



**MAKE AN
IMPACT**

NEWSLETTER

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Editorial



Hi OSALLITES,

As we approach the end of an extraordinary year, I am honoured to reflect on OSALL's journey in 2024. This year has showcased the resilience, innovation, and collaboration of our members. From hosting engaging webinars and creating opportunities for professional growth to fostering meaningful discussions at our annual AGM and year-end function, OSALL has continued to bring together the legal information community across South Africa.

In this edition, one of the year's highlights has been our dedication to mentorship and knowledge sharing, exemplified by the Johannesburg Bar Library's internship programme, which provides aspiring information professionals with invaluable hands-on experience. You will also find insights from the ICIL Conference in Alexandria, Egypt, all about Dies Non by Azhar Aziz-Ismail as well as Zamo Dlomo and Sharon Pather-Nagy's recap of the OSALL year-end function.

Additionally, enjoy coverage of the LIASA Annual Conference, where our Treasurer, Hesma Van Tonder, was honoured with one of the most prestigious awards. Don't miss the "Talent in motion" column, which highlights the dynamism and dedication that define OSALL.

Thank you for your continued support.

May the holiday season bring you joy, rest, and inspiration for 2025. We look forward to seeing everyone at the OSALL seminar in 2025 and hearing your insightful presentations.

Warm regards from OSALL to all our readers.

Maropene Ramabina

OSALL Chair

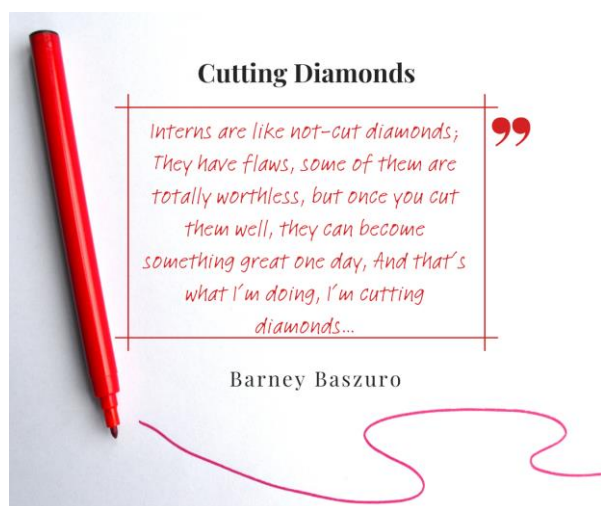




News

By Lydia Craemer
Johannesburg Bar Library

Cutting Diamonds



<https://www.goodwall.io/blog/internship-quotes/>

In November 2010, law librarians from law firm libraries and the Johannesburg Bar met to discuss the future of the law librarian in South Africa. The meeting was the brainchild of Academic Marketing Services and endorsed by the OSALL. The crux of the meeting centered around a burning question: how to pass the unique talents and skills that law librarians possess to younger generations of librarians entering the profession. An apprenticeship or learnership scheme was discussed, as a means of answering this question. Such a scheme would require LIASA approval and compliance with various legislative requirements for education and training. In early December 2010 a call was put out on the OSALL listserv for members to gauge the interest of OSALL members in a law librarian learnership program. Perhaps it was the time of year and the exhaustion felt by OSALL members that resulted in no responses being received. The idea fell into a deep sleep and slipped off the radar...

Fast-forward to May 2023 when I received an email from a University of Limpopo student studying Bachelor of Information Studies. One of the requirements to complete the degree is a

month's practical experience in a library, also known as a librarianship practicum¹.

The student, Miss T, heard from a friend, who had just recently joined the Johannesburg Bar as Junior Counsel, that the Bar had a library, and she approached me directly to ask if she could complete her practical experience with us. Having done some practical work experience in the days of yore when I was a student, I decided that we could offer some assistance and agreed to host her.

The Department of Communication and Media Studies at the University sent me an evaluation tool prior to Miss T's arrival. We were asked to cover the following areas during her training:

- Acquisitions
- Cataloguing
- Circulation
- Information / reference services
- Marketing and outreach programs
- Inter-library loans
- Subsidiary responsibilities and general administration, including shelving, book-covering etc.

We were also asked to assess interpersonal relationships and professional and ethical behavior in the workplace. Not all aspects of the program apply at the Bar Library. Outreach programs are more common in the public library arena compared to the special library arena so we couldn't meet that requirement.

I was able to structure a program for Miss T's practical training based on the evaluation tool. I decided from the start that she would get hands-on experience, not the work-shadowing or observation that I encountered when doing my practical training (I have a strong suspicion that the librarians were scared students would "break" something or completely mess up systems and routines that were in place). Students get enough of a "talk fest" in lectures and don't need more of the same during practical training.

I drew up a roster whereby Miss T would spend a large part of the day with one of the library staff members while they did each of their library tasks. I also included a two-day stint at our library in the Johannesburg CBD so that Miss T could see how

¹ Work **Practicum** is the American term for a **work placement** and is an undergraduate or graduate-level course, often in a specialized field of study, that is designed to give students supervised practical application of a previously or concurrently studied field or theory. <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Practicum>

the two Bar libraries were similar or different in the way they function. I instructed the library staff to show Miss T what their tasks entail and emphasised that they must allow Miss T to do their jobs hands-on but under their supervision. Miss T joined us for the month of July and did everything from shelving to cataloguing and everything in-between. She gained experience in using the SIRSI Symphony library management system, Sabinet, Jutastat and LexisNexis and assisted with ILL's. We also allowed her to assist with enquiries sent to us by the advocates and these ranged from simple document supply requests to full-blown research queries. She adapted well to working in the library and enjoyed everything we gave her to do.

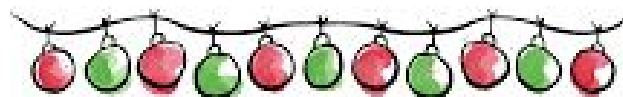
During July I was contacted by her supervisor to tell me that he and another staff member would visit the library unannounced to observe the practical training that Miss T was receiving. The supervisor arrived at the library towards the end of July and spoke to Miss T about what her training entailed. After speaking to her he came to speak to me, totally blown away by the thorough training we were giving her and deeply appreciative that we had taken the approach we did. He asked if we would be prepared to host students in future and I informed him that we would be amenable to hosting more students.

In June 2024 the University contacted me again and asked if we would host two students for their practicum studies! I had to restrict the invitation to one because we don't have the staff capacity to work with two students. In August 2024 we hosted Mr K for a month and put him through the same paces as we did Miss T. He fell head over heels in love with enquiries and would eagerly ask if there were any he could assist with! He enjoyed his time with us and found it as worthwhile as Miss T did.

Rewind to 2010 and the discussions amongst OSALL members about encouraging new blood to enter the law library profession. If Miss T hadn't heard about the existence of the Bar Library and approached us, the existence of law libraries and what law librarians do would still be unknown to future librarians. Miss T fell in love with law library work and would love to work in a law library in future. It wouldn't surprise me if Mr K also feels that way. Maybe, now knowing that a law library can host a student successfully for a month for practical training, law libraries will consider getting involved in practicum training to encourage new blood to enter the law library profession. The door has been opened to give law libraries an opportunity to encourage future librarians to experience and consider law librarianship as a

career path and I feel we should embrace this opportunity.

If anyone feels inspired to host a student in 2025, please get in touch with me for the University of Limpopo's contact details.



News

**By Maropene Tommy Ramabina
North West University**

Egypt and all its wonders



The 3rd International Conference on Information Literacy (ICIL Africa) was held at the iconic Bibliotheca Alexandrina in Egypt, from the 14th to the 17th of October 2024. Experts and practitioners gathered to explore the transformative potential of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in information literacy. The experience was both enlightening and thought-provoking and it offered valuable insights into the future of libraries and the role of technology in information dissemination.

Upon my arrival I noted the extreme beauty of the city. I had to navigate through language barriers as most locals only spoke Arabic. Only a limited amount of English speakers were available to assist. I also learnt that the Egyptian workweek runs from Sunday to Thursday.



During the conference discussions highlighted how AI can revolutionise library operations by enhancing the collection, preservation, dissemination, and sharing of information. Attendees were encouraged to embrace AI rather than fear it by recognising its potential to assist users in developing critical thinking skills. Additionally, the necessity for academic institutions and libraries to establish guidelines for the ethical use of AI was emphasised, with historical contexts of misinformation, such as its devastating impact during the Rwandan genocide, underscoring the importance of responsible AI usage.

The conference also addressed the need to expand information literacy education beyond youth, focusing on the "grey generation"; older adults who require skills to navigate the digital landscape. Suggestions included offering courses in senior centres and rural communities. Another significant topic was the inclusivity of AI tools, which are increasingly accommodating users with special needs, highlighting the importance of inclusive technology in libraries.

Networking opportunities at the conference were invaluable. I connected with colleagues who presented on the use of AI, particularly ChatGPT, in academia, and we are considering collaborative projects that leverage our collective experiences. My presentation on "Exploring the Use of ChatGPT by Law Students" received positive feedback, with colleagues providing suggestions for improvement based on their experiences with more advanced versions of AI.

Looking forward, there is potential for collaboration with the University of Limpopo in South Africa for a publication reflecting on our shared experiences at ICIL. The need for localised information literacy standards in South Africa was emphasised, as current practices often rely on international benchmarks. Additionally, the importance of evaluating library training sessions is becoming increasingly clear, with librarians encouraged to implement these evaluations to enhance training effectiveness.

A significant discussion point was that while AI can enhance educational practices, it cannot replace human intelligence. The empathy and emotional depth inherent in human interaction remain irreplaceable assets in education. A panel discussion proposed integrating information literacy into academic curricula as a compulsory, credit-bearing module, which will require educators and librarians with the necessary qualifications and research skills.

Beyond the conference, my time in Egypt was enriched by visits to historical museums and cultural sites, providing a deeper appreciation of the country's rich heritage. Looking ahead, the next ICIL will be held in Accra, Ghana, in 2026, while the European Conference on Information Literacy is scheduled for Hamburg, Germany, in 2025. These events promise further opportunities for collaboration and knowledge sharing in the field of information literacy.



In conclusion, the 3rd ICIL Conference was a remarkable experience that blended professional development with cultural exploration. The insights gained about AI, ethics, and the future of information literacy will undoubtedly shape our practices in academic libraries. As we embrace these changes, it is crucial to remember the fundamental role of empathy and critical thinking in our work.

My paper that I presented will be edited and updated for potential publication in 2025, and the report will be shared with colleagues through OSALL and NWU newsletter contributions and a presentation at the Knowledge Sharing session in January 2025.

I extend my gratitude to North-West University LIS for sponsoring my attendance at the conference.



News

By Azhar Aziz-Ismail
Baker McKenzie

Dies Non in South Africa - Courts & CIPC

We are on the cusp of Ke Desember and in South Africa that means most operations start slowing down as South Africans celebrate the summer. For those in the legal fraternity, our Courts and CIPC also take a break and apply *dies non* (those days on which courts do not sit or carry on business) based on various rules and empowering Acts. The aim of my article today is help you familiarise yourself on your *dies non* is applied in South Africa, so that you can start preparing to celebrate December!

For those working in Corporate, Commercial & Regulatory:

- CIPC has issued a Notice for purposes of the Trade Marks Act 1993, Patents Act 1978, Design Act 1993, Copyright Act 1978, Companies Act 2008, Close Corporations Act 1984, Co-operatives Act 2005 and Registration of Copyright in Cinematograph Film Act 1977, that the period from Tuesday, 24 December 2024, up to and including Wednesday, 1 January 2025, will be regarded as *dies non*.
- CIPC will be closed to the public from 10h00 on Tuesday, 24 December 2024 up to and including Wednesday, 1 January 2025.
- During this period, services processed by automated means will continue to be

processed while those services which require back-office intervention / finalisation e.g. services which require scanned documents to be e-mailed to dedicated e-mail addresses or uploaded via electronic platforms e.g. New E-Services, will only resume from Thursday 2 January 2025.

- The lodgement of documents and services of legal documents will be accepted on Monday, 23 December 2024 until 15h30.
- With regards to name reservations, all reserved names that would have lapsed between Tuesday 24 December 2024 up to and including Wednesday 1 January 2025, will now have their reservation dates moved forward to Thursday 2 January 2025 and will, therefore, only elapse on that date.

For those working in Dispute Resolution:

***Dies Non* in the High Court per the Uniform Rules of Court, particularly Uniform Rules 6, 19, 26 and 70, applies as follows:**

- Uniform Rule 6, in relation to Applications, provides that the days between 21 December and 7 January, both inclusive, shall not be counted in the time allowed for delivery of the notice of intention to oppose or delivery of any affidavit (this however does not apply to applications brought under Uniform Rule 6(12) and Uniform Rule 43)
- Uniform Rule 19 provides that the days between 16 December and 15 January, both inclusive, shall not be counted in the time allowed within which to deliver a notice of intention to defend
- Uniform Rule 26, in relation to failure to deliver pleadings (barring), provides that the days between 16 December and 15 January, both inclusive, shall not be counted in the time allowed for the delivery of any pleading per this Rule
- Uniform Rule 70, in relation to taxation, provides that the days from 16 December to 15 January, both inclusive, must not be counted in the time allowed for inspecting documents or notes pertaining to any item on a bill of costs or the giving of a written notice to oppose
- Uniform Rule 70, in relation to taxation, provides further that no taxation shall be set down in the days from 16 December to 15 January, both inclusive, except: where the period for delivery of the notice to oppose has expired, before the commencement of the period 16

December and 15 January, both dates inclusive, and no notice of intention to oppose has been delivered; where the party liable to pay the costs, has consented in writing to the taxation in his or her absence; or for the taxation of writ and post-writ bills

***Dies Non* in the Magistrates Court per the Rules regulating the Conduct of the Proceedings of the Magistrates' Courts of South Africa, particularly Rules 13, 21B, 33 and 55, applies as follows:**

- Rule 13 provides that the days between 16 December and 15 January, both inclusive, shall not be counted in the time allowed within which to deliver a notice of intention to defend.
- Rule 21B, in relation to failure to deliver pleadings (barring), provides that the days from 16 December to 15 January, both inclusive, shall not be counted in the time allowed for the delivery of any pleading per this Rule
- Rule 33, in relation to costs, provides that where costs or expenses are awarded to any party by the court, otherwise than by a judgment in default of the defendant's delivery of notice of intention to defend or on the defendant's consent to judgment before the time for such notice has expired, the party to whom such costs or expenses have been awarded shall not count the days from 16 December to 15 January, both inclusive, in the time allowed for inspecting documents or notes pertaining to any item on a bill of costs or the giving of a written notice of intention to oppose
- Rule 33, in relation to costs, provides further that no taxation shall be set down in the days from 16 December to 15 January, both inclusive, except: where the period for delivery of the notice to oppose has expired before the commencement of the period 16 December to 15 January, both inclusive, and no notice of intention to oppose has been delivered; or where the party liable to pay the costs has consented in writing to the taxation in his or her absence.
- Rule 55, in relation to Applications, provides that the days from 21 December to 7 January, both inclusive, must not be counted in the time allowed for delivery of any notice or affidavit contemplated in Rule 55 (this however does not apply to applications brought under Rule 55(5) and Rule 58)

***Dies Non* in the Labour Court:**

Per the Rules Regulating the Conduct of the Proceedings of the Labour Court, which in Rule 1 pertaining to definitions provides that the period between 16 December and 15 January (both dates inclusive) shall not be taken into account in the calculation of any period in terms of the rules.

***Dies Non* in the Labour Appeal Court:**

Per the Rules Regulating the Conduct of the Proceedings of the Labour Appeal Court, which in Rule 1 pertaining to definitions provides that the period between 16 December and 15 January (both dates inclusive) shall not be taken into account in the calculation of any period in terms of the rules.

***Dies Non* in the Supreme Court of Appeal:**

Per the Rules Regulating the Conduct of the Proceedings of the Supreme Court of Appeal of South Africa, which in Rule 1 pertaining to definitions provides that the period between 16 December and 15 January (both dates inclusive) shall not be taken into account in the calculation of any period in terms of the rules

***Dies Non* in the Constitutional Court:**

Per the Practice Direction from the Constitutional Court of South Africa on *dies non*, the period from 17 December to 15 January, both dates inclusive, shall not be counted in the time allowed in the Rules of this Court for lodging applications, responding affidavits and other documents, notices and processes. This does not apply in a case where the Constitutional Court has issued directions or made an order requiring the delivery of records, affidavits, written argument or other process on a date or dates falling within the said period.

With this overview of *dies non* in South Africa, let us start preparing our matters accordingly, so that we too can enjoy Ke Desember!





News

**By Hesma van Tonder
University of the Free State**

**Winning the LIASA/WWIS Research Librarian
of the Year 2024**

I have been honoured to have received the inaugural LIASA/WWIS Research Librarian of the Year 2024 award at the past LIASA conference.



This prestigious accolade recognizes outstanding contributions to the field of research librarianship, particularly in the areas of advanced searching, bibliometrics and altmetrics.

Since 2011, I have been a research librarian in the Postgraduate Research Unit at the University of the Free State’s Library and Information Services. Over the past few years, my focus on bibliometrics and altmetrics has significantly advanced the understanding and application of these critical metrics in academic research. My work aims not only to enhance the visibility and impact of research outputs but also to provide invaluable insights into research trends and influence.

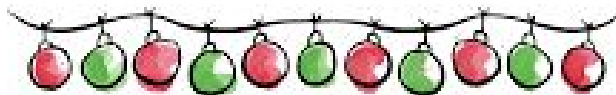
Looking ahead, I have to organise a series of training workshops in the coming year. These workshops aim to equip fellow librarians with the skills and knowledge necessary to navigate the evolving landscape of advanced searching, bibliometrics and altmetrics. This award not only

celebrates my achievement but also underscores the vital role of research librarians in advancing academic scholarship and knowledge dissemination.



Left: Melissa Badenhorst (Managing Director, WWIS), Zanele Nomvete (Product & Marketing Director, WWIS), Hesma van Tonder

I am deeply honoured to receive this award. It is a testament to the collaborative efforts and support of my colleagues and the academic community at the UFS. This recognition inspires me to continue striving for excellence in research librarianship. Thank you to LIASA and WWIS for bestowing this award on me.



News

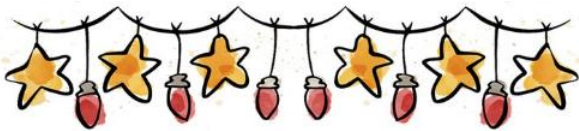
**By Zamo Dlomo
Webber Wentzel**

OSALL Year-End Function 2024

The year-end function was absolutely wonderful! The spirit of the day was captured by catching up with old and new. The venue’s African theme added a unique charm, with captivating details everywhere the eye can see. And without a doubt, the food was exceptional!



Shortly said it was: great food, a great venue (despite the notorious Fourways traffic) and even greater people.



News

**By Sharon Pather-Nagy
Webber Wentzel**

OSALL Year-End Function 2024

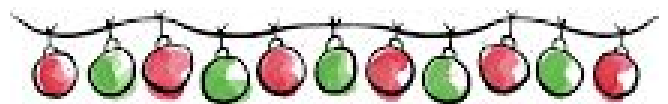
On a gorgeous summer afternoon, members of OSALL gathered for our annual year-end function. We gathered at the remarkable Chief's Boma Restaurant in Fourways. The event provided a perfect opportunity for all of us to unwind, reconnect, and reflect on the year. Thanks to the generous sponsorship of Juta, this gathering was not only a chance to celebrate but also to strengthen the friendships and professional networks that make OSALL such a close-knit community.

The location itself was a celebration of African heritage and hospitality. The Chief's Boma restaurant, renowned for its award-winning African buffet, treated us to an incredible spread of more than 120 dishes. We had unlimited access to the bold flavours of the Durban Curry Bar to the Shisa Nyama Grill station. We were invited to view our meat and select their meat cuts, from Kudu to Springbok. Their talented chefs cooked our

selections to perfection, we were truly spoiled. As we savoured these delicacies, the rhythms of African marimbas filled the air, it was truly a magical atmosphere. The vibrant ambiance, along with displays of hand-crafted jewellery and local art and craft, brought a sense of place that was both comforting and inspiring, reminding us of the diversity and beauty of our continent.

Throughout the afternoon, laughter and lively conversations filled the restaurant. The colleagues and friends shared treasured memories, laughed over shared experiences, and even swapped stories of the unique challenges and triumphs of the past year. This event for me was also a powerful reminder of the support we offer one another in our community. As we networked and reconnected, the spirit of OSALL shone brightly. In law librarianship, no single library holds every resource, and it is through collaboration that we grow stronger, sharing our knowledge, resources, and skills to better serve our organisations and clients.

My warmest gratitude to Juta for their invaluable sponsorship, making this celebration possible. Thanks to their support, we were able to come together to close the year on a high note, appreciating both the friendships and the professional bonds that keep our network strong. Here's to another year of growth, shared knowledge, and camaraderie as we look forward to the journey ahead.





Talent in motion

Azhar Aziz-Ismail
Baker McKenzie



On 1 July 2024, I joined Baker McKenzie as Knowledge Manager in Johannesburg after 6.5 years at Clyde & Co. I am a seasoned Knowledge Manager with experience working across Africa and an attorney qualified to practice in South Africa. I have an extensive experience in dispute resolution, including commercial litigation and insurance litigation (including matters concerning public liability, professional indemnity and aviation), risk, incident management, privacy and data protection and learning and development. Additionally, I have an interest in the fields of legal technology and innovation, cyber law, data protection and privacy, risk, and compliance.

I wear many hats, including being a faculty member of the London-based Legal Technology & Innovation Institute (LT&I) teaching classes on AI, Automation, Chatbots and Digital Transformation. I also serve as an executive member of both the Gauteng Attorneys Association and Johannesburg Attorneys Association, where I spearhead the Knowledge, Legal Technology & Innovation portfolio's (also working closely with the Judiciary and OJC on innovative developments in the industry, like Court Online). I am co-vice chairperson of the Johannesburg Attorneys Association and an ambassador of the South African AI Association. In my free time I am a director of a local charity, Constellation 150.

Talent in motion

Magdalene Riet
Cliffe Dekker Hofmeyr Inc



In September this year I joined Cliffe Dekker Hofmeyr Inc. as a Legal Information Specialist. I am passionate about knowledge management, legal research, and driving innovation in these areas. The best part of starting this new role is the exciting opportunities and fresh experiences it offers. The downside? Starting my leave balance from scratch right before December holidays!



Publications noted

Pieter du Plessis (Stellenbosch University) & Anthea Paulsen (University of Cape Town)

It's with a mix of excitement and sadness that I bid my newsletter contribution farewell. Sadness, because I mistakenly thought I'm irreplaceable, excitement because I now have more free time to pursue my favourite hobby: procrastination.

No more worries for me about suggested newsletter deadlines.

Anthea, it's over to you.



Pieter du Plessis

Anthea Paulsen is a Senior Librarian at UCT Law Library, specialising in legal information services and AI literacy. With a strong background in bibliometrics and a passion for innovation, I actively support the academic community, students and staff, by enhancing their research skills and exploring the evolving role of AI in libraries. As the current OSALL Secretary I am committed to fostering collaboration and advancing the law librarian profession.

I will be taking over the publications list in the OSALL Newsletter from Pieter du Plessis and looking forward to it.



Anthea Paulsen



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