18ᵗʰ Annual LIASA Conference, 2017

Call for Papers

Date: **02 - 06 October 2017**

Venue: **Birchwood Hotel & OR Tambo Conference Centre, Gauteng**

Theme: **Re-envisioning the role of Library and Information Services**

Contact: **conference@liasa.org.za**

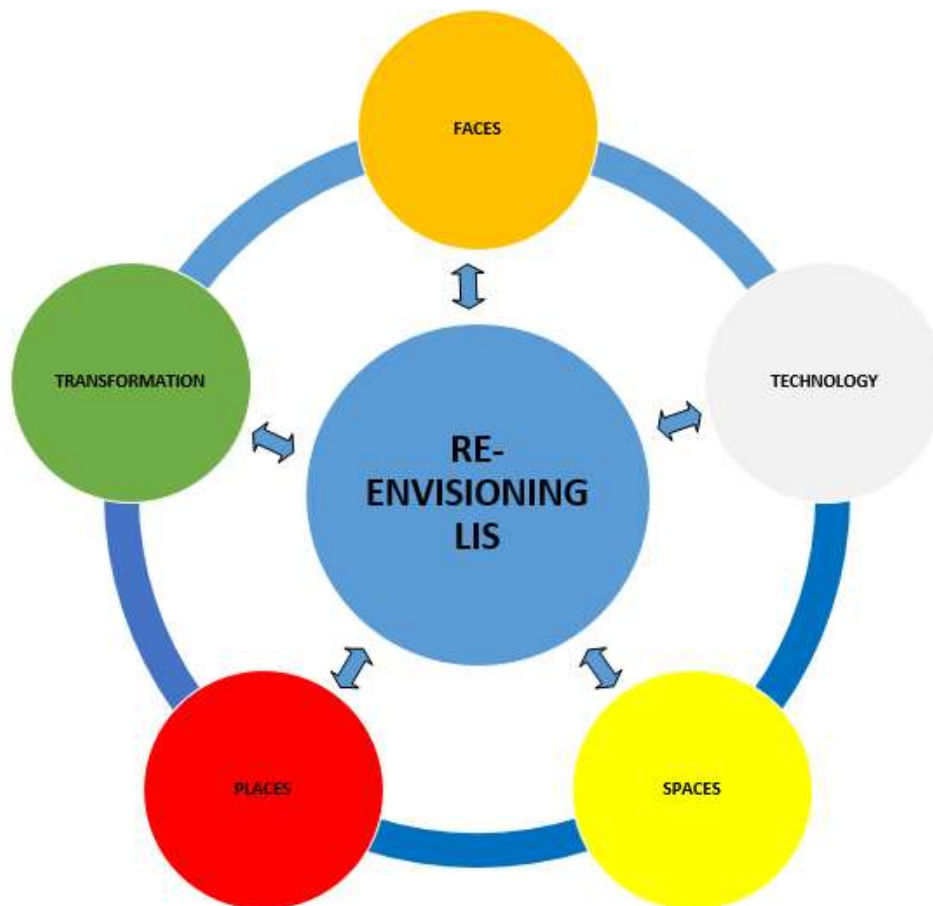**Website:**   http://www.liasa.org.za/liasa2017/

Socio-economic, educational and political disruption continue to challenge LIS service delivery while the purpose and relevance of the library and information services (LIS) sector and its position in a developmental state is questioned continuously. Further forces impacting on libraries and library practice include ubiquitous advances in technology, shifting educational landscapes, changing community demographics, and national and global development imperatives.

The theme adopted for LIASA 2017 Conference: *"Re-envisioning the role of Library and Information Services",* allows us to reflect on the current state of libraries and librarianship in South Africa and the future of the South African LIS sector.

A successful re-envisioning process is an active process of reflection on what is, and what can be; is inclusive; requires visionary leadership, strategic thinking and planning, and a willingness to change. The outcome hereof is among others a paradigm shift, an engaged workforce in a dynamic profession and a supportive community.

LIASA Conference 2017, therefore, gives you – the library leader, the librarian, information worker or other interested party – the opportunity to share your concerns, challenges, experiences, best practices and innovative solutions towards re-envisioning your organisation, your professional development and the LIS sector under the following sub-themes:

- Changing places
- Changing spaces
- Changing faces
- Changing technology
- Transformation

Sub-themes:

Changing places

We find ourselves in a time where the conversation elements focus on globalization, economic upheaval, climate change, political conflict and warfare. Consequences of these such as poverty, hunger, refugees, drought and floods are daily realities and libraries can no longer continue business as usual. This sub-theme offers a space for reflection on the relationship between libraries and the world.

- Local stories of experiences
- Taking libraries to the people
- Non-traditional locations for libraries

Changing spaces

Taking libraries out of buildings and into communities and to the points of need are the overarching topics in this section:

- What constitutes a library space?
- Where do libraries go when moving services into communities
- Examples of models of libraries not bound by spaces
- Examples of repurposed spaces in libraries including disability access and services

Changing faces

The word 'librarian' invokes many images and much debate yet stereotypes persist. The competencies required by librarians remain a discussion point. This section seeks to unpack the notion of a "re-envisioned" librarian:

- Evolving roles of the librarian
- The notion of the embedded librarian
- The librarian's competency index
- The soft skills needed by librarians

Changing technology

Technological changes are disruptive by nature causing continuous shifts in the environment. Societal inequalities result in an uneven uptake of technological products and innovations and so varying levels of service delivery are found in communities. In this section the conversation would revolve around:

- The ideal model of technological services in libraries including virtual services
- Examination of mobile technology as a continuing solution in this sector
- Examination of and involvement in current technological applications (social media etc) and ongoing relevance
- Disruption: new technologies not thought to be of use in libraries (makerspace, library carpentry etc)

Transformation

The Transformation Charter calls for the breakdown of divisions among the LIS sub-sectors and to adopt an ecosystem approach to a single LIS environment. This has benefits for improved access across library types extending equitability and, through new-found interdependencies and collaboration will supplement library services.

- Collaboration between library sub-sectors, galleries, archives, museums, government, private sector etc
- The contribution of libraries to the National Development Plan 2030, UN Sustainable Development Goals 2030 and African Union Agenda 2063

The deadline for receipt of abstracts for **paper** presentations is **15 June 2017**. Authors of successful submissions will be notified by **01 July 2017**.

Create a profile and login to submit your abstract to the abstract submission page. When creating **your e-profile**, please add a brief bio (max. 300 words).

For general queries contact: conference@liasa.org.za

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT THE SUBMISSION OF ABSTRACTS

1. This call for papers is for the parallel sessions of the Conference.

2. Authors are encouraged to submit abstracts for short papers based on practical experience, case studies and best practice.

3. Priority will be given to papers on the main theme, although papers on related topics will also be considered.

4. Papers must be presented in English.

5. Parallel talks will be limited to a total of 10 minutes per presentation and 5 minutes for questions and answers and interaction with the audience.

6. When submitting an abstract, the system will require the following information to be completed by the author/s of the paper:
   - Sub-theme
   - Name(s) of author(s)
   - Institutional affiliation (s)
   - Full contact details of author(s) incl. email addresses
   - Full title of the paper
   - An abstract of the paper of 300 - 500 words

7. The abstracts of the accepted papers will be published in the conference programme and on the LIASA website, and the brief bio will be published in the conference programme.

8. No correspondence will be entered into about acceptance or non-acceptance of papers.

9. The final version of the presentation (PowerPoint) must be submitted in electronic format on the day prior to the presentation. The presentation will be uploaded to the LIASA website.

10. The opportunity exists that a selection of papers, presented at the LIASA Conference might be published in a special conference edition of the South African Journal of Libraries and Information Science.

11. By submitting your abstract you agree to it being published on the LIASA website.

12. **Please note that all presenters must be registered for the Conference and they are responsible for their own expenses to attend the Conference.**