



CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT FOR THE PERIOD 2006 -2008

1. Overview

The term under review began rather tentatively with both the Chairperson and chairperson Elect being indisposed through injury and ill health; with the Secretary keeping the home fires burning. Much of CHELSA's activities had to be placed on the back burner, as members and the institution lent their support and participated at IFLA. CHELSA as a body was not able to feature prominently in this prestigious event mainly due to the fact that as an organization we have not consolidated in many ways.

2. Membership

In terms of the CHELSA constitution membership is only open to the Heads of Higher Education Libraries in South Africa. This is understood to be at this stage Public Higher Education Libraries. Institutions in this category are automatic members of CHELSA.

2.1. Executive Membership

The membership of the executives was comprised of the following Library Directors :

- Chairperson : Roy Raju : Durban University of Technology
- Chairperson Elect : Vivian Agyei : Tshwane University of Technology
- Secretary: Pateka Matshaya : University of the Western Cape
- Treasurer : Tom Larney : University of North West
- Additional Member: Felix Ubogu : University of the Witwatersrand
- Additional Member: Yolisa Soul : University of Fort Harare

3. Governance

CHELSA has had three meetings since 2006 with the fourth to take place in May 2008.

- September 2006 at St. George's (LIASA Conference)
- May 2007 at DUT
- November 2007 at Emperor's Palace
- May 2007 at East London (to occur)

3.1. Constitution

The constitution of CHELSA was accepted in principle at its May 2006 meeting subject to editorial amendments. This document now regulates CHELSA's Operations.

3.2. Financial Administration

The administration of finances is now streamlined with the opening of a CHELSA bank account. Member subscriptions are currently the main source of income. The reconciliation of accounts, with specific reference to subscription recovery for outstanding payment from 2006 and further was not obligatory. The treasurer on each meeting keep members updated of the funding status

4. Strategic Partnerships

4.1. Association with HESA

Within the flexible network model of HESA, CHELSA preferred to have an appropriate informal association with HESA. It is within that view CHELSA feels confident to be Hesa's community of Practice with unstructured relationship .

4.2. Association with SCONUL

CHELSA's association with SCONUL has been established with the following accomplishments to be acknowledged

- The second visit to South Africa in 2007 contributed to a series of workshops hosted by CHELSA Libraries on topics and projects of common nature
- The visit also stimulated interests of collaborations that resulted to SCONUL inviting at its costs one of the CHELSA Member to their conference to be held in Edinburgh in June 2008. SCONUL's gesture to invite one Library Director from the CHELSA to its June 2008 conference in Edinburgh needs to be reciprocated. Ms Joyce Gozo will represent CHELSA at the conference.
- Both parties (CHELSA and SCONUL are in the process of formalizing this partnership by signing a Memorandum of Agreement.
- The Chairperson places on record his gratitude to Ms Gozo for her initiative to explore and establish this partnership.

5. CHELSA Projects

Projects that were initiated during the previous executive team reached a conclusion stage during the tenure of the outgoing executive team an element that need to be applauded to all CHELSA members for their contribution

5.1 Self Review Guidelines

After a series of discussions, this document has been finalized and is posted on our web-site for consultation. The document provides guidance and give

account to the quality assurance matters of Higher Education Libraries in South Africa.

The committee would not be doing justice without acknowledging a team of enthusiastic driving force behind this project such as Joyce Gozo, Karin de Jager, Roy Raju and Dudu Nkosi; and the HEQC for their participation and support, namely late Prem Naidoo and Carneson.

5.2 ETD Project

The progress of this project has reached a stage where joint committees comprising of representation of CHELSA and NRF members, together with experts in their field, are on the verge facilitating the establishment of the national institutional repositories. A seamless ETD system for all CHELSA member institutions is being realized.

5.3 Information Literacy

The sub-committee for Information Literacy Training (ILT) was established in April 2001. The five member committee represents the five regions or consortia; namely Eastern Cape, Gauteng, Free State, Western Cape and Kwa-Zulu-Natal. While there was significant activity on ILT around the country, institutions were at a different level ranging from developing the programme to SAQA accredited offerings. The objective was to formalize and standardize ILT at all member institutions with credit-bearing and SAQA accredited status. The ultimate goal of this team is to establish a standardized accredited information literacy program that will be shared by all CHELSA community.

5.4 Workshop on Balance Scoreboard

A workshop on the Balance Scoreboard was held at the Durban University of Technology in May 2007. The objective was to expose members to this instrument for effective management of our libraries by translating an institution's vision and strategy into a coherent set of performance measures.

5.5 . Action Research

A series of action research were conducted by members with aims to share the results under CHELSA umbrella through report back on meetings and participation on conferences. The following are completed studies by members:

- Position Grading for Library Directors / Executive Directors – Lindiwe Ndaki
- Funding Formula - Buhle Mbambo- Thata
- LIBQUAL survey - Hannie Sander's
Library
- Information Literacy - Vivian Agyei –IL Team

6. Conclusion

Although CHELSA has been in existence for several years now, its aspiration to create a forum that provides effective leadership and to influence opinion is yet to be realized. It seems that CHELSA networking is only limited to meeting forums with minimal activities to strengthen spirit of collaboration. While there may be cogent reasons for such a situation, the forum need collective wisdom to realize its goals. This is a collective challenge which requires a collective response.