



National Library of South Africa Hosts Citeathon #1Lib1Ref

The National Library of South Africa (NLSA) hosted a **Citeathon** in February 2019 in participation of Wikipedia's **#1Lib1Ref** campaign.

#1Lib1Ref invited librarians globally to add value to the encyclopaedia by adding missing citations in order to improve the credibility of articles¹. Some of the content added to Wikipedia is not backed up by evidence and is therefore non-factual. As a result, in most of Sub-Saharan Africa, researchers, especially academicians, shy away from using the encyclopaedia. However, in low resourced settings it is still used as a key source. This makes it imperative for the content to have good citations to validate the quality of the content.



“Based on the premise of **One Librarian, One Reference**, organisers estimated that if each librarian on the planet spent 15 minutes adding a citation, the combined effort would eliminate English Wikipedia's backlog of 350,000 [citation needed] notices².”

Librarians as custodians of knowledge, hold the key role of ensuring that the correct information and knowledge is passed on to their communities. The campaign started in 2016 during the 15th anniversary of Wikipedia and is now an annual event.

¹ Wikipedia see: <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1Lib1Ref>

² Wikipedia see: <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1Lib1Ref>

At NLSA, we decided to play their role and to lend our support to the initiative. On 5 February a Citeathon was held on the NLSA's Pretoria Campus. This was led by the NLSA's Graduate Development Programme (GDP).

The NLSA's GDP aims to create the future information and knowledge management professional with multiple key skills adaptable to the evolving library and knowledge management profession. The GDP includes three years on-the-job training coupled with extensive skills training relevant to working in the 21st century. The Programme also addresses adapting to changing environments such as the Fourth Industrial Revolution.



The NLSA added a total of 75 citations during the Citeathon. Participation in the Citeathon is NLSA's way of ensuring *Better Access to Knowledge for All*.

