



COMMITTEE OF HIGHER EDUCATION
LIBRARIES OF SOUTH AFRICA

Reg. No.: 140-828-NPO

ANNUAL REPORT 2022/2023

REPORT TABLED AT THE CHELSA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

22 MAY 2023

**AT THE RADISSON HOTEL & CONVENTION CENTRE,
JOHANNESBURG, O.R. TAMBO**

Report compilers

Dr Daisy Selematsela: University Librarian, University of the Witwatersrand - Chair

Ms Nomawethu Danster: Director: Library & Information Services, Rhodes University - Chair Elect

Ms Jeannet Molopyane: Director: Library & Information Services, University of the Free State – Secretary

Mr Lindsay Reid: Director: Library and Information Services, Nelson Mandela University – Treasurer

Dr Nthabiseng Mosala-Bryant: Senior Director: Library Services: Mangosuthu Univ of Technology – Marketing

Dr Khomotso Maphoha: Executive Director: Library and Information Services, Univ of Limpopo – Add Member

Ms Anke McCallum: CHELSA Project Manager

For more information visit: <https://chelsa.ac.za/>

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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:

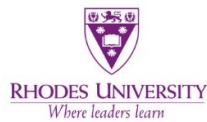
- CHELSA strives through visionary and visible transformational leadership to ensure that the Higher Education sector is provided with optimal access to information for the purpose of learning, teaching, research and community development.
- CHELSA will support knowledge management practices in academic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

New Appointments:

The following new appointments were made in 2022/2023:

- Ms Zanele Mathe: Library Director, University of Zululand from 3 January 2023.
- Ms Siphethile Gcukumana: Manager, Knowledge Management and Information Services, CSIR from 01 May 2023.

Resignations:

Dr Sabelo Chizwina, Director: Library and Information Services, Sol Plaatje University

Retirements:

- Ms Laila Vahed: Director of Library Services, University of Zululand from 31 August 2022.
- Ms Madelein van Heerden, Manager, Knowledge Management and Information Services, CSIR from 31 May 2023.

New Members:

Dr Dibuleng Mohlakwana, Director: eResearch Knowledge Centre, Human Sciences Research Council (HSRC)

Acting Members:

- Ms Nomgcobo Ntsham, Sefakto Makgotho Health Sciences University
- Ms Constance Ndumela, Sol Plaatje University
- Mr Lulamile Mangali, University of Mpumalanga
- Dr Khomotso Marumo, University of South Africa
- Ms Biziwe Tembe, Vaal University of Technology
- Ms Qukeza Ndzingani, Walter Sisulu University

In Memoriam:

Mr Paiki Muswazi – former University Librarian, University of the Witwatersrand, who passed away on 25 January 2023.

Prof Seth Manaka – Assistant Librarian, Lecturer, Deputy University Librarian, University Librarian and later Professor in the Department of Library and Information Science at the University of the North/Limpopo who passed away on 7 February 2023.

4. PROFESSIONAL INVOLVEMENT

Ms Ujala Satgoor was elected to the Board of Directors of Sabinet.

Dr Daisy Selematsela was elected to the boards of directors of Networked Digital Library of Theses and Dissertations (NDLTD) and GetFTR (Get Full Text Research).

5. 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 inclusive.

CHELSA Executive Committee for the term 2022 – 2024:

- Dr Daisy Selematsela, Chair
- Ms Nomawethu Danster, Chair-Elect
- Ms Jeannet Molopyane, Secretary
- Mr Lindsay Reid, Treasurer
- Dr Nthabiseng Mosala-Bryant, Marketing
- Dr Khomotso Maphopha, Additional Member

Executive Committee Meetings:

CHELSA Executive Committee Meetings focussed on the continued operations of CHELSA and the realisation of priorities. Meetings took place on the following dates:

- 8 July 2022 via Zoom
- 15 August 2022 – CHELSA Exco handover meeting in Johannesburg
- 12 September 2022 via Zoom
- 14 October 2022 via Zoom
- 18 November 2022 via Zoom
- 9/10 February 2023 via Zoom – CHELSA Exco Strategic Planning Meeting
- 10 February 2023 via Zoom – CHELSA Exco Strategic Planning Meeting
- 24 February 2023 via Zoom
- 17 March 2023 via Zoom
- 21 April 2023 via Zoom
- 5 May 2023 via Zoom

The minutes of the Executive Committee Meetings are available on the members section of the CHELSA website.

CHELSA Finances:

As in previous years, and in light of ongoing financial constraints of the sector the Executive Committee had again recommended a zero percent increase on membership fees for 2023.

CHELSA Domicilium:

CHELSA continues to make use of the CHELSA Office at the NLSA campus as its Domicilium, although the office is not currently occupied. The keys are kept by the LIASA Office.

CHELSA Membership:

As a follow up to invitations to join CHELSA sent in previous years to research councils, the CHELSA Executive Committee once again extended letters of invitation to the Human Sciences Research Council (HSRC), the National Research Foundation(NRF), the National Institute for Humanities and Social Sciences (NIHSS), and the Agricultural Research Council (ARC).

The Human Sciences Research Council joined CHELSA as a member on 11 November 2022, and is represented at CHELSA by Dr Dibuleng Mohlakwana, eResearch Knowledge Centre: Director.

Appointment of the CHELSA Project Manager:

Ms Anke McCallum's contract was renewed for the period 01 June 2022 to 31 May 2023, and has further been renewed for the period 01 June 2023 to 31 May 2024.

CHELSA AGM and OGM:

The second Ordinary General Meeting (OGM) for 2022 took place during the LIASA Conference, in Johannesburg, on 3 October 2023.

The 2023 Annual General Meeting (AGM) and first Ordinary General Meeting (OGM) for 2023 are scheduled to take place on 22 May 2023 in Johannesburg.

Department of Social Development Compliance:

In 2020, it was established that there was some confusion regarding the issuing of the NPO Certificate for CHELSA. No progress was made with this in 2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the national lockdown and restrictions. The CHELSA Executive Committee subsequently requested the assistance of NK Accounting Services to assist with the process of obtaining the NPO Certificate from the Department of Social Development. The Department informed NK Accounting that the name change of CHELSA

in 2014 had never been lodged with the Department, and a resolution confirming the name change was required, in addition to the submission of the historical narrative reports which were outstanding, prior to the NPO Certificate being issued.

Members at the Annual General Meeting held on 27 May 2022 confirmed the 2014 name change as *“the Committee of Higher Education Libraries of South Africa”*. The name was also duly reflected in the Constitution signed 30 June 2014. It was further resolved that the *“name of CHELSA is “the Committee of Higher Education Libraries of South Africa” and the shortened name is CHELSA. This is the name that should appear on the NPO Registration Certificate. This is the name as reflected in the Constitution dated 24 June 2019”*.

The historical narrative reports are in the process of being submitted to the Department of Social Development, after which further endeavours to obtain the NPO Certificate will be initiated.

Central Supplier Database:

The updating of CHELSA’s details on National Treasury’s Central Supplier database, is still pending, as the new NPO Certificate is required for the details to be changed.

SARS Tax Compliance:

The change in Treasurer details were logged with SARS, and Mr Lindsay Reid was loaded as the Public Officer for CHELSA with SARS. The CHELSA income tax return for the year ended 31 December 2021 resulted in an assessment showing NIL payable to SARS.

There was a short period early in 2023 where CHELSA’s tax status showed as non-compliant, due to a technical issue at SARS where the tax exemption unit had not processed the income tax return for year ended 31 December 2021 which had been submitted through SARS e-filing on 9 December 2022. NK Accounting Services were able to resolve this matter by involving SAIT (South African Institute of Tax Professionals), and the assessment was finalized by the SARS’s tax exemption unit, showing no taxes due, on 17 February 2023. After this temporary anomaly, CHELSA’s tax status was restored to being fully tax compliant.

6. STRATEGIC PLANNING

Members of the CHELSA Executive Committee participated in a Strategic Planning Session held via Zoom on 9 – 10 February 2023.

7. OVERVIEW OF THE YEAR: CORPORATE PROJECTS

7.1 Academic Library Standards Framework (Convenor: Ms Ujala Satgoor)

At the Ordinary General Meeting held in May 2022, it was confirmed that CHELSA had opted not to proceed with the SABS route for the Framework, as it was primarily for the national benefit of publicly funded higher education institutions, and the SABS route would have meant that access to the Standard would have been limited and it would have been situated behind a paywall. CHELSA had therefore resolved not to undertake the SANS route. The Executive Committee would continue to lobby and promote the Framework with all relevant stakeholders.

7.2 The State of Academic Libraries in South Africa Report (Convenor: Dr Shirlene Neerpath)

There has been no further progress with this completed project during the reporting period. The SALI Trust expected article publication as part of the grant conditions has not been produced.

7.3 Leadership Development Programme (Convenor: Dr Khomotso Maphopha)

The CHELSA Executive Committee has recently picked up on this project which had been put on hold during the COVID-19 period. Dr Khomotso Maphopha is coordinating this project on behalf of CHELSA and the Executive Committee is liaising with Universities South Africa (USAF) with a view to collaborating with them on leadership development opportunities.

7.4 Marketing Team (Convenor: Dr Nthabiseng Mosala-Bryant)

The Marketing Team has been recently re-established and has revisited the Terms of Reference for the group. The Team has created a LinkedIn profile for CHELSA, in addition to the CHELSA Facebook profile. Marketing responsibilities will be allocated to team members at the next meeting with the CHELSA website to receive priority.

7.5 National ETD Repository Project (Convenor: Dr Reggie Raju)

It has been recently established that the old NRF hosted NETD database is still being populated with content. This database was to have been decommissioned in 2019 after the NRF had informed CHELSA members that they would no longer be maintaining the hosting of the database. In October 2020 the NRF was requested to hand over the files to CHELSA. This was never done. The Chairperson has sent through a further communication to the NRF on 5 May 2023. In the interim the CHELSA NETD Task Team has made progress with setting up the shell of the database which is being hosted at UCT on the DSpace Platform.

The team is investigating a longer-term model for the repository and would be engaging more closely with CHELSA members on this. It is anticipated that the structural component of the project would be completed before the middle of this year, with the intention of rolling it out into 2024. Population of the database expected to be implemented in 2024.

Discussions regarding future resources and costs would take place with members at the Ordinary General Meeting to be held in May 2023. A further call would also be made to members for representatives to participate in the Task Team activities.

7.6 CHELSA Statistics Database Revamp (Convenor: Prof Elisha Chiware)

Prof Elisha Chiware tabled a proposal for the revamp of the CHELSA Statistics Database, at the CHELSA Ordinary General Meeting held in 2022.

Further to this meeting, an online Information Session was held on 23 September 2022. At this meeting, the Informal Interest Group of volunteers that is coordinated by colleagues from University of Johannesburg was adopted as a subgroup of CHELSA under the leadership of Prof Chiware. A proposal that this group be extended to include members from unrepresented institutions was supported and a project update and a call for additional task team members was tabled at the CHELSA OGM held on 3 October 2022.

Prof Chiware has since then met with the group to introduce the project and discuss the participation of members in the project. Three teams will be formed, namely the Infrastructure Team, the Data Management Team, and the Marketing and Training Team.

It would be important for CHELSA to undertake some benchmarking, and it was proposed that an information session with CHELSA members be arranged with the Council of Australian University Librarians (CAUL), who had been approached by Prof Chiware for benchmarking purposes. It was hoped that the CAUL Director of Strategy and Analytics could address directors at the upcoming CHELSA Ordinary General Meeting. There is a need for an advisory group of CHELSA directors to assist with the task teams. This would also assist with capacity development of new directors. This proposal, as well as a further call for participants on the task teams will be made at the CHELSA OGM to be held in May 2023.

8. NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL ENGAGEMENTS

8.1 Universities South Africa (USAf)

Further to the announcement at the CHELSA Ordinary General Meeting held in October 2022, regarding the retirement of Prof Bawa from USAf, The Executive Committee had

reached out to Prof Bawa to bid him farewell and thank him for his support of CHELSA and its activities.

The Executive Committee had further introduced members of the CHELSA Executive Committee to the new CEO of USAf, Dr Phethiwe Matutu, who has assumed her position in October 2022.

Mr Mahlubi Mabizela, the newly appointed Director: Operations and Sector Support, and Mrs Janet van Rhyn, Project Manager: Sector Support have been invited by the Executive Committee to address members at the upcoming Ordinary General Meeting.

8.2 Library and Information Association of South Africa (LIASA)

CHELSA and LIASA co-hosted an Open Science Symposium on 24 October 2022 in celebration of Open Access Week.

The symposium was addressed by Ms Ellen Tise, Senior Director, Stellenbosch University Library and Information Services, Dr Nirmal Singh, Guru Angad Dev Veterinary and Animal Sciences University, Ludhiana, Prof. Daisy Selematsela, University of the Witwatersrand University Librarian, Mr Lazarus Matizirofa, Deputy Director, University of Pretoria Library Services and Mr Charlie Molepo, Deputy Director, University of the Free State Library and Information Services.

Topics included Open Science and the Sustainable Development Goals, Open data and climate change, Open Educational Resources and the high cost of education and Open Access initiatives. The presentations and meeting recording were made available via the CHELSA website.

8.3 Copyright

The Copyright Amendment Bill 13D-2017 was approved by the House of Assembly on 21 September 2022, after which it was forwarded to the I Council of Provinces (NCoP) for concurrence and to the nine Provincial Legislatures.

CHELSA submitted its endorsement of the Copyright Amendment Bill (B13D-2017) to the Select Committee on Trade and Industry, Economic Development, Small Business Development, Tourism, Employment and Labour of Parliament in January 2023, but did not tender any further submissions in response to requests to support individual provincial submissions.

CHELSA is observing developments with this important process and is grateful for the efforts of Ms Denise Nicholson in driving this process on behalf of the sector.

8.4 Council on Higher Education (CHE)

Ms Jeannet Molopyane, Ms Nomawethu Danster, Mr Ujala Satgoor and Dr Shirlene Neerpath formed part of the CHE Workshop on Higher Education Practice Standards (HEPS) Development for Higher Education. The purpose of the standards is to provide a quality framework for Higher Education Institutions. In this workshop, groups were divided into six communities of practice. The mentioned colleagues were spread across the six Communities of Practice to have the library influence across the standards. More details on the Communities of Practice and the respective scope are provided in a separate CHE report from the workshop.

8.5 Council for Higher Education Libraries in Malawi (CHELMA)

In September 2022, CHELSA was approached by the University Librarian, University of Malawi regarding the establishment of their Council for Higher Education Libraries in Malawi (CHELMA). CHELSA was excited to share some information regarding its activities and governance structures with CHELMA and also shared a copy of its constitution and wished CHELMA well with the establishment of their organisation.

9. CONCLUSION

The year in question the EXCO had to re-imagine its strategic approach towards the outcomes that would enhance the standing and relevance of CHELSA. Bi-monthly virtual meetings are held to ensure the expected operations and financials are above board.

The 2023 planned activities as aligned in the strategic report are made possible by the dedicated commitment of the EXCO, Task Team convenors and the respective project participants. It has been a challenging and interesting 12 months to adjust and focus on CHELSA as part of academic citizenship and juggle the substantive roles assumed by the members.

On behalf of EXCO, I would like to extend gratitude to all the CHELSA members for providing the much-needed support and allowing their teams when a call is made for 'volunteers' or task team participants.

DR DAISY SELEMATSELA

CHELSA CHAIRPERSON (2022 -2024)