established to ensure the successful organization of the event. The committee invited the Leadership of AfLIA to grace the occasion with their presence and also to perform some tasks.

The Executive Director of AfLIA gave the welcome address, whilst the Immediate Past President gave the keynote Address with the current President Mr. Alim Garga declaring the event open. AfLIA Library Section Members, Library Associations and other beneficiaries of AfLIA programs such as INELI-SSAf, SILL and IYALI were also invited to help make the event memorable.

Insightful and thought-provoking presentations were made by renowned Librarians who doubled as Coaches of AfLAc. For instance, some of the presentations were on topics such as ‘*Leadership*’; ‘*from challenges to creativity: the library leader’s dilemma*’ and ‘*When the library doors are closed: Intentional librarianship*’.

A panel discussion on the topic “*So much to learn: the library leader’s burden*” also gave participants ideas about the knowledge required by a library leader. Some of the AfLAc leaders also shared their experiences and knowledge acquired with friends. In addition, librarians from Zambia led the ice breaking activities to help participants release tension.

The event brought together almost fifty participants. It was a successful event; participants were of the view that the homecoming event should be organized once a year for participants to share new ideas.

✓ The first SPARC Africa Management Committee meeting was organized to begin discussions on plans and activities for 2022.

✓ Country-level progress updates on the Library Location data collection exercise was developed and circulated to Champions to keep them informed on how much work has been completed and what remains undone.

- ✓ AfLIA signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Immersive Stories Lab - Africa (IMSLA) on 9th December to train librarians on the use of virtual and augmented reality to tell the stories of their communities. The Agreement also covers the deployment of equipment for the training in the selected libraries.

New Partnerships

While maintaining its existing partners, AfLIA signed MoUs with two new partners. The new partners are as follows:

Neil Butcher and Associates Early Literacy Development – 12th April 2021

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

Immersive Stories, Africa Lab – 8th December 2021

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 4-6weeks. Librarians/communities are expected at the end of that period to produce

Our Partners

AfLIA has different types of relationships with these partners as follows:

- **Africa Union** -Agreement towards the development of African Information and Knowledge Society, National, Academic and Community Libraries, etc, with a view to enhancing delivery of the right information to the right person at the right time and development of Library and Information professional associations as promoters and driving 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 co-operation between AfLIA and BCALA on issues relating to library and information services, library resources and services sharing, in order to promote research and learning in all fields.

- **CILIP** - to carry out best practice 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 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.
- **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
- **Public Library Association (PLA) of the American Library Association** - capacity building of African public librarians.
- **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 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.
- **Worldreader** - local e-content for young children.
- **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)

Nkem Osuigwe, Human Capacity & Training Director

Helena Asamoah-Hassan, Executive Director

Joel Sam, AfLIA & ACAfI Projects Director

Michael Thompson, Webmaster

Stanley Boakye-Achampong, Research Coordinator & Communications Officer

Governing Council Members (May 2021 – May 2023)

1.	Mr Alim Garga	President
2.	Mr. Mandla Ntombela	Immediate Past President
3.	Prof. Rosemary Shafack	Vice President
4.	Mr. Bernard Akondzo	Central Africa Representative
5.	Mr. Eric Haumba	East African Representative
6.	Ms. Rania Shaarawy	North Africa Representative
7.	Ms. Elizabeth Matheus	Southern Africa Representative
8.	Prof. Chinwe Anunobi	West Africa Representative
9.	Mr. Souleymane Sogoba	French speaking West Africa Representative
10.	Mr. Iaguba Djalo	Portuguese speaking Africa Representative
11.	Ms. Sarah I. Negumbo	Chair: National Libraries Section
12.	Mrs Neemat Abdulrahim	Chair: Public Libraries Section
13.	Mrs. Comfort Asare	Chair: National Library Associations Section
14.	Dr. MacAnthony Cobblah	Chair: Academic Libraries & Consortia Section
15.	Vacant	Chair: and Research Libraries Section
16.	Dr. Sarah Kaddu	Chair, Education & Training Institutions Section
17.	Vacant	Chair: IFLA Africa Section
18.	Dr. Helena Asamoah-Hassan	Executive Director
19.	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/>

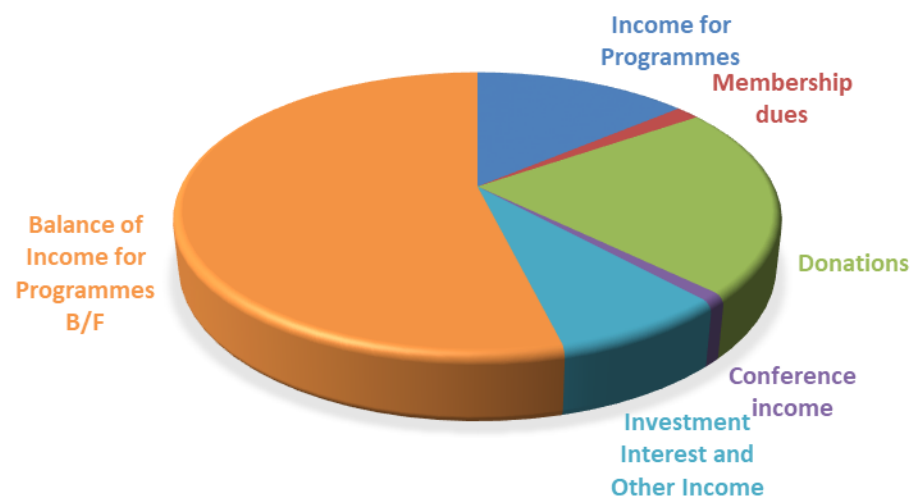
Financial Report

AFLIA INCOME AND EXPENDITURE 2021

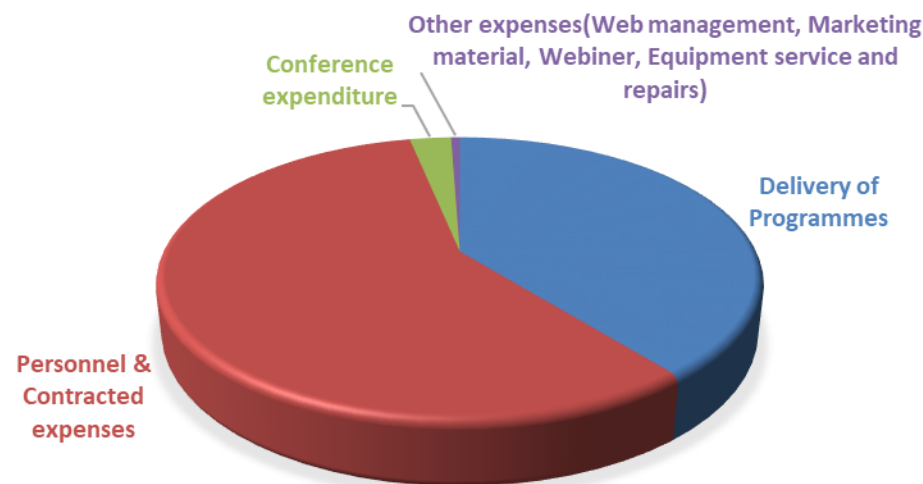
INCOME	US\$	%
Income for Programmes	222,936.50	14
Membership dues	25,191.72	2
Donations	352,190.92	22
Conference income	14,814.50	1
Investment Interest and Other Income	128,140.01	8
Balance of Income for Programmes B/F	867,796.20	54
Total	1,611,069.85	100

EXPENDITURE	US\$	%
Delivery of Programmes	128,906.42	39
Personnel & Contracted expenses	189,200.00	58
Conference expenditure	8,759.09	2.66
Other expenses(Web management, Marketing material, Webinar, Equipment service and repairs)	1,863.01	1
Total	328,728.52	100

2021 - INCOME GRAPH



2021 - EXPENDITURE GRAPH



2021 - EXPENDITURE GRAPH

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