

**CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT 2015**



**COMPLIED BY: PP NTSHUNTSHE-MATSHAYA  
CHAIRPERSON**

**13 MAY 2016**

**Table of Contents**

1.	Context and Background .....	3
2.	Overview of the Year .....	3
3.	Focus areas and Accomplishments .....	4
4.	Key Milestones .....	6
5.	Challenges and Recommendations .....	7
6.	Acknowledgements .....	8

## **1. CONTEXT AND BACKGROUND**

### **Strategic aim**

CHELSA aims to improve library and information services for public higher education and research in South Africa through adopting the following vision and mission:

### **Vision**

To transform existing library practices in Higher Education to respond to existing and new realities and to lay the foundation for the development of a learning society

### **Mission**

CHELSA strives through visionary and visible transformational leadership to ensure that the Higher Education sector is provided with optimal access to information for the purpose of learning, teaching, research and community development.

CHELSA will support knowledge management practices in academic and research libraries.

### **Objectives**

CHELSA is a non-profit organization established for the following public benefit objectives:

1. To promote the role of libraries in Higher Education
2. To foster academic and research librarianship through partnership
3. To develop information access policies for Higher Education libraries
4. To enhance the use of technology within the Higher Education library environment
5. To develop an active quality assistance programme for Higher Education libraries
6. To establish human resources development programmes
7. To transform the Higher Education Library and Information Services in terms of their fitness for purpose in a new era
8. To ensure that all Higher Education libraries participate and contribute to community based services.

## **2. OVERVIEW OF THE YEAR**

- 2.1 The year 2015 would be characterised as being busy, yet very short. The disruptions at our universities together with CHELSA Executive Committee members' institutional responsibilities and personal challenges negatively affected the forum in one way or another.
- 2.2. The CHELSA Chairperson took two months' sabbatical leave whilst the Chair-Elect took ill. Furthermore, one additional member (Dr Rookaya Bawa) withdrew from the Executive Committee towards the end of the year. These challenges left the Executive Committee with only three committee members (Mesdames Vivian Agyei, Betsy Eister and Lindiwe Ndaki).
- 2.3. On taking a closer look at CHELSA's financial situation, the Executive Committee considered that conversion of the part-time to full-time appointment of the Administrative Officer would require R120 000 more than the income generated by the forum. Membership fees were not increased in 2015 whilst no new members joined the forum. The Executive Committee took the decision to terminate the contract of the CHELSA Administrative Officer, Miss Zizo Dube.
- 2.4 The above-mentioned transition occurred when CHELSA's NPO status came into fruition with a series of activities needed to ensure the forum's compliance with the Act. I would like to sincerely acknowledge Mesdames Norma Roberts and Vivian Agyei who swiftly worked together to put systems in place and rescued the forum from irregularities.

## **3. FOCUS AREAS FOR 2015 AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

- Positioning of CHELSA as HESA's Community of Practice: the CHELSA Chairperson was contacted by the HESA Chairperson who was quite interested to know what CHELSA's expectations are from HESA. Amongst the most critical issues mentioned in CHELSA's response was HESA's endorsement of the funding

proposal submitted by CHELSA through HESA office. HESA was also apprised of CHELSA initiatives that require their support, such as acquiring of a national license for electronic resources and funding for libraries.

- Participation of the National Committee for organizing the IFLA 2015 conference in enabling CHELSA to leverage on the hosting of the conference in South Africa by organizing a CHELSA Seminar on Library Trends in the place of the CHELSA Ordinary Meeting.
- The Executive Committee used the time set aside for the CHELSA Ordinary Meeting for preparation and organising of the seminar.

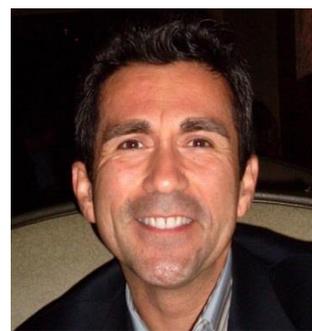
#### **SPEAKERS: CHELSA SEMINAR ON LIBRARY TRENDS**



Stephanie Bradbury  
QUT Library Res Manager



Wolfram Horstmann  
Assoc. of EU Research



Mark Puente  
ACRL- LibQual

- The Seminar took place on 14 August 2015 at the University of the Western Cape. It was attended by 55 librarians from a variety of library types; i.e. higher education libraries, research councils, public libraries and library schools.
- The papers presented covered a series of themes (namely ACRL – LibQual and collaborative opportunities for libraries, QUT- Research data management and the role of libraries and Association of EU Research libraries “LIBER scholarly communication, national initiatives, resource sharing, benefits and lessons learnt.
- The programme was co-facilitated by the UWC library staff and CHELSA colleagues with the welcome and vote of thanks given by the CHELSA Executive Committee members.
- I would like to thank the following member libraries:

- University of the Western Cape library staff for taking up the responsibility of seminar logistics, brainstorming on the theme with CHELSA colleagues at member libraries.
  - Tshwane University of Technology for co-chairing one of the seminar sessions.
  - University of the Free State for being active participation in the preparation phase.
  - Mangosuthu University of Technology for participating in the seminar programme.
  - Universities of Cape Town and the Western Cape together with Cape Peninsula University of Technology for their willingness to host Stephanie Bradbury on her interest to visit and share with libraries, Queensland University of Technology Research data management practices. We hope libraries reaped positive outcomes as a result of these visits.
- The outcomes of the seminar resulted in some libraries showing interest in exploring “LIBQUAL collaborative opportunities. The CHELSA Chairperson volunteered to be part of the new IFLA chapter that is being established by the LIBQUAL working group. The first brainstorming meeting will take place during the 8<sup>th</sup> Qualitative and Quantitative Research Methods in Libraries Conference to be held at the University of London.

#### **4. KEY MILESTONES**

- 4.1 CHELSA registration as an NPO (registration number 140-828-NPO requires Executive Committee members’ time and effort in order for the forum to comply with the provisions of the NPO Act.
- 4.2. The CHELSA Constitution was finalised and signed.
- 4.3. The CHELSA website was revitalised to show member libraries, their websites and institutional contact details. The Executive Committee would have loved to have access to libraries’ virtual tours to show-case innovations in our libraries. Members are urged to use the website to advertise any events or vacancies in their libraries. A special word of thanks is extended to Ms Lindiwe Ndaki and the Executive Committee for getting the website up and running.
- 4.4. The CHELSA narrative report for the year 2014 was prepared and submitted to the Department of Social Development in compliance with the NPO Act.

## **5. CHALLENGES AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

The current Executive Committee has been remotely running the CHELSA office without professional office support to lead the forum's strategic initiatives that require the following:

- A highly professional and seasoned Manager with a deep knowledge of academic library and information services to prioritize, coordinate and drive CHELSA projects
- Securing stable and reliable partnerships for CHELSA
- Looking out for calls for grant proposals or seed funding and drafting funding proposals that can attract funders and guarantee stability of the forum
- Conducting and organizing workshops for CHELSA member libraries on topical issues affecting the development of libraries
- Fostering partnerships and facilitation of alignment of CHELSA initiatives with organizations having similar interests (nationally and globally)
- Acting as the CHELSA Marketing Officer to ensure the forum's visibility and positioning
- So far, the current Executive Committee has had to secure limited time between their office demands and CHELSA initiatives
- One of the reasons for drafting a questionnaire on what CHELSA members expect from the Executive Committee are to determine whether member libraries are committed to retaining the forum, and if so, what role they expect to play to sustain its future endeavours.

## **6. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

- CHELSA acknowledges the new NLSA CEO, Professor Rocky Ralebipi-Simela, for continuing to host the CHELSA office at the NLSA premises.
- During 2015, we lost our dearest colleague and friend, Mr Felix Ubogu, the Wits University Librarian. May his soul Rest in Peace.