



COMMITTEE OF HIGHER EDUCATION
LIBRARIES OF SOUTH AFRICA

Reg. No.: 140-828-NPO

ANNUAL REPORT 2018/2019

REPORT TABLED AT THE CHELSA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

24 JUNE 2019 AT

THE CENTRE FOR THE BOOK, CAPE TOWN

Report compiled by Ujala Satgoor with input from

Shirlene Neerpath, Zanele Mathe, Vivian Agyei,

Lucille Webster, Paiki Muswazi and Anke McCallum

Table of Contents

1.	About CHELSA	3
2.	Membership	4
3.	Movements, resignations and retirements	5
4.	Professional involvement	5
5.	Awards	5
6.	Governance	5
7.	Overview of the Year	7
7.1	Academic Library Standards Framework	7
7.2	CHELSA Corporate Identity	9
7.3	CHELSA Financial Sustainability	9
7.4	Figshare Consortium Initiative	9
7.5	National and International Matters	9
8.	Conclusion	11

1. ABOUT CHELSA

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:

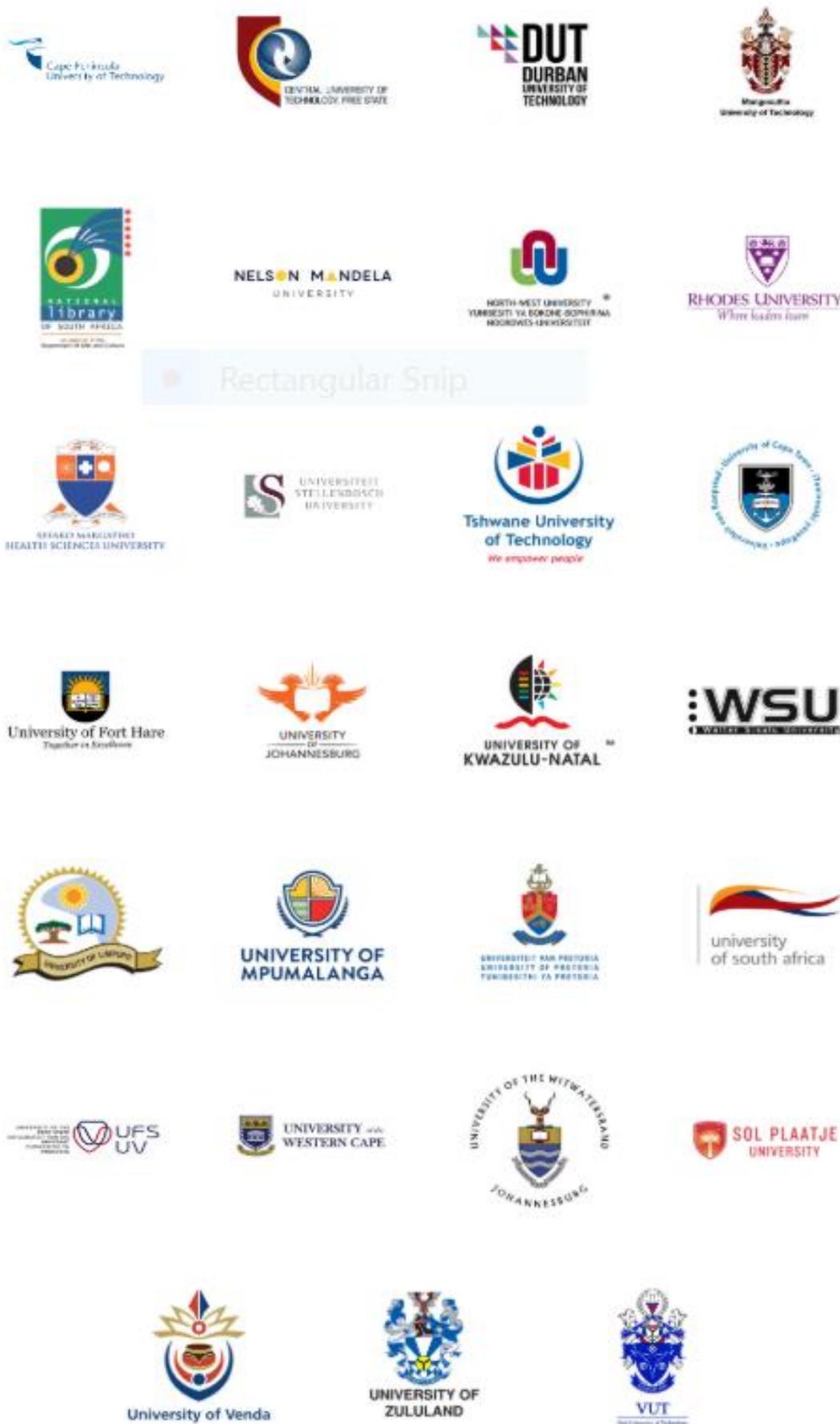
- CHELSA strives through visionary and visible transformational leadership to ensure that the Higher Education sector is provided with optimal access to information for the purpose of learning, teaching, research and community development.
- CHELSA will support knowledge management practices in academic and research libraries.

Objectives:

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

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

2. MEMBERSHIP



3. MOVEMENTS, RESIGNATIONS AND RETIREMENTS

The following new appointments were made in 2018/2019:

- Mr Sabelo Chizwina, Director, Sol Plaatje University from 01 March 2019
- Mr Lazarus Matizirofa, Deputy Director, University of Pretoria from 01 May 2019
- Dr Nthabiseng Mosala-Bryant, Director, Mangosuthu University of Technology from 01 May 2019
- Ms Ujala Satgoor, Executive Director, University of Cape Town Libraries from 01 January 2019

4. PROFESSIONAL INVOLVEMENT

1. Sabinet Board of Directors: Dr Mathew Moyo was elected to the at the Sabinet Board of Directors at its AGM held on 12 September 2018;
2. SANLiC Board: The following members were elected to serve on the SANLiC Board:
 - Ms Laila Vahed, re-elected as SANLiC Chairperson
 - Ms Vivian Agyei, SANLiC Treasurer
 - Ms Ellen Tise, Board member

5. AWARDS

Ms Ujala Satgoor was awarded the first LIASA Executive Librarian of the Year Award in 2018.

6. GOVERNANCE

The CHELSA Executive Committee is guided by the CHELSA Constitution and subscribes to the characteristics of good governance, namely, participatory leadership, consensus oriented, accountability, transparent, responsive, effective and efficient, equitable and inclusive¹.

6.1 CHELSA Office Bearers for the term 2018 – 2020

The following Office Bearers were elected at the CHELSA AGM held on 2 May 2018:

Dr Shirlene Neerpath, Chair Elect
 Ms Zanele Mathe, Secretary
 Prof Ralebipi-Simela, Treasurer
 Mr Paiki Muswazi, Marketing Officer
 Ms Mushoni Mulaudzi, Additional Member

6.2 Appointment of the CHELSA Project Manager

Ms Anke McCallum was appointed as part time CHELSA Project Manager with effect from 01 May 2018 for a period of 12 months on a one-year contract. This contract has been further renewed for another year wef 01 June 2019 to 31 May 2020. I wish to acknowledge Ms McCallum for her diligence, integrity and professionalism in every aspect of her responsibilities.

6.3 Handover meeting between Executive Committees, 04 June 2018

For the purposes of continuity and sustainability of CHELSA, a handover meeting between outgoing and incoming Executive Committees has been initiated. During the handover meeting held on 04 June 2018, the following priorities for the term were highlighted and discussed:

- CHELSA Sustainability
- Academic Library Standards

¹ UKEssays. November 2018. Principles and Characteristics of Good Governance. [online]. Available from: <https://www.ukessays.com/essays/politics/principle-of-good-governance.php?vref=1>.
 CHELSA Annual Report 2018/2019

- Review of the CHELSA Memorandum of Understanding (MoU).
As per the AGM recommendation the Committee has been tasked to review the MoU to reflect the changes in academic librarianship. The review will focus on:
 - The existing CHELSA agreement pertaining to the collegial use of physical premises and onsite resources
 - Expanding the MoU to include collection development and management, resource sharing through offsite sharing, weeding and discards, and the last holding library.
- Increase the visibility of CHELSA through:
 - Stakeholder engagement
 - Website review and content management
 - Social media

6.4 CHELSA Treasurer

Further to the CHELSA AGM and subsequent handover meeting held on 04 June 2018, the appointment of Prof Rocky Ralebipi-Simela as CHELSA Treasurer was reconsidered. Ms Lucille Webster was tasked with communicating the following matters with Prof Ralebipi-Simela:

- CHELSA Treasurer portfolio and the recommendation to release her of this responsibility and that Ms Mushoni Mulaudzi had agreed to assume this portfolio
- Her continuance as an additional member on the CHELSA Executive Committee
- The continued use of the CHELSA office on the NLSA Pretoria campus.

Prof Ralebipi-Simela readily agreed and indicated that “she only volunteered her services because no-one else was prepared to take up the position” and was happy to continue as an Exco member. Regarding the CHELSA office, she indicated there was no immediate use for the space and that it could continue as the CHELSA office.

In a Chairperson’s communique sent to members on 28 June 2018, and in cognition of the fact that this is an elected portfolio and the difficulty we had in attracting nominations for this portfolio, the CHELSA Executive Committee requested members’ support for the handover of the Treasurer’s portfolio to Ms. Mushoni Mulaudzi.

Prof Rocky Ralebipi-Simela, had availed herself at the AGM to serve as CHELSA Treasurer for the 2018-2020 term. However, recognising her responsibilities as the CEO: NLSA, involvement in several key national policy-related issues and international commitments as the National Librarian, it was unanimously agreed by the Executive Committee that CHELSA could not add to her commitments/responsibilities and released her from this portfolio;

Ms. Mushoni Mulaudzi, an additional member on the CHELSA Executive Committee, subsequently agreed to serve as the Treasurer for the term;

Ms. Vivian Agyei agreed to continue as Treasurer for a period of three months and handover to Ms. Mulaudzi with effect from 01 September 2018.

During this period, Ms. Agyei would also facilitate the change of signatories.

Ms Vivian Agyei, the outgoing Treasurer informed the accountants of these developments. This change will be confirmed at the 2019 AGM as an Ordinary General Meeting was not held at the beginning of 2019.

6.5 CHELSA Domicillium

The retention of the CHELSA Office at the NLSA campus ensured the continuance of the CHELSA domicillium. Ms Vivian Agyei agreed to continue as a signatory and suggested the Tshwane University of Technology (TUT) as a possible alternative domicillium.

6.6 CHELSA Telephone

The CHELSA office phone number was cancelled and the Project Manager's cell phone number appears on the website.

6.7 Executive Committee meetings

Due to the professional constraints of the members of the Executive Committee, the following meetings were held via teleconference to ensure the continued operations of CHELSA and realisation of priorities:

- 03 September 2018
- 01 October 2018
- 20 February 2019
- 21 May 2019
- 04 June 2019

7 OVERVIEW OF THE YEAR

7.1 Academic Library Standards Framework

South African academic libraries have to a large extent functioned independently and practices/facilities have been influenced by global trends, positionality of and type of parent institution, and historical factors. In the absence of standards, the disparities among academic libraries persist. The determination of an academic libraries standards framework was identified as a corporate project during the 2016-2018 term. The protests that rocked the HE sector resulting in institutional shutdowns and uncertainties delayed the development of the standards framework.

A15-member Working Group met at a 2-day workshop on 03 and 04 September 2018 at Durban University of Technology (DUT) during which the context of SA HE, academic libraries and the value of standards were shared. The Working Group members are:

Becker, Deborah	Cape Peninsula University of Technology
Mahlangu, Nomoya	University of Johannesburg
Mathe, Zanele	University of Mpumalanga
McCallum, Anke	CHELSA
Mhinga, Rhandzu	Tshwane University of Technology
Molawa, Segametsi	University of South Africa
Moyo, Mathew	North-West University
Mulaudzi, Mushoni	University of Venda
Ncoyini, Samuel	University of Fort Hare
Ndzingani, Quekeza	Walter Sisulu University
Neerpath, Shirlene	University of the Western Cape
Raubenheimer, Huldah	University of the Free State
Satgoor, Ujala (Convenor)	Rhodes University
Vos, Louise	North-West University
Webster, Lucille	Durban University of Technology
Zambri, Janet	University of the Witwatersrand

The following nine key principles applicable to the SA context were identified by the Working Group and the 10th principle ensures international alignment of the Standards Framework itself and creates the mechanism for self and peer review:

1. Governance

Through strategic planning, libraries align themselves to institutional mandate for greater effectiveness, clarity of purpose and roles, and continuous improvement

2. Infrastructure

As the intellectual commons of the university, libraries ensure its fit for purpose for all

3. Broadening access

Libraries facilitate physical and virtual access for academic discovery and intellectual development

4. Funding

Optimal and responsible use of funding for well-resourced academic libraries

5. Human resources

Libraries attract and retain suitably qualified, skilled and competent staff who are agile to change and responsive to institutional and user needs

6. Collections

To provide seamless access to collections in all formats, that are well-balanced, support the scope and depth of the teaching and research mission of the institution

7. Collaborations and partnerships

To advocate, advance, educate and promote the role and value of the academic library through active engagement with internal and external stakeholders

8. Educational role

As a partner to teaching and learning, libraries develop and support information fluent students who are able discover, access and use information and knowledge resources and tools effectively for academic success, research and lifelong learning.

9. Quality assurance

Libraries imbue quality in all processes, procedures, facilities and services, adopts monitoring and evaluation for greater effectiveness and efficiency, and utilises statistics for informed decision-making,

10. Standards framework

The CHELSA Standards Framework is aligned to ISO, and adoption thereof will enable South African academic libraries to engage in peer review to ensure equitable access and effectiveness.

The draft document will be circulated for comment hereafter. I would like to acknowledge the members of the Working Group, Library Directors for supporting this initiative, and Ms Lucille Webster and her team at DUT for hosting the Working Group,.

7.2 CHELSA Corporate Identity

The CHELSA website received a revamp in late 2018. The existing Drupal-based website was unable to be updated and it was agreed in June 2018, after consultation with LIASA, that a WordPress site would be the most useful route to follow. A web-design company was appointed to undertake a redesign and development of a new WordPress site. The new site went live in March 2019 and will be maintained and updated where possible by the CHELSA Project Manager, with additional support from the Service Provider, as and when required. Members are urged to supply content to ensure a dynamic website.

7.3 CHELSA Financial Sustainability

There is consensus amongst members that it is important for CHELSA to explore a long-term sustainability model that is not reliant on membership fees only. CHELSA's role is critical within the HE sector and there is a need to position it strategically within this environment. A task team was identified to explore sustainability factors and activities, which will be explored further in the second half of this term. In the interim, the Executive Committee recommended the implementation of the proposed membership fee increase suggested in 2018 to enable forward planning:

- 5% - R13 440 per institution (2019)
- 6% - R13 568 per institution (2020)
- 7% - R13 696 per institution (2021)

7.4 Figshare Consortium Initiative

Further to presentations made by Dr Dale Peters (UCT) on the Western Cape Figshare Consortium initiative, Mark Hahnel, Figshare CEO, and DIRISA at the CHELSA Ordinary General Meeting held in May 2018, the implications for individual institutions was contingent upon the number of participating institutions and the implementation of RDM policies therein. Further efforts to communicate with DIRISA to ensure a broader national conversation was to no avail.

7.5 International and National Matters

7.5.1 Mr Paiki Muswazi reported that in 2012-13, the NRF called for digitization grant applications. The University of the Witwatersrand Library application was granted an award from the Department of Science and Technology, which enabled the launch of their Digitization Center on 11 May 2018. CHELSA members were invited to share in this milestone event.

7.5.2 USAf: South Africa and its engagement with Open Access

Prof Ahmed Bawa, CEO of Universities South Africa (USAf) shared a briefing document entitled *South Africa's Journey towards Open Access to Scholarly Journals: A Briefing Document* on 24 April 2019, which was circulated to all members. This document was produced at the behest of Vice-Chancellors to get a sense of where we are as a country regarding OA. While South Africa has given its support for OA2020, we are cognisant of our reliance on subscription journals due to the relative small size of our research output (approx. 1% of the global output). While institutional membership to SANLiC has ensured cost savings of 86% to journal subscriptions, SANLiC and USAf have been investigating the importance and implication of OA2020 for South Africa. It therefore behoves us as Library Directors to follow and participate in these discussions so that the implications for our institutions are better understood.

7.5.3 International Collaborations

Ms Webster reported that DUT hosted a conference, courtesy of SA-Sweden University Forum initiative and collaboration. The project involves two South African and two Swedish Universities in collaboration on a three-year funded project starting in June 2018. Ms Webster shared the link for those interested in participating.

7.5.4 Shared storage

Increasingly the demand for space is a refrain being heard from academic libraries. Prof Frahm–Arp reported that Universities in Gauteng had since come together to talk about shared storage in order to ease space challenges in libraries. While several discussions have been held in the Western Cape and Gauteng to consider the feasibility and viability hereof, a national conversation may be warranted.

7.5.5 Copyright Amendment Bill (Letter): The following letter was submitted on 17 July 2018 in support of specific clauses in the Copyright Amendment Bill:

On behalf of the Committee of Higher Education Libraries of South Africa (CHELSA), I wish to place on record our endorsement of the comments and recommendations made by Universities South Africa (USaf) regarding the specific clauses of the Copyright Amendment Bill (B13-2017).

CHELSA is representative of the academic library directors of the 26 public universities in South Africa and is an acknowledged community of practice of Universities South Africa (USaf). As academic libraries and librarians, we are responsible for providing and facilitating physical and digital access to, as well as making students and academic staff aware of the appropriate use of, information and knowledge resources in support of the teaching, learning and research mandates of universities.

We believe that appropriate and balanced copyright legislation is crucial not only for the acknowledgement and preservation of existing knowledge, but also for the generation of new knowledge through the creative, intellectual and research processes encouraged and undertaken at universities. However, we notice that text and data mining, which is very important for research and other forms of knowledge production, is not addressed in the Bill despite it being recommended by many stakeholders in submissions and at public hearings in August 2017.

As a critical partner to teaching, learning and research in higher education, we engage on a daily basis with the ubiquity of technology and the impact of the digital domain on the use of knowledge resources. Therefore, we wish to commend the Committee for recognising the urgency and importance of including fair use provisions, as well as exceptions for education, research, libraries, archives, museums, galleries, and for persons with disabilities, which will ensure alignment with international treaties and especially support national policies pertaining to Open Science.

We trust that the comments and recommendations made by USaf, and supported by CHELSA, on the specific clauses will be considered accordingly. We wish you, the Portfolio Committee and the Technical Team well with your deliberations.

*Ujala Satgoor
CHELSA Chair*

7.5.6 Response to the recruitment of the National Librarian: June 16, 2019

The following statement was posted on the CHELSA Facebook page in response to the national outcry raised against the advertised recruitment requirements for the National Librarian of South Africa:

CHELSA registers its concern at the denigration of the role of the National Librarian and objects to the de-professionalising of this important national role. The National Librarian is the highest representative of libraries and information services in the country, and is the leading advocate for the preservation of national knowledge and literary heritage. This primary role cannot be relegated to an afterthought. The Board of the NLSA must withdraw the current advert and re-advertise with the appropriate LIS qualifications and experience as primary requirements. We also call for a transparent recruitment process which will ensure the right person is appointed.

Ujala Satgoor, CHELSA Chair.

8 CONCLUSION

The HE landscape is changing very fast and it requires an agile response from academic libraries. We need to be able to position our libraries as partners to teaching, learning and research through collaboration, strategic thinking and planning, and dynamic leadership. Through CHELSA we are well positioned to set standards, strengthen our role within our given contexts and support each other so that we all realise our mandates.



UJALA SATGOOR
CHAIR (2018-2020)