



24th Standing Conference of Eastern, Central and Southern African Library and Information Associations (SCECSAL XXIV)

DATE: 20 – 24 April 2020

VENUE: Safari Hotel, Windhoek, Namibia

Call for Abstract

THEME: Inclusive Libraries and Information Services Toward Achieving Prosperity for Sustainable Development in Africa

The Namibia Information Workers Association (NIWA) is pleased to invite authors to submit abstracts for paper and poster presentations to be delivered at the XXIV Standing Conference on Eastern, Central and Southern Africa Libraries and Information Associations (SCECSAL) to be held from **20 – 24 April 2020 in Windhoek, Namibia** under the theme **“Inclusive Libraries and Information Services Toward Achieving Prosperity for Sustainable Development in Africa”**.

Sub-Saharan Africa faces several development challenges including having about 41% of its population living below the poverty line of 2 US\$ dollars per day and the number is increasing every year; low economic growth (1.4%); a large growing population; a large percentage of young people in the population many of whom are under the age of 15; raising youth unemployment; low life expectancy; among many others.

Given the development challenges in Africa and other developing countries, and building on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), in September 2015, the United Nations General Assembly adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development that includes 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) the blueprint to achieve a better and more sustainable future for all. Building on the principle of “leaving no one behind”, the new Agenda emphasizes a holistic approach to achieving sustainable development for all.

A key question for library and information professionals, including development practitioners, in the SCECSAL region is: *what role can libraries and information centres play towards addressing the*

development challenges in the region as a whole and in their respective SCECSAL countries and ultimately contribute to the attainment of the 2030 Agenda?

Authors should address the **theme of the conference** encapsulated in the above question and may focus on any of the following conference **sub-themes**:

Sub-themes

1. Access to information: issues, challenges and solutions (e.g. Marrakesh Treaty; Cape Town Declaration)
2. African libraries as drivers of the National Development Agenda
3. Archives without walls: enhancing access to archival materials
4. Bibliographic and intellectual standards for audio - visual archiving
5. Building capacities of library and information professionals to contribute toward attaining the 2030 Agenda.
6. Digital libraries and Open Source software technology
7. Digital preservation and access
8. Digital scholarship and Open Access
9. Open Data, Open Access and Open Science in development
10. Good governance: accountability, transparency and ethics by information professionals and records managers
11. Inclusive libraries and library services: good practices and success stories
12. Information for empowerment: achieving human rights, gender equality and empowering women and children with information through libraries and information centres
13. Information literacy and the knowledge economy
14. Indigenous Knowledge & Preservation of Cultural Heritage
15. Innovative digital technology-based library and information services in Africa
16. Legal and regulatory framework for records management
17. Library and information research and community support services
18. Preserving documentary heritage - commonalities in libraries and archives
19. Realizing inclusive African societies in the 21st century through libraries
20. Records continuity: ensuring usability of digital records (overtime) for posterity
21. Specialised information services in support of development (e.g. in agriculture, climate change, health, environment, science and technology, industrialisation agenda, etc.)

Outputs and Results

1. Research and analytical papers will be published in the conference publication.
2. Discussions will inform the SCECSAL member Associations to further update and contribute to national, regional and global development agendas.

Submission guideline:

The abstract should have the following information:

- Title of the abstract
- A detailed abstract of no more than 800 words indicating the key words
- The sub-theme under which the abstract has been written
- Name and position (title) of presenter(s)
- Employer/affiliated institution
- Contact information including email address, telephone number(s)
- A brief biographical statement of no more than 100 word
- The session will be conducted in English. All proposals and presentations will be required to be in English

Important dates and timelines:

Please email your abstracts before 30 April 2019 to: Mr. Wilhelm Uutoni at wuutoni@unam.na **with copies** to: scecsal2020@gmail.com and Dr. C. M. Mchombu at cmchombu@unam.na

The abstracts will be evaluated and notification of acceptance/rejection will be sent by 30 May 2019.

Please Note:

All expenses, including registration for the conference, travel, accommodation etc., are the responsibility of the authors/presenters. No financial support can be provided by NIWA, but an invitation letter can be issued to author(s)/presenter(s) of accepted papers.