



CALL FOR PAPERS:

SOUTH AFRICAN READING SUMMIT

BACKGROUND

The National Library of South Africa (NLSA) is amongst others, responsible for inculcating a culture of reading amongst South Africans. Over the years, several role-players have been working in the reading space, driving programmes and projects that are meant to turn South Africa into a reading nation, especially with regard to leisure reading. Whereas anecdotal evidence suggests that some of these programmes are beginning to bear fruits, a National Reading Survey conducted by the South African Book Development Council (SABDC) published in 2017, has found that very small strides have been made over the last few years, and that a lot more needs to be done if we are to achieve significant levels of leisure reading. Some of the criticisms levelled against these initiatives are that they are not integrated and do not run on an on-going basis for them to have maximum impact.

The newly launched National Reading Coalition (NRC) has the potential of giving some impetus to the nation's Reading Programmes because it is driven at the level of the Presidency. The NLSA will work with the NRC and other like-minded stake-holders to entrench Reading Campaigns in the country. Through this Summit, South Africans who are working in the reading space are invited to share their experiences. The Summit will be held in partnership with the Department of Library & Information Science at Unisa, at the Pretoria Campus from 11 to 13 May 2020. This Summit will be managed by the NLSA on behalf of our principal, the Department of Arts & Culture (DAC).

SUMMIT OUTCOMES

This conference seeks to achieve the following outcomes:

- Assess national reading initiatives and campaigns, in order to determine their effectiveness, impact and reach.
- Develop strategies and interventions to strengthen and integrate reading initiatives in the country, in order to reach significant levels of leisure reading.
- Enable informed decision-making by officials involved in reading programmes.

- Contribute to the national discourse on reading through the publication of Summit outcomes in an accredited Journal.

SUMMIT THEME

The NLSA and Unisa are calling for papers or posters on the theme:

Strengthening the reading ecosystem, with the following sub-themes:

- Impact of reading initiatives, including Book Clubs: What has been their reach and impact in advancing a culture of reading and how do we nurture and support them?
- Reading interests of specific population groups, e.g. youth, children
- Barriers to reading in all their manifestations (e.g. Lack of relevant content and reading spaces)
- Library collections versus Community information needs
- Best practices in driving reading programmes. What models exist on the Continent and globally that can be replicated in the country?
- Reading Programmes and initiatives to promote reading on targeted days (e.g. World Book Day, SA Book Fair, amongst others)
- Research initiatives on reading at South African Universities and other institutions
- Continuity and sustainability of reading programmes
- Initiatives and interventions to support Early Childhood Development as one of the priorities in the National Development Plan (NDP 2030)
- Preservation of reading material

IMPORTANT DATES TO NOTE

Please note the following important dates in the run up to the Reading Summit:

Description	Date
Submission of abstracts (Not longer than an A4 size page)	20 December 2019
Submission of full papers for publication in an accredited Journal (Journal to be confirmed)	31 March 2020
Summit dates	11 - 13 May 2020

Abstracts should please be submitted by 20 December 2019 to: Andrew.Malotle@nlsa.ac.za