

Cape Librarian

Kaapse
Bibliotekaris



Western Cape
Government

Cultural Affairs and Sport

Volume 65 | Number 4 | July/August 2021

editorial

For most people, the date 26 February 1991 means little. But it is the day that English computer scientist Tim Berners-Lee launched his WorldWideWeb internet browser as the first-ever of its sort to the public. Of course, what happened after that is history; as online connectivity in all of its forms — from the web to social media — has gone and taken over our daily lives.

By the time you read this, another life-changing date would have been etched in history: 17 August 2021. While perhaps not quite one for the ages, or signalling an event of national importance (yet), for the Western Cape and City of Cape Town's respective library services it hails a giant evolutionary leap forward. For on that day the way that books can be borrowed in the province will change forever as patrons will from now on have the choice of doing it from the safety of their own homes and through the convenience of their internet connected mobile devices.

That's right. Ebooks have arrived in our libraries.

Through collaboration with the United States-based OverDrive organisation, an ever-growing selection of Afrikaans, English and isiXhosa books has been and will continue to be added to the Provincial Library's estock (it's going to take some time getting used to saying that!) as well as for different age groups.

The virtual has become real and the real virtual. And no longer do libraries have to suck on the hind teat of technological advancement, or forever be tarred with the brush of backwardness.

It's a pleasure, then, to be able to finally welcome Western Cape libraries to the 21st century. Even if they are — incidentally — 21-and-a-half years late.

Vir die meeste mense beteken die datum 26 Februarie 1991 nie veel nie. Dit is egter die dag waarop die Britse rekenaarwetenskaplike, Tim Berners-Lee sy WorldWideWeb internetblaaier — die eerste van sy soort — die lig laat sien het. Wat alles daarna gevolg het, is natuurlik geskiedenis soos aanlynkoppeling in al sy vorme — van die web tot sosiale media — ons daaglikse lewens oorgeneem het.

En teen die tyd wanneer jy hierdie skryfstuk onder oë kry, sal nóg 'n lewensveranderende datum reeds in die geskiedenis geëts wees: 17 Augustus 2021. Dis dalk voorbarig om dié dag te laat wil verewig, of (nou al) te dink dat dit een van nasionale belang is, maar vir die onderskeie biblioteekdienste van die Wes-Kaapse Provinsie en die Stad Kaapstad verpersoonlik dit 'n reuse evolusionêre stap vorentoe.

Want vanaf daardie dag sal die manier waarop boeke in die provinsie uitgeneem word, vir ewig verander deurdat biblioteeklede dit voortaan vanuit die veiligheid van hulle eie huise kan doen, danksy die gerief van hulle internet-gekoppelde slim toestelle.

Dis reg: e-boeke is nou beskikbaar in ons biblioteke.

Samewerking met die Amerikaanse OverDrive-organisasie het die beskikbaarstel van 'n ewig-groeiende seleksie Afrikaanse-, Engelse- en isiXhosa-titels bewaarheid, wat reeds en voortdurend by die Provinsiale Biblioteekdiens se voorraad gevoeg sal word; sowel as gepaste materiaal vir verskillende ouderdomsgroepe.

Die virtuele het werklik geword en die werklike virtueel. En nou sal biblioteke ook nie meer aan die agterspeen van tegnologiese vooruitgang hoef te suig nie; of die ewige kruis van die oude doos hoef saam te sleep nie.

Dis dus aangenaam om uiteindelik Wes-Kaapse biblioteke by die 21ste eeu te kan verwelkom. Selfs al is hulle — toevallig — 21-en-'n-half-jaar laat.

Braam



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wc.slims.gov.za/desktop/desktopwvc

Indexed in | Geïndekseer in

LISA (Library and Information Science

Abstracts)

Library, Literature and Information Science

(EBSCOhost)

Reproduction and printing |

Reproduksie en drukwerk

Capitol Press

© Library Service | © Biblioteekdiens

SA ISSN 0 008 5790

Editorial policy | Redaksionele beleid

The **Cape Librarian** is the house journal of the Western Cape Library Service and is published bi-monthly.

Articles in the field of library and information science, library administration, news items, reviews and accession lists are included. The editorial staff reserve the right to edit, shorten, or rewrite any copy should it be deemed necessary. We cannot guarantee that unsolicited copy supplied will be published. Opinions expressed by contributors are not necessarily those of the Library Service. Copy for a particular issue must reach the editor two months in advance. Articles, letters and news items should be submitted directly to the editor.

Die **Kaapse Biblioteekaris** is die huisblad van die Wes-Kaapse Biblioteekdiens en verskyn twee-maandeliks. Dit bevat artikels oor biblioteek- en inligtingwese, nuusberigte, resensies, aanwinstelyste asook praktiese artikels. Die redaksie behou hom die reg voor om, indien nodig, bydraes te redigeer, te verkort of te herskryf. Die publikasie van artikels wat nie in opdrag geskryf is nie, kan egter nie gewaarborg word nie. Die menings van medewerkers is nie noodwendig dié van die Biblioteekdiens nie. Alle kopie vir 'n bepaalde uitgawe moet die redaksie twee maande vooruit bereik. Artikels, briewe en nuusberigte kan direk aan die redakteur gestuur word.

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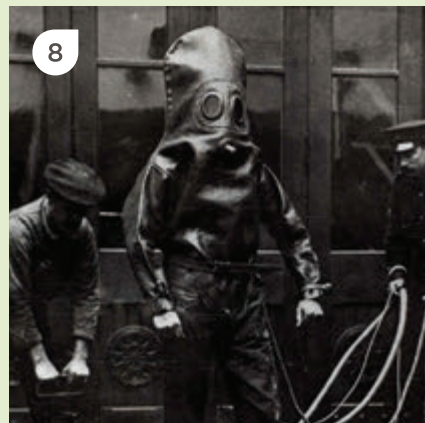
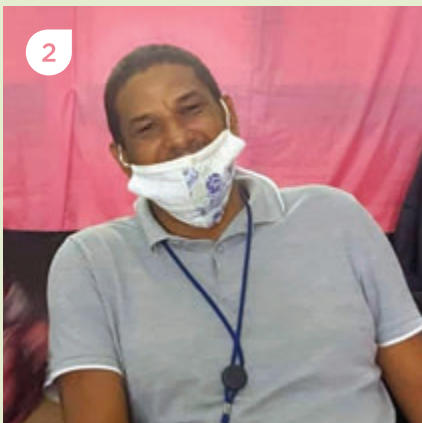
on the cover



The Company's Garden is the oldest garden in South Africa, a park and heritage site located in central Cape Town. The garden was originally created in the 1650s by the region's first European settlers and provided fertile ground to grow fresh produce to replenish ships rounding the Cape.

Tobias Reich/unsplash.com/en.wikipedia.org

in this issue



people

Remembering Abdul Petersen



The Library Service was shocked by the news of the passing on 14 June of Abdul Petersen, who worked in the Preparation section – Room 109 – as the Processing Supervisor.

I remember working as a Regional Librarian in False Bay Region, when a request came from the Department of Health asking whether the Library Service can absorb staff from Groote Schuur Hospital and Hospital Stores.

Quite a number of personnel came across to the Library Service and were placed in Preparations and the Metro regions. Abdul landed up in Preparations with some of his old colleagues – a mixed bunch, but they all adapted well.

At some stage staff were given the opportunity to enroll for Matric classes. The matric certificate enabled staff to apply for posts internally or at other departments in the Province. But Abdul stayed with the Library Service and Preparations through thick and thin. He absolutely loved going to the SLIMS user group meetings in the Southern Cape. To attend these he, as my official driver, would fetch me before sunrise so that Riviersonderend could be reached in time for a cigarette and breakfast. They were real road trips!

As a member of the smoking club we'd always received the latest gossip

from Abdul around 09:30 every morning. The first clue of his arrival would be the noise of the lifts opening and him starting with 'Môre Elzet!' (regardless of knowing whether she was even at work), before proceeding to boisterously greet everyone down the third floor passage. Then, at my office it will be like, 'Het jy gehoor?' and I would reply 'Nee! Wat? Vertel!'

Looking back, I remember two things he talked about in the last weeks. He said he would never forget the one Swellendam regional forum meeting, where the issue of overdue books was being discussed. He recalled Anneke from Struisbaai Library saying she would go to the local pub to kindly request the holder of an outstanding book to go and fetch it at home while she waited.

And last but not least, he told us how glad the Preparation staff was to see each other when they were finally allowed to return to work and discussed a rotation schedule. They were so happy that they removed their masks and hugged.

Now they are sad, but I have faith they will rise up and one day find a reason to smile again.

Tessa Caroline, Former Deputy Director: Central Organisation, Western Cape Library Service

Congratulations, Thurrah!



Admin Officer Thurrah Behardien was a finalist at this year's Service Excellence Awards in the category for Inspirational Support Employee. She provides support to various directorates within the Western Cape Library Service, synchronising database content between the Provincial IT System and the City of Cape Town System; as well as asset management support to the Western Cape Library Service. Congratulations, Thurrah!

Welcome to our new HOD



We are pleased to announce that Mr Guy Redman has been appointed as the new Head of Department for DCAS. Mr Redman joined the department as Chief Director: Cultural Affairs in 2017. He holds an MSc degree and previously worked within the Arts, Culture and Heritage spheres for the City of Durban.

Tania Colyn, DCAS Communications

Laughing in Lansdowne



'It's no joke... laughter is good for you!' Lansdowne Library invited patrons to share in the laughter in celebration of World Laughter Day on Sunday, 2 May

New library in Elim



On 24 May Minister Anroux Marais, together with Mayor Paul Swart and the Cape Agulhas Municipality officially opened a new library in Elim

George Library enjoys book sharing for families workshop



Attendees of the first workshop

Seven staff members of **George Libraries** enjoyed a book sharing for families workshop from 2-6 March. This was followed by a refresher session on 23 March and a second workshop for four staff members, also for George Libraries, from 12-16 April.

Special techniques were learnt through this structured support workshop, by means of videos, discussions, presentations and practical application with the children of Conville Primary School. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, no children could be used during the workshops but the interactive workshop proceeded with staff members depicting the children.

Book sharing entails interpersonal communication between an adult, preferably a parent or caregiver, and a child. It is a fun-filled activity in a relaxed, carefree space and atmosphere with the book as focal point. Although the programme is designed for children between the ages of eighteen months to five years, it has been noted that children with disabilities, like autism, can also benefit from this experience.

It is in this setting that the child is given the opportunity to examine, page and play with the book, under the careful observation, guidance and encouragement of the adult.

By making use of wordless or text-light picture books, children are exposed to a visual storytelling event where the child is leading the conversation and the adult is fulfilling a supporting role by paying attention to the child's interests and needs. As there is an active exchange of thoughts, observations and feelings or emotions between the child and the adult, it is quite often referred to as 'dialogic book-sharing'.

During these interactive conversations the emphasis is on the visual depiction — the pictures that are captured on the pages of the book. As discussions flow from what is portrayed by these pictures, the adult will constantly follow and focus on what is of interest and what catches the eye of the child. By pointing to and naming the object that the child sees, the child becomes aware or learns new things, like animals, emotions, colour, the weather, actions, et cetera. By making use of repetitive pointing and naming of these objects, the child becomes familiar with it. It is important for the adult to ask the child open-ended questions based on these pictures and to have conversations around it as well.

Rachel Williams, Manager: George Libraries

World Book Day celebrated across the Western Cape



23 April is World Book Day. Also known as International Day of the Book, this event was instituted by UNESCO in 1995 to promote reading, publishing and copyright. Staff from **Wynberg Library** (above left) and **Rylands Library** (above right) dressed-up as their favourite book characters in celebration of the day. We look at how other Western Cape libraries celebrated the day below:



Pelican Park Library



Woodstock Library



Scottsdale Library



Fisantekraal Library visited Fisantekraal Primary School. Pupils were excited by the storytellings by Aunty Bianca, Gcotyelwa and Faith



Mandisa Zosela and Nombulelo Kasana from **Meadowridge Library** paid a visit to the Anchusa Retirement Home for World Book Day



Parow Library hosted Little Blossoms Nursery School and Kleine Einstein Educare to learn more about books and libraries, listen to stories and dance with LiBee

Africa month celebrated at Wynberg Library



Did you know that May is Africa Month? **Wynberg Library** celebrated Africa and African music with their beautiful display showcasing the music and books they have available. They also have wonderful bookmarks with information on the different areas of music in Africa

Happy Mother's Day from Table View Library



'Because even if the whole world was throwing rocks at you, if you had your mother at your back, you'd be okay.'
- Jojo Moyes, **The one plus one**

Masiphumelele Library



African music display at **Masiphumelele Library**

Jagger Library



The **Jagger Library** salvage unearthed a fragment from the library's past: the charred remains of a 'property stamp' used for stamping newly acquired books. Humanities Principal Librarian, Alex D'Angelo, gave it to Libraries ED Ujala Satgoor for safekeeping

Sea Point Library



Fabulous crime fiction display by Bulelwa, assisted by EPWP LIS graduate, Sande

Pinelands Library turns 33



On 20 May, **Pinelands Library** celebrated their 33rd birthday in collaboration with World Bee Day. World Bee Day is a day of significance in celebration of our bees, raising awareness for the critical role they play in the world

Happy 30th birthday to Table View Library



Table View Library celebrated its 30th birthday in June this year

YearBeyond 1000 Stories Library Project YeBoneers in Caledon



Western Cape Government Cultural Affairs and Sport Minister Anroux Marais joined the YearBeyond 1000 Stories Library Project YeBoneers in Caledon.

YeBoneers attended their Orientation Training kicking off their personal and professional journey and building their skills in shared reading and literacy activities.

The YeBoneers ended off the week of training with 10 exhibitions that will be showcased at the local libraries.

The YearBeyond 1000 Stories Library Project will see 59 YeBoneers gain meaningful work experience at the libraries in the Theewaterskloof Municipality

Parow Library celebrates Africa Day



Parow Library observed Africa Day through their library display. Patrons were greeted with relatively lively music, celebrating African music and musicians

Ocean View Youth Week programme



Ocean View's very own Emo Adams, speaking to the youth

Ocean View Library compiled a jam-packed programme built around Youth Day during the month of June.

On the 15th, the library kicked off the programme with study tips for matriculants by Carlo Daniels, who teaches at Marine Primary and who was the top achiever at Ocean View High. This was followed by Mark Simon from the Boeta Bursary Foundation, who informed the prospective school finishers of the steps required to obtain a bursary from the foundation. Lastly, they were told of the new Digital Library Service created by the library, which comprises QR codes and readily available information which can be obtained via a flash drive that provide tips for studying, bursary application, career selection, getting into the job market, bullying, peer pressure and so on.

Two days later the library hosted its second Youth Week Programme adhering strictly to COVID-19 regulations, protocols and library capacity. The programme started with Janita Standler of Hope House, who spoke to the youth about drug abuse, and Ann Albrecht from Health Services, who educated the youth on sex, sexuality and life choices. Our next speaker was Ocean View's very own Emo Adams, who spoke to the youth on career choices and what comes with success. Up next was Sector Commander Makeleni Samkeleni from Ocean View Police Station who shared information on crime and gangsterism. Lastly, Morishia Fortuin from the National Association of Child and Youth Care Workers spoke to the youth on various social topics; and the services her organisation provides.

COVID-19 regulations determining protocols and library capacity were strictly adhered to at all times.

On 18 June, Ocean View Library's programme continued with Taswell and Godfrey Harambe, who informed the youth on youth employment and expanding networks to find work opportunities. They were followed by Andre Jones of One Stop Learners and Driving School, who spoke to the youth on applying and getting their learner's and driver's licenses.

Ashley Lewis, Librarian-in-charge: Ocean View Library

Hanover Park Library turns 45!



Hanover Park Library quietly turned 45 in July. Here's a nostalgic reminder of their 40th birthday with the then staff complement

Conville kids get a special visitor to celebrate World Book Day



Author and poet, Carl Sagan, once said: 'One of the greatest gifts adults can give — to their offspring and to their society — is to read to children.' The sentiments of Sagan's words came to realisation when the mayor of George, Leon van Wyk, read to a group of children at **Conville Library** on World Book Day; which was this year celebrated on 23 April. This act of kindness was a strong display of the mayor's regard, value and support of the reading process. Through a clear and reassuring tone, children were led into a world of fantasy as the Mayor read the book **Meneer Haas ontmoet Meneer Mandela** by Chris van Wyk to them. Not only is this a fun-filled story, but it also assists in the development of children's literacy and numeracy skills as they travel along with a hare in his search for Mister Mandela. The book further emphasises the importance of reading and the consequences of illiteracy. In line with the theme for this year — *share a story* — the mayor not only shared a story with the children, but also highlighted the benefits of reading. These include travelling into different worlds, escapism, fantasy and fun as he took the audience through his very own experience of the literary world with titles he enjoyed as a child. Some of the titles he mentioned were **Little Red Riding Hood**, **The three bears** and adventure stories by Enid Blyton and the *Trompie* series. Conville Library staff added further fun to the event by dressing up in colourful costumes.

Rachel Williams, Manager: George Libraries

Central Fire Station: Reflecting on records of a fire service

by Gustav Hendrich

Mid-April's fires on the slopes of Table Mountain and their devastating impact on the environment and buildings — particularly the renowned Jagger Library at the University of Cape Town that contained priceless special collections — yet again raised awareness around the dangers of fire. The scenes of enormous flames and the city engulfed by smoke with many buildings evacuated due to possible smoke infiltration have forever been etched into memory.

Yet through the sacrifice and bravery of our firefighters, the inferno was ultimately subdued. The Central Fire Station situated in Roeland Street, Cape Town, specifically, played a leading role in this regard.

Located just one block from the fire station, the Western Cape Archives and Records Service (WCARS) holds various records detailing the early history of the Central Fire Station.

And having celebrated its 90th anniversary in June 2021, it is an appropriate point in time to shed light on the station's history through the availability of primary source records of this highly respected fire service.

A Brigade 'cribbed, cabined and confined'

Since the Cape resorted under the British colonial administration in the period following 1806, its fire services were based predominantly on the British firefighting system. Preceded by horse-drawn carriages and water-pumps operated by hand — and the old Malay Brigade merely playing a supporting role — the early brigades were decidedly primitive, before a more organised brigade was set-up and housed at Burg Street within the city centre. However, this fire station building became obsolete over time.

Despite the skill of the firemen, the constraints of its unfavourable conditions had impinged adversely on the effectiveness of its service. In May 1929 the Chief officer FBS Thorpe mentioned that the station in Burg Street had become 'in all respects totally inadequate, and has outgrown its usefulness'.¹

Witnessing the gradual decay of the building, there was a plea within council circles for the erection of a new fire station because of the increasing expansion of factories and residential suburbs of Cape Town. AFJ Benning, the chairman of the City Council Waterworks Committee, would later confirm that the Brigade had become 'cribbed, cabined and confined', with the consequence that 'it was difficult to keep the quarters clean and wholesome and there appeared nothing for it but to erect a new building'.² Despite the disruptive financial fallout of the Great Depression

lasting from 1929 to the early 1930s, it is noteworthy that the City Council continued unabatedly to press for a new fire station building.

The premises of the old building was to be sold to the Cape Times Ltd after building contractors' quotations were considered. Following negotiations and a favourable contract being concluded between the City Council and the contractor Joseph Rubbi, an estimated amount of £30,342 for the construction costs was accepted.³

After a year's toil and construction, the momentous occasion came on 9 June 1931, when the Brigade moved over from Burg Street to the new Central Fire Station at midnight; its achievement noted as a 'considerable undertaking'.⁴

The Union's finest fire station

In May 1931, Thorpe provided a description of the fire station and its foreseeable functions, which was published in the *Cape Times* under the headline 'The Union's finest fire station', detailing its magnificent architectural

appearance and practicality. Its seven folding doors faced the street with quick opening devices and was considered as 'immeasurably superior to the old', and that Cape Town could be proud of having the finest Fire Station in South Africa — 'in fact, it is doubtful if there is any finer in England'.⁵

The official opening of the fire station would only occur one year later when Benning addressed Mayor HJC Stephan and members of the public on 13 April 1932. Benning conveyed his message of gratitude and acknowledged the fire station firemen as 'it gives me particular pleasure to do this as the provision of this new Fire Station marks the overcoming of some difficulty and a distinct step in the advancement of the City'.⁶ He reiterated that it was the diligent work and negotiations by Councillor Rev. AJS Lewis, representing the Property Committee, and himself, who managed to sell the old fire station property for the sum of £40,000; and congratulated the Committee as well as Captain Thorpe 'on the economical way in which the money was spent'.⁷

An elaborate explanation of the fire service and its new additions was given. Its drill tower and spacious drill yard, which allowed for more training and rescue drills, was especially impressive. Together with the seven fire-engine machines, the station was to be equipped with a sophisticated communications system, most notably the twelve-line Gamewell Fire Alarm Board from which extended a network of wires linking up the street fire alarms in all parts of the municipal area. This included direct telephone lines to all suburbs, private fire alarms, Government buildings, harbour docks and housing premises that provided immediate transmission of notifications in case of fire with the least possible delay.

Benning concluded by remarking that 'the whole comprising one of the most modern and up to date Fire Stations in the world', and that although it marks a 'progressive step, it is also a precursor of further progress'. It was stipulated that the Central Fire Station was to be the Fire Brigade headquarters of the metropolitan area which was 'to not



3-FHC 4-1-13, ref. 21-B-A. Newspaper showing a scene from the opening events at the Central Fire Station



AG4291 Group of firemen of the Metropolitan Fire Brigade, Cape Town on fire-engine, Green Market Square

only meet the present needs, but capable of extension to meet the future requirements of the city as it grows and expands'.⁹ The address was followed by a display of firefighting, a medal awarding ceremony and demonstrations in life-saving which left all viewers fascinated.

Focus on veld and mountain fire prevention

In the decades that followed after the establishment of the Central Fire Station, the geographical expansion of the urban areas of the Cape necessitated the erection or improvement of branch fire stations at Salt River, Sea Point and Fish Hoek. In all managerial respects, the Central Fire Station would serve as the overarching fire service institute and provide support in a radius of 25 miles.

A concern that became ever more pertinent was that of veld and mountain fires in the Cape Peninsula. Table Mountain in particular posed a constant risk due to its forestation as fuel for the potential spread of wildfires. Coupled with the occasional strong south-westerly and often gale force winds, the fire services became more preoccupied in dealing with mountain fires and demanded more preventative measures from the government authorities. The Fish Hoek fire brigade, which was formed after 1949, faced numerous obstacles in preventing fires in close proximity to Simon's Town.¹⁰ Between December 1943 and April 1944 a staggering 37 fires were reported in the Simon's Town municipal area.¹¹ In answer to this perilous threat of fires, a concerted effort was taken to form the Cape Peninsula Fire Protection Committee and the Committee for Prevention and

Control of Forest and Veld Fires.

The increase in the prevalence of fires in 1945 forced the latter committee to implement preventative measures by distributing information pamphlets. Instructions on these pamphlets were easily understandable and conveyed the message of taking responsibility for 'How to prevent mountain fires'. In June 1946, the Peninsula Fire Committee launched an information campaign detailing the prevention of mountain fires. Its emphasis was to instil awareness pertaining to legislation and regulation for preventing conditions likely to further the spread of fires framed by the Municipality of Cape Town under the provision of Ordinance no. 10 of 1912. The regulations pointed out that 'where upon any premises with accumulated trees, bushes, weeds, or inflammable matter, [it] shall be removed upon notice, and in the case



AG4287 Firemen of the Metropolitan Fire Brigade, Cape Town, demonstrating smoke-jacket and respiration, 1908



3-FHC 4-1-13; ref. 21-B-A. Propaganda pamphlet



AG4290 Firemen of the Metropolitan Fire Brigade, Cape Town on fire-engines outside No 1 Fire Station, Burg Street, 1908

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AG4314 Cape Town Fire Station, Roeland Street, Cape Town, 1934



AG4284 Firemen of the Metropolitan Fire Brigade, Cape Town, demonstrating rescue operations by canvas chute



3-FHC 4-1-13, ref. 21-B-A. Propaganda pamphlet on mountain fire prevention



AG4308 View of building on fire showing firemen from Cape Town Fire Brigade on a ladder getting ready to extinguish the fire

of non-compliance a penalty of £20 be imposed and paid to the Council'.¹² Nonetheless, despite attempts by the City Council and public to prevent fires, the latter continued incessantly and leading to Simon's Town Municipality issuing a report in October 1949 that read: 'Prevent bush fires. Don't let your mountain go to blazes.'

On 31 January 1950, a special meeting was held in the Cape Town City Hall to address the issue of 'the fire menace to Table Mountain'. The outcome was that three resolutions were passed: firstly to express extreme concern at the continued devastation of the mountains by fire; secondly, to request the Fire Protection Committee to prepare as a matter of urgency a detailed report, a prescribed description of the areas which should be reserved and preserved for all time as public amenities; and lastly, to make urgent representations to the responsible Minister to take steps to expedite the working out of a satisfactory soil conservation plan with the object of... 'preventing, controlling and extinguishing veld and forest fires in the areas'.¹³ Resultantly, the City Council became more attentive and called for tenders to supply rubber lined hosepipes and equipment in order to bolster the fire services at the Cape.¹⁴

Records of a fire station

Although the Central Fire Station houses its own memorabilia, artefacts and logbooks within its well-organised museum and premises, the Western Cape Archives also contain fundamental primary records on its early past. Records of other fire stations within the metropolitan area, including that of Fish Hoek, Salt River and the old fire station in Woodstock are also available in the repository.¹⁵ Following the record on the opening of the Central Fire Station, records had been subdivided into separate folders each concerning information on the administrative and operational aspects of the fire station.

Subfolders specifically deal with the funding of the transfer of the fire alarms, the furniture and its tenders; the underground petrol storage tank and the supply of petrol on its premises; the construction of a road

on the left side of the station; the electrical wiring, a new fire alarm switchboard; and the provision of downpipes. Apart from the official correspondence in the form of letters, facsimiles and the contractor's contract, newspaper clippings have also been included.

Though there is no single collection solely dedicated to fire services in the archives repository, the available records provide a first-hand account of the respective fire stations. These record references are available on the National Archives of South Africa, NAAIRS online database, which are accessible remotely to researchers for consultation and viewing in the Reading Room. In addition to the primary source records, the WCARS houses striking photographic images portraying the Central Fire Station building, dramatic occurrences of fires in city buildings, and the Dennis fire-engine which became known for its use in England during the Second World War.

Ninety years since the establishment of the Central Fire Station headquarters in Roeland Street, its service to the public remains honoured. During my recent visit to the fire station, accompanied by the archive's process photographer, Frank Pople, we were taken on a tour by the Divisional Commander Operations, Simon Clifford Abrahams. The visit, during which Frank was permitted to take photographs which will be added to the existing photographic collections, thereby contributing to public memory, was very informative. As archivists, we came to a renewed appreciation of the fire station's valuable service rendered to both civil society and environment of Cape Town. In retrospect, the words that were stated after the first inspection held on 17 November 1934 by the Waterworks Committee, could still be regarded as applicable today: 'That the Committee place on record an expression of their appreciation of the painstaking comprehensive organisation and the modernity of the fire service and the smartness of the Brigade'.¹⁶

Dr Gustav Hendrich is an archivist in the Western Cape Archives and Records Service



Die dag toe ek vir Kuifie in België ontmoet

deur Mercia S Burger

Die oorspronklike Tintin-reeks is in Frans geskryf met die karakters Tintin, Capitaine Haddock, Milou die hond, Professeur Tournesol en Dupont en Dupond. Al 23 boeke is in sowat 150 tale vertaal, insluitend Afrikaans. Met Protea Boekhuis se vier nuwe Afrikaanse Kuifie-boeke onthou Mercia S Burger die dag toe sy die Hergé-museum in België besoek het.

Die voetgangersdorpie Louvain-la-Neuve, rustig geleë in die groener as groen Belgiese platteland, is per trein sowat 'n uur van Brussel. Opmerksame lesers sal dalk onthou dat André P Brink sy laaste eregraad van dié dorp se universiteit ontvang het.

Daar is net een rede waarom toeriste Louvain-la-Neuve sal besoek — 'n museum enig in sy soort oor die lewe en werk van die Belgiese kunstenaar Georges Remi (1907–1983). As sy naam



Hergé se voorstelling van homself aan die werk

tintin.fandom.com

nie bekend klink nie, is dit omdat hy onder die skuilnaam Hergé beroemd geword het. En Hergé, natuurlik, is die skepper van die strokiesreeks *Tintin* (vir ons in Suid-Afrika, *Kuifje*). Georges Remi het Hergé geword deur sy voorletters, G en R, om te ruil. In Belgiese Frans word dit uitgespreek as 'her' en 'jay', Hergé met 'n effense brei van die 'r'.

Soos dubbel-gefermenteerde bier, bitter sjokolade en 'n mannetjie wat in 'n fontein piepie, is strokiesverhale deel van die Belge se nasietrots en kultuur, 'n kunsvorm uit eie reg. En Hergé is hul heilige, 'n held wat op 'n glyskaal van geliefdheid heelwat hoër as Jean-Claude Van Damme en wafels sal val. Met *Tintin* het Hergé die wêreld van strokiesverhale permanent verander deur 'n tegniek wat as *ligne claire* bekend staan, menende tekeninge met duidelik skoon lyne eerder as om

kontras en skaduwee met fyn lyntjies in te skakeer.

Die museum is nie beskeie nie, sien ek met die naderstap — 'n supermodernistiese gebou omring deur langstam-eikebome en 'n gevoel van glorie en glans. Binne word drie verdiepings en swewende vloervlakke deur voetbruggies verbind, met klassieke tonele uit *Tintin* teen die mure geteken. Die vensters is gemaak soos prentjies uit 'n strokiesverhaal en laat oorvloedige lig in, behalwe op die boonste verdieping, wat in skemerte gehul is. Hier is fokusligte strategies geplaas vir dramatiese effek op stralende glaskaste met eerste uitgawes en oorspronklike tekeninge van *Tintin* vanaf sy eerste verskyning in 1929, geklee in 'n swart-en-wit geruite speelpakkie, sy kuifie plat en effe yl. Eers later is hy ingekleur en het hy vir homself daardie swierige krul gekam.

'n Mens kry ook van Hergé se minder bekende strokieskarakters te siene, handgetekende manuskripte met 'n paar koffiimerke of 'n inkafdruk van 'n katpoot, memorabilia en artefakte van *Tintin* se avonture — 'n masker uit Tibet, 'n bolhoed en 'n kiere, Hergé se lessenaar en pen — en 'n kopknik na Charlie Chaplin en die invloed wat die vroeë filmbedryf op Hergé se werk gehad het. Teen die mure, korrek belig, hang van sy vroeëre werk as grafiese ontwerper by 'n advertensiemaatskappy, 'n Portret van Hergé deur Andy Warhol dui op die wedersydse bewondering wat dié kunstenaars vir mekaar gehad het.

In 'n onderhoud verduidelik Hergé: 'Tintin was beslis gebore uit my onbewustelike begeerte om perfek te wees, 'n held te wees.' En ook: 'Ek het hom 'n gesig sonder spesifieke trekke gegee, sodat seuns hulself in hom kon



Die kunstenaar Hergé word deur joernalis Pierre Tchernia 'n paar vrae gevra

Philippe Bataillon/ina/AFP



Foto: Verskaf

Hergé besig om te werk

sien.' Deur Tintin kon almal 'n tweede lewe as avontuurlustige wêreldreisiger lei.

Op Tintin se hakke, altyd, is sy brakkie, Milou, 'n steekhaar-foksterriërtjie. Hergé het vir ure 'n vriend se foksie dopgehou om die ras se mannerismes en houding presies na te boots — hardkoppig soos 'n klip, lojaal, dapper en effe nukkerig. Hergé self was 'n katmens en daar is heelwat foto's van hom en sy katte, onder meer 'n geliefde Siamees wat 'n latere verskyning in een van die strokiesverhale maak om Milou te treiter.

Waar Tintin so 'n bietjie van 'n bleeksiel is — daardie een wysneusige vriend wat jou so irriteer omdat hy altyd beter weet — is Capitaine Haddock 'n windmakerige en swetsende teenvoeter vir Tintin se onophoudelike optimisme. In die Afrikaanse weergawe het Capitaine Haddock, vertaal as Kaptein Sardijn, 'n goeie mondvol swetswoorde te

sê, vermaaklik vertaal — om maar 'n paar te noem — as bolbliksemse bolwerk, soute sapperloot, dubbele duiwelsdrek en siedende seepskuim; tienduisend takeltoue en drieduisend dooie albatrosse!

'Siejy stilbly, jou agurkie!' skree hy vir Spokie in Afrikaans as dié nie wil ophou blaf nie.

Deur die hardhorende Professeur Tournesol het Hergé sy belangstelling in die wetenskap uitgeleef. In die museum sien ons die goeie professor se laboratorium, asook van sy skeppings en uitvindings soos 'n ruimteskip en duikboot. Professeur Tournesol is, soos in die Nederlandse vertaling, Professor Sonneblom in Afrikaans. Hy was voorheen bekend as Professor Phosphatus, maar dis verander omdat die oorspronklike Franse naam as sonneblom vertaal kan word.

En net as jy dink alles is veilig, betree die taktlose, lomp speurders Dupont en



museeherge.com

Die aansig van Museum Hergé



Hergé se standbeeld is in 2019 ingewy



Die eerste Tintin en Milou



Die Museum Hergé se winkel, waar aandenkings te koop is

Dupond die prentjie. Om in te pas by die woordspel van die twee se name wat dieselfde klink maar nie is nie, verskil hul name in elke vertaling: Thomson en Tompson, Brits en Britz in Afrikaans (voorheen Uys en Buys), Tic en Tac, Jansen en Jansens, Schulze en Schultze, Hernandez en Fernandez, Johns en Johnes.

Later die dag, oor 'n *pintje* bier, begin ek wonder. Hergé se innerlike lewe bly so half weggesteek in 'n skaduwee van heldeverering. Amper soos Tintin. Ek weet hy hou van katte en swem, dat sy musiekversameling die Beatles en Pink Floyd insluit, dat hy twee maal getroud was, geen kinders het nie, en homself as 'n tipiese Tweeling (*Gemini*) beskou. Ná die lees van Pierre Assouline se biografie oor Hergé weet ek ook hy het aan erge depressie gely en soms vir weke net verdwyn. En dat daar 'n skandaal en beskuldigings van anti-Semitisme was wat hom vandag nog volg — hy is in hegtenis geneem as Nazi-simpatiseerder omdat hy gedurende die beleg van België met Duitse koerante saamgewerk het.

Die ou-ou vraag is natuurlik hoeveel van 'n kunstenaar se lewe ter sprake moet wees en of daar net blindelings

op kuns gefokus moet word? 'n Mens wonder tog of sulke inligting nie maar volledigheidshalwe bespreek en uitgeklaar moet word in 'n museum oor die kunstenaar se lewe en werk nie?

Kopiereg verbied die neem van foto's binne die museum. Vir meer inligting, gaan na hergemuseum.com.

Uit Protea Boekhuis se stal het daar vier nuwe titels in die *Kuifje*-reeks verskyn. Die uitstekende Afrikaanse vertalings is deur Sonya van Schalkwyk-Barrois gedoen. Sy is ook verantwoordelik vir die vertaling van die gewilde *Asterix*-boeke in Afrikaans. **In die land van swart goud, Die tempel van die son, Die juwele van Bianca Castafiore en Kuifje in Tibet** vertel die verdere avonture van die verslaggewer Kuifje en sy hond, Spokie, wat hom op sy ondersoek vergesel.

Hierdie artikel verskyn oorspronklik op sarie.com op 25 Maart 2021.



| the arts

How I grew to love African music

by Luke Townsend



Recently, I was asked to write a short piece on music for the unborn child; and although no-one really knows what a child experiences in the womb, this got me thinking about my earliest experiences and memories of music. I have been told that as a toddler I would sing and dance around to *Lucky lips* by Cliff Richard. I have no recollection of this, however, my earliest musical memory involves being taught to sing the song *Meadowlands* by a Tswana lady called Hilda who worked for my parents. This is a lovely memory and decades later is still vivid and deeply rooted.

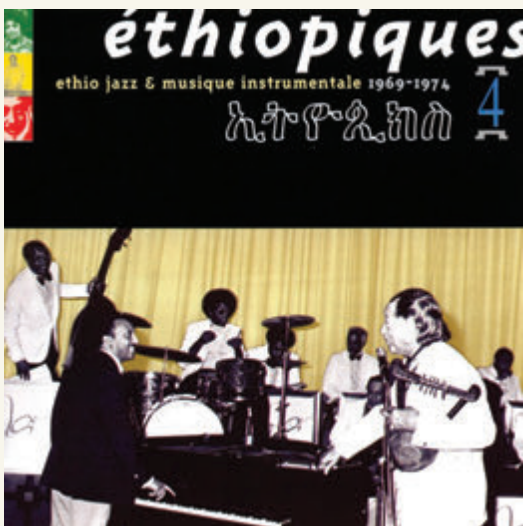
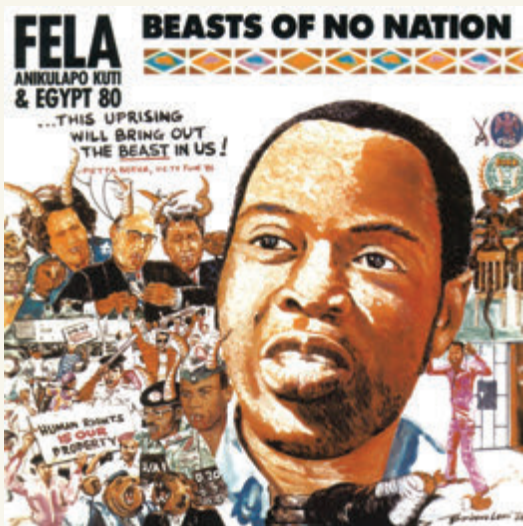
I grew up in Botswana during the 1960s with five older siblings who were all into music of some kind or other. The Sixties was a wonderful

era for music worldwide, because not only were fresh new sounds of Rock and Pop music everywhere, but also because amazing music emanating from South Africa was beginning to get more exposure. Vibrant styles, such as kwela, township jazz and mbaqanga were in the air and on the airwaves.

Children are like sponges. Without being aware of it, they absorb and soak up huge amounts of cultural influences. I consider myself lucky, therefore, that I had older siblings who over the years brought home vinyl records of all sorts of music. Amongst albums by The Beatles, The Rolling Stones, Jimi Hendrix and many other rock, folk and blues performers I found several recordings of South African music and, in this way, I became exposed to early recordings by Dollar Brand, Hugh Masekela, Mahlathini and the Mahotella Queens amongst many others. Thus began my music education.

Of all these LPs, the record that probably has made the deepest and most long-lasting impression on me was the album *Walk to Joburg* by the Makhona Zonke Band. This outstanding recording contains some of the most joyously jivey and authentically South African music you could ever wish to hear and is a snapshot of a particular sound from an exciting era of South African music. I believe this music changed my life by opening my ears and my mind to music from all over our continent. There are several copies of this great recording in LIS libraries – and wouldn't it just be fantastic if it was available on Inter-Library Loan so that users and staff members everywhere could hear it?





The Makhona Zonke Band (who, confusingly, are also known as the Makhona Tsohle Band — the band that can do anything) is credited as the originators of the style of music known as mbaqanga and were also the band where, I think, I first noticed the sound of the saxophone. One of the members of the group was a great South African saxophonist called West Nkosi whose exuberant melodies have been deeply embedded in my consciousness. Later, when I myself began to play saxophone, mbaqanga-style melodies and the West Nkosi sound seemed to come quite naturally to me.

At the beginning of the 1980s, I first heard the instrumental tune, *Mannenber* by Abdullah Ibrahim who was then still known to many as Dollar Brand. Like countless others, I fell in love with this catchiest of South African jazz pieces. Released in 1974, the *Mannenber* is where it's happening album took six years to reach my ears, but when it did it took root. I recently listened to the album again and, even though I have heard many other versions of this most-covered South African standard, I could still remember and anticipate each phrase and every nuance of this stunning recording.

Throughout the Eighties *Mannenber* was regularly played at rallies against Apartheid and has been called 'South Africa's unofficial national anthem'. Interestingly the original release of this recording contains a strange anomaly, because only two saxophonists, Basil Coetzee and Robbie Jansen, are credited on the album sleeve. If one listens closely, however, there are actually three saxophone improvisations. Robbie Jansen plays the first improvisation on alto sax, followed by Basil Coetzee on the tenor sax, but the final improvisation (and the one I love most) is played by the great South African alto saxophonist, Morris Goldberg.

South African music is full of these confusing oddities — Makhona Zonke Band is also the

Makhona Tsohle Band, Abdullah Ibrahim used to be Dollar Brand, and, Morris Goldberg doesn't get credited for one of the most beautiful contributions to South African music. Eish, this South African music business is confusing!

Throughout the 1970s and the early 1980s, recordings of music from all over the world were becoming increasingly available. Somehow, even though there was a cultural boycott of this country during this time, I and other music lovers were able to get hold of interesting music. For instance, many people I knew would bring back new albums from overseas and there was a grapevine through which this music filtered and was passed around. All sorts of African music, reggae music, blues, funk and jazz recordings were opening many ears to interesting new music with an Afro-feel.

By the mid-Eighties, the music of a saxophone player from Cameroon called Manu Dibango entered my life. The album by this amazing musician that first hooked me was *Electric Africa*, which was for its time quite futuristic and groundbreaking. This was music that fused Afro-Jazz with rock, funk and electronica in a completely original way and was at the same time elegant, witty and sophisticated. The music of Manu Dibango is innovative, not only because it is funky and cultured, but because it shows a way forward and inspired me both as a musician and as a librarian to delve further into music from the entire African continent as well as music from around the World.

From 1989 until 1993, I lived and worked as a musician in the Netherlands. At that stage, I was deep into my Afro-phase and hearing the sounds of home helped ease the home-sickness and alienation that one inevitably feels in Europe. I remember hitchhiking somewhere in Germany and getting a lift with a woman who was playing a cassette in her car by Mahlathini and the Mahotella Queens and being



moved to tears as I tried to explain to the concerned driver that I was emotional because I came from where this music was made. Anyway, during those four years in Holland I got to play with many African and non-African musicians and we almost exclusively played African music. It is somewhat ironic that I have I played as much African music as I did during those four years in Europe.

Works by many African and South African musicians is integral to the music scene in many European countries. Centres such as Amsterdam, London and Paris are full of incredible musicians from everywhere and African musicians often work and create music in multi-cultural ensembles with musicians from all around the world. Quite naturally this leads to cross-pollination of styles and produces a great deal of interesting new music which is often referred to as World Music.

For the past 50 years South African jazz musicians such as Abdullah Ibrahim, Hugh Masekela, Morris Goldberg and Chris McGregor have been part of this African émigré community that has helped to extend the reach of African music globally. The African diaspora and technology has transported the music everywhere and African music has now reached all the corners of the globe. Nearly all genres of popular music — especially those with a strong groove and rhythmic drive — such as Jazz, Samba, Afro-Cuban music, the Blues, Funk, Soul and R&B, Gospel, Rock and Hip Hop all have African roots. One could say that today most of the music on this planet today carries an African imprint.

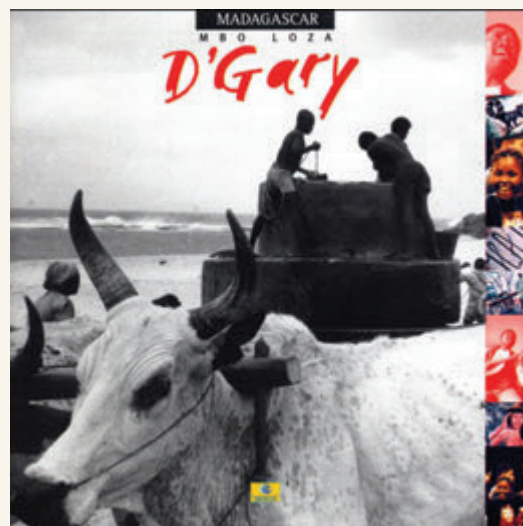
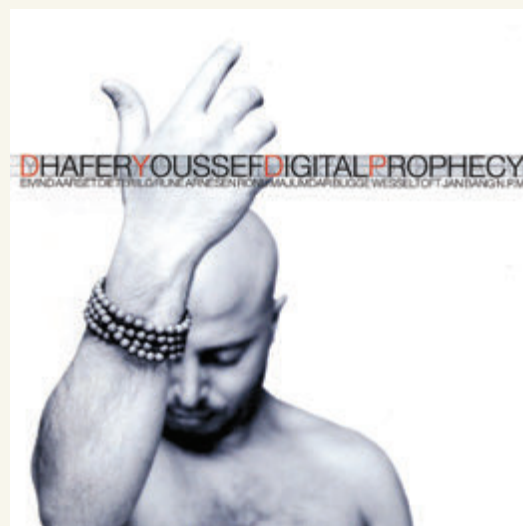
Over the years, all sorts of music have reached my ears and I have grown to love and appreciate music from all over Africa. Polyrhythmic Afrobeat and Juju music from Nigeria by Fela Kuti and King Sunny Ade, astounding Ethiopian jazz of Mulatu Astatke, haunting Desert blues from Mali by Ali Farka Toure

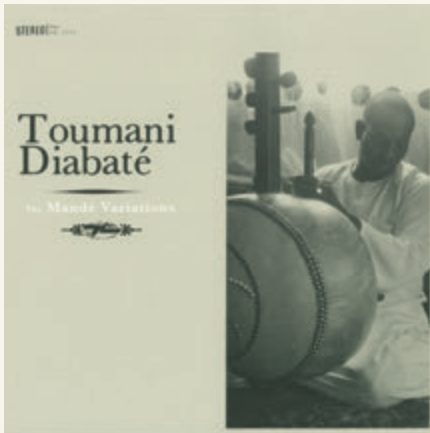
Diabate, exquisite oud (North African lute) music from Tunisia by Anouar Brahem and Dhafer Yusuf, and brilliant guitar-playing by D'Gary from Madagascar, are just a few examples of the incredible variety of music from this continent that is out there and in libraries waiting for you to discover and explore. So, when anybody says to me that they don't like African music, I say: 'What do you mean!? There's a whole continent of amazing music and you say you don't like any of it!'

A major influence on my development as a musical person has been my experiences of working as a music librarian in Cape Town libraries over the last three decades. When I first started working during the 1980s, libraries collected classical music almost exclusively. The emphasis and focus was on classical music and other so-called 'legit' music genres and there seemed to be little sense that we all lived and worked on the African continent — 'Culture' (with a capital C) was from elsewhere.

Such attitudes slowly began to change during the 1990s when the policy of only collecting so-called 'serious music' began to fall away. This coincided with a time when many more recordings of African and other World Music genres were appearing on Cape Town music store shelves. Librarians now had license to start building collections, not only of classical and mainstream pop, but which could also include an abundance of other genres and music from around the world.

During the 1990s and early-2000s there was incredible demand for CDs and particularly in libraries that had good collections of jazz, rock, African and world music. For avid listeners, music libraries were places to discover interesting music and, because we had access to CD players, turntables and listening devices, library staff were able to actively promote their collections by playing music for users. There seemed to be an awareness that Cape Town





libraries were all part of one service and that nearly all resources, including CDs and vinyl records, could be shared between libraries. Individual CDs and books on music were not limited to only one or two communities.

In this period before the Internet came to rule our lives, several Cape Town libraries were places where patrons were able to explore a wide variety of music. Users, therefore, became increasingly aware that wonderful music exists everywhere and especially on African soil. Performers, such as Youssou N'Dour from Senegal, Angelique Kidjo from Benin and Alpha Blondy from the Ivory Coast had become global music stars and library users wanted to explore beautiful music, not only by the rich and famous, but from wherever it comes from.

This was an amazing time to be a music librarian in Cape Town. One had the sense of being part of something that supported a culture of music across the City. As a result, this was also a time when music librarians (and other library staff) in Cape Town interacted with each other frequently to locate specific recordings and to arrange for music resources to be shared and delivered. Frequently, we even made arrangements with the WH Bell Library at the College of Music at UCT, as well as the Provincial Library Service to share a range of materials from music scores, CDs and LPs to films and video. We went the extra mile.

Interacting in this way was also beneficial for library staff, because one couldn't help but become more

knowledgeable about music in the process. Resource sharing is such an undervalued and under-estimated aspect of public libraries. It is the librarians who are actually interested in music and the resources that are available beyond the narrow confines of their own individual libraries who become more knowledgeable and strive to find ways to meet the needs of users.

No library on earth is able to meet all the needs of all users all the time; and no librarian exists who has read all the books, watched all the DVDs and listened to all the CDs in their library. Input from patrons and especially from those who are deeply interested and involved in music is, therefore, an invaluable source of information and feedback, because music libraries are beautiful spaces that attract all sorts of people who all have unique interests and individual tastes in music.

Over the years, I have learnt hugely from music users. I feel that interactions with readers, musicians, teachers, radio presenters and listeners may ultimately be as important to librarians as Google, YouTube and all the other online platforms combined. You see, music lovers do the research for you, they listen for you and they give valuable and unexpected pointers, so that you won't have to feel you have kill yourself by trying to cram thousands of books, movies and sound recordings into one tiny lifetime.

Being involved in music in so many different ways has shown me that, if one keeps an open ear, beautiful music exists everywhere and also in the most unexpected places. It has

shown me that the most direct way to encounter and to experience any culture, anywhere is through its music. In several parts of West Africa, for instance, there are musicians who are called griots. These musicians are bards who for centuries have recorded and conveyed history through music and song. In **African music: a people's art**, Cameroonian writer and composer Francis Bebey, states: 'The West African griot is a troubadour, the counterpart of the medieval European minstrel. The griot knows everything that is going on. He is a living archive of the people's traditions.' This tradition continues today and several modern Malian musicians, such as, the amazing kora player, Toumani Diabate, the ngoni virtuoso, Bassekou Kouyate and guitarist Habib Koite are at the forefront of global music.

Music reflects language, art, culture and history, as well as how individuals feel. Music is, thus, a language that can instantly convey multiple aspects of the societies and cultures that it stems from and in ways that nothing else can. In some ways, I feel I first began to explore the world through music and African music that, in turn, helped open my ears to a whole world of music.

Luke Townsend, the former principal librarian at Wynberg Library and 'resident expert' on music, now a correspondent of the Cape Librarian



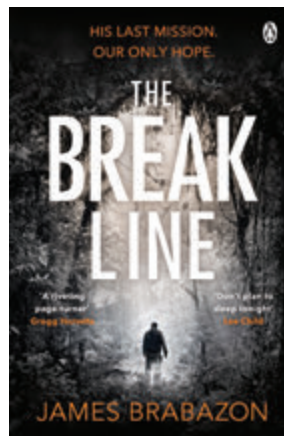
Book reviews Boekresensies

compiled by book selectors

ADULT FICTION VOLWASSE VERHALENDE LEKTUUR

BRABAZON, James

The break line.- Michael Joseph, 2018. 'British documentarian Brabazon makes his fiction debut with an adrenaline-charged thriller. Soon after Max McLean, who has been an off-the-books assassin for the British government for more than two decades, decides not to kill his target in Caracas, Venezuela, he receives another assignment. He must travel to Karabunda, a jungle outpost in northern Sierra Leone, and kill the white leader of an insurgent force without backup or access to the usual intel. Max poses as a doctor to scout the remote area, only to discover that the military has closed off the entire region, claiming a cholera outbreak. He learns, though, that the dead have been savaged, some dismembered or eviscerated, with human bite marks left on the bodies. Later, in Freetown, he recovers a message left for him by a comrade-in-arms with a phrase in Irish that translates as "kill them all". Brabazon's inventive violence, mix of combat styles, and slowly revealed



truths will keep readers on the edge of their seats.' (*publishersweekly.com*)

CAREY, MR

Someone like me.- Orbit, 2018. Carey's imagination is one that has certainly turned him into being an acclaimed author. His style is dark, thrilling and inventive, and is clearly seen in this novel. Divorced mother of two Liz has been in an abusive

relationship with ex-husband Marc and has long suffered up until the day her alter ego Beth takes control. Liz is troubled by her controlling counterpart and is desperately looking to regain herself as she visits a psychiatrist for help. We are also introduced to another troubled character: 16-year-old Fran who befriends Liz's son Zac at the same psychiatrist's office. Zac and Fran do their own investigative work to find out about Fran's traumatic

experience of abduction. She suffers returning hallucinations as we are introduced to her imaginary guardian, a fox-like character named Jinx. Fran is also able to see both Liz and her alter ego Beth in this dark twist and the two are strangely connected. Amongst other issues the book touches on many topics such as abuse, abduction, neuroticism and paranormal activity — all of which make for a chilling read. Fans of Carey's work will particularly enjoy, but also those looking for a dark thrilling read. **LK**

KINSELLA, Sophie

I owe you one.- Bantam Press, 2019. 'An IOU from a cute stranger gets complicated in this fun story about family, loyalty, and taking charge of your own life. Fixie Farr, as her nickname suggests, has always loved to fix things. Most of her fixing is confined to her family's West London store, Farr's, which she's run with her mother since her father's death. Her siblings, Jake and Nicole, are mostly useless, and Fixie knows it's up to her to protect her dad's legacy. When she's at a coffee shop one day, a man asks her to watch his laptop. While he's away, the ceiling above his table caves in, and Fixie can't stop herself from leaping into danger to save the computer. Shocked by her willingness to save the day at the risk of her own safety, the laptop's owner, Seb, promises her a favour and writes an IOU on a coffee sleeve. Fixie never intends to cash in the favour, after all she doesn't know Seb at all, and she's perfectly capable of handling

everything herself until the love of her life, Ryan, needs a job. Ryan was Jake's best friend growing up, and Fixie's had an enormous crush on him her whole life, even after he moved to LA to become a movie producer. But now he's back in London, and she wants him to stay so she musters up the courage to contact Seb and redeem the IOU for a job for Ryan. However, it turns out that she and Seb aren't quite done with each other, and they keep finding more opportunities to owe each other favours. Kinsella creates a charming story full of quirky characters and laugh-out-loud dialogue. Fixie is a likable character, one readers will root for as she learns to take control of her own life. Kinsella's many fans will devour this warm and hilarious read.' *(kirkusreviews.com)*

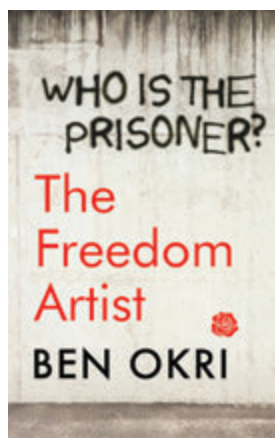
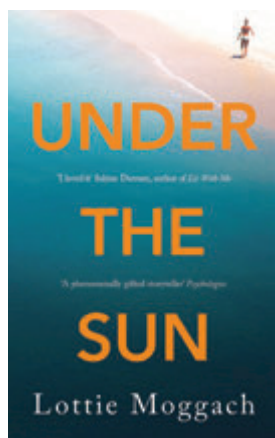
MOGGACH, Lottie

Under the sun.- Picador, 2018. 'A searching tale of expats and migrants in crisis-hit Spain. It's the summer of 2008: Anna, a graphic designer, has recently arrived in southern Spain with her partner Michael, and she's miserable. The decision to move abroad seemed like a good idea, back in London. They would renovate their finca together: a project but never a chore, never mind the enormous change, the removal from their friends and family, the isolation. But that was before Michael began to distance himself from her. 'There were no huge rows, nothing to grasp onto', Lottie Moggach writes early on. Shortly thereafter, Michael leaves, Anna is devastated,

Lehman Brothers collapses, and she can't move back because she can't sell the house — once a cherished testament to their love, it now feels like a mausoleum. Moggach's 2013 debut was the critically acclaimed **Kiss me first**, a suspenseful exploration of the online world and its dangers. The scope of this, her second novel, is no less ambitious — what begins as a universal story about a love affair gone sour quickly becomes something much more political, a searching social commentary about displacement and institutional racism... A reminder that this is a true reflection of poverty in a post-recession world, of hopes dashed and borders tightened.' *(ft.com, Zoë Apostolides)*

OKRI, Ben

The freedom artist.- Head of Zeus, 2019. 'In an unspecified time and place, a persistent young woman, Amalantis, is arrested for asking too many questions about a society in which myths, books, and art have all been eliminated. Citizens have long succumbed to the Prison, a loss of imagination and curiosity in the name of equality and conformity. Karnak, Amalantis's lover, goes in search of her and the truth she sought. He searches for the question-askers, who spray-paint provocative messages throughout the city and are hunted by the authorities. Karnak goes deeper into a world in which bookstores have been vanishing for decades and where there is massive suspicion about both authorities and citizens and even the self. In alternating chapters, Mirababa, a young boy, is



David Levenson/Getty Images



initiated on a quest to understand layers of self-awareness and the truth about imprisonment by authorities versus self-imprisonment. These parallel internal and external journeys explore threats to freedom when truth is commodified. Man Booker-winner Okri's modern allegory specifies and beautifully renders the impact on the human spirit when people are deprived of history and truth. Written with a striking simplicity that belies the significance of its message, Okri's tale is especially resonant in our current post-truth environment.'
(booklistonline.com, Vanessa Bush)

SETTERFIELD, Diane

Once upon a river.- Doubleday, 2018. Bestselling author Diane Setterfield's third novel is an entrancing and thrilling read filled with mystery, and layered with romance, suspense and folklore. It may seem that these contrasting themes come across as overly complicated, however, Setterfield masterfully meanders all these beautifully in a captivating manner. Few have been able to acquire the skill of storytelling, but Diane is very adept herein. Set in Victorian England, the mystery begins at the Swan, an inn along the Thames River. Locals gather to listen to folklore stories, when on a cold winter night, a sudden turn of events occur. A badly beaten man enters the pub with a dead little girl who mysteriously comes to life; herein begins the riddles and unknown particulars of the peculiar events and the troubled characters. As the cover suggests and hints at the mysterious

river, the book is an enjoyable winding of all things linked, from characters, to its unique story, and will appeal to an adult audience that enjoys fictional novels. **LK**

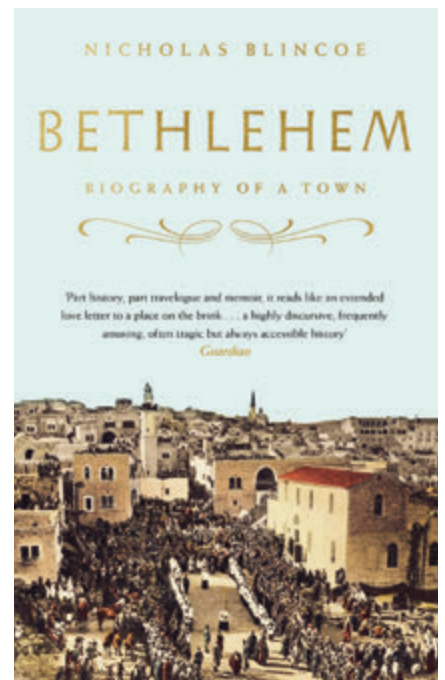
SHEEHAN, Dan

Restless souls.- Weidenfeld & Nicolson, 2019. 'In his emotionally evocative yet easy-going, often-comical debut novel, Irish writer Sheehan tackles friendship, remorse, and personal identity. Since returning to Dublin from war-ravaged Sarajevo, Tom hasn't been the same. He'd gone to Bosnia with journalistic ambitions, but after dodging sniper bullets, witnessing demolished neighbourhoods, and encountering shattered families, he became a relief worker who just wanted to do his part. But now that he's home, his erratic moods and violent night terrors have his loved ones concerned. So much so that best friends Baz and Karl convince him to seek therapy for PTSD. At the very least, they hope Tom doesn't end up like his foster brother, Gabriel, who hanged himself while Tom was overseas. With Tom cradling a mysterious metal box, he, Baz, and Karl travel to California so Tom can undergo an unconventional form of treatment, one that puts their relationships to the test. Divided between Karl's contemplative present-day narration and Tom's harrowing memories of 1990s Bosnia, Sheehan's novel balances humour with horror, revealing that the past doesn't have to define one's character.'
(booklistonline.com, Jonathan Fullmer)

ADULT NON-FICTION
VOLWASSE VAKLEKTUUR

BLINCOE, Nicholas

Bethlehem: biography of a town.
- Constable, 2018.
'When Blincoe visits Bethlehem, his in-laws' home, he sees a place carrying a far more tangled history than most Christians realise when singing Christmas carols about that little town. Weaving up-close personal experience into an extensively researched narrative, Blincoe links the developments that transformed Bethlehem from an agricultural region supporting Bronze Age olive-oil merchants to a bustling twenty-first-century city filled with tourist guides and quarry miners. In this winding chronicle, the politics of conquest loom large: readers see how its location at the edge of Jerusalem and in control of its water supply has exposed Bethlehem to assaults by a long list of invaders: the Seleucids, the Crusaders, the Mamluks, the Ottomans, the British, and finally in 1967 the Israelis. Though some readers may resist Blincoe's sharp criticism of what he calls the Israeli occupation, all will leave these pages with a richer understanding of an iconic city.'
(booklistonline.com, Bryce Christensen)



**BRICKER, Darrell Jay and
IBBITSON, John**

**Empty planet: the shock of global
population decline.** - Robinson, 2019.

'Empty planet offers a radical, provocative argument that the global population will soon begin to decline, dramatically reshaping the social, political and economic landscape. For half a century, statisticians, pundits and politicians have warned that a burgeoning planetary population will soon overwhelm the earth's resources. But a growing number of experts are sounding a different kind of alarm. Rather than growing exponentially, they argue, the global population is headed for a steep decline. Throughout history, depopulation was the product of catastrophe. This time, however, we're thinning ourselves deliberately, by choosing to have fewer babies than we need to replace ourselves. In much of the developed and developing world, that decline is already underway, as urbanisation, women's empowerment, and waning religiosity lead to smaller and smaller families... [The authors] find that a smaller global population will bring with it a number of benefits: fewer workers will command higher wages; good jobs will prompt innovation; the environment will improve; the risk of famine will wane; and falling birth-rates in the developing world will bring greater affluence and autonomy for women. But enormous disruption lies ahead, too. We can already see the effects in Europe and parts of Asia, as aging populations and worker shortages weaken the economy and impose crippling demands on healthcare and

vital social services. There may be earth-shaking implications on a geo-political scale too.' (*ark.no*, Steven Pinker)

HEYL, Allan

Bank robber. - Penguin Books, 2018.

George Allan Heyl was the last surviving member of the Stander Gang of South African bank robbers and this is his memoir. In this book he tells how he has met other gang members and how they played their tricks to rob banks and how other gang members died. He also gives advice to youngsters, warning them in case they feel encouraged by him or any other criminal's exploits to be assured that if they are convicted for serious offences, they will go to prison with a very long sentence. **BHN**

NDABENI, Esinako and

MTHEMBU, Sihle

**Born to kwaito: reflections on the
kwaito generation.** - BlackBird, 2018.

'In South Africa, joy is political. For many in the midst of repression, music was the chief means by which joy could be communicated. And to be able to express joy through music at the dawn of a new dispensation, without surveillance and with great abandon, was just as important and as political an act as it was when music was a tool of protest. [The authors] provide us, then, with a fresh opportunity to think through the meaning of the years following the election of Nelson Mandela, and they do this by cranking up the volume of the *unsung* and barely

documented soundtrack of freedom. The book does much to illuminate the sheer volume of academic writing centred on kwaito... As writers they have recognised a jarring gap in the archive of our cultural history, and they have sought to fill this gap. And in doing so they have invited those of us interested in writing our Blackness into existence to take their prologue further.' (*johannesburgreviewofbooks.com*, Ntombizikhona Valela)

YOUNG ADULT FICTION

**JONG VOLWASSE VERHALENDE
LEKTUUR**

AKWAEKE, Emezi

Pet. - Faber, 2019.

'The debut title from Christopher Myers's imprint, *Make me a world*, tells the story of a girl named Jam who lives in a world without evil or so she's told. In the town of Lucille, monsters were overcome in a long-past revolution, so Jam is more than a little surprised when Pet, a creature her mom paints, comes to life and declares that he has come to hunt a monster and he needs her help. Though a Young Adult novel, this will appeal to readers across age ranges. Younger readers will enjoy the fantastical storyline itself, while older readers will be able to look more deeply into its themes and pull out the social commentary on the hidden evils of our world that Emezi creatively weaves into the story. Just like Pet gently encourages Jam to see things unseen, to not be afraid, and to not forget, this book encourages its readers to do the same. Because as Jam notes, "Yes, people forget. But forgetting is dangerous. Forgetting is how the monsters come back".'

(*booklistonline.com*, Florence Simmons)

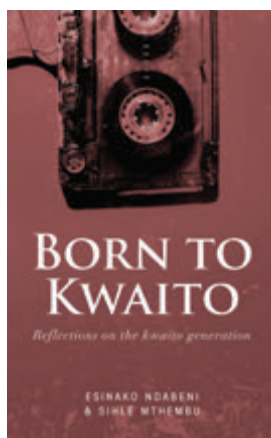
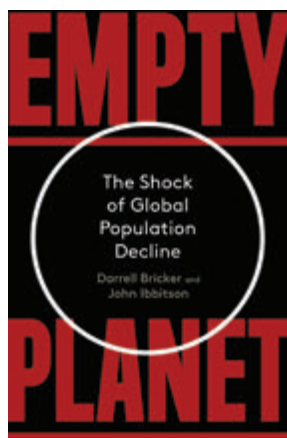
JUVENILE FICTION

JEUGLEKTUUR

CHARLES, Tami

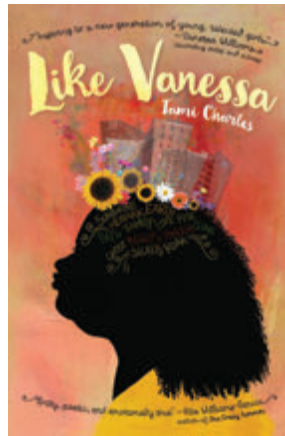
Like Vanessa. - Charlesbridge, 2019.

'In pursuit of her dreams, Vanessa becomes an unlikely contestant in her middle school's first-ever pageant. African-American eighth-grader Vanessa Martin is glued to the TV when Vanessa Williams is crowned the first black Miss America in 1983. Inspired, Vanessa imagines her own





Elliott Jerome Brown Jr



tamiwrites.com

dreams coming true. Maybe she can rise above her painful family problems and dissatisfaction with her dark skin. Maybe she can escape her gang- and drug-plagued neighbourhood in Newark, New Jersey... She has an extraordinary singing voice but lacks the confidence to compete. When Mrs Walton, Vanessa's grandpa Pop Pop, and her cousin TJ join forces to get her to try out, she must face her fears and the neighbourhood mean girl to have a shot at realising her dreams. Vanessa's compelling story unfolds through a combination of first-person narrative, diary entries, and well-crafted poems that perfectly capture the teen voice and perspective. From the first page, readers are drawn into Vanessa's world, a place of poverty, abandonment, and secrets and abiding love and care. The soundscape of early rap music helps bring the '80s to life and amplifies Vanessa's concerns

about racism, friendship, family, and her future. Readers of all ages and backgrounds will cheer Vanessa on and see themselves in her story. This debut is a treasure: a gift to every middle-school girl who ever felt unpretty, unloved, and trapped by her circumstances.' (*kirkusreviews.com*)

EVANS, Kathryn

Beauty sleep.- Usborne, 2019. Evans produces a good read for teen sci-fi lovers. Laura and her brother have a rare form of cancer, but given the timeline of the 1980s, it's certain that their illness is incurable. However, there is hope that there may be a cure for them in the future, and so both are put to sleep until their cure becomes available. Mainly following Laura throughout the novel, she becomes a modern-day sleeping beauty after having been frozen for 40 years.

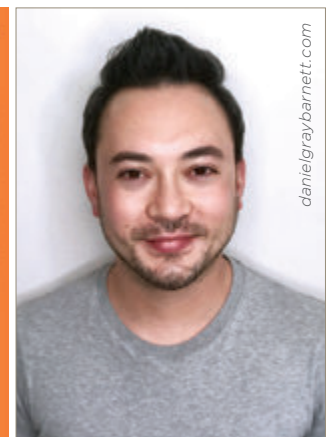
After being asleep for all that time, Laura wakes up to find nothing as it was before. The people she loved and cared for the most had all died and she is alone; but that's where the mystery begins. Stuck in a technological world with no understanding of the futuristic world she finds herself in, this book presents dark and scary twists. Readers will be enthralled. **LK**

GRAY-BARNETT, Daniel

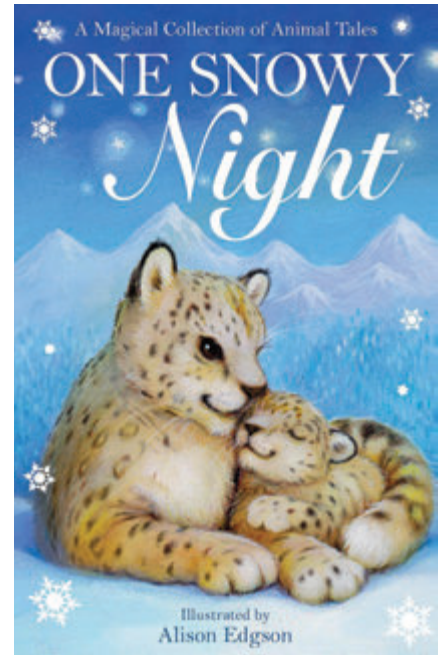
Grandma Z.- Scribble Publications, 2018. A beautiful first picture book by Daniel Gray-Barnett that invites imaginations to run wild, with added charm, adventure and a bold distinctive character. Unusual and beautiful illustrations making use of mainly four colours (black, white, blue, and orange), this book is audacious in its originality. When Albert hopes for something more than ordinary on



kathrynevans.ink



danielgraybarnett.com



his special birthday, he realises that default always points to ordinary. With no excitement and no fun, Albert's birthday promises to be a day equivalent to every other: one filled with sheer boredom. And then Grandma Z comes to visit, and Albert's ordinary life will never be the same again. A fantastic delight that not only appeals visually but will stimulate both young and older minds to explore on this wonderful adventure. **LK**

KELLY, Lynne

Song for a whale.- Piccadilly Press, 2019. A refreshing read in which the protagonist is deaf and audacious, strong-willed and determined, defying the odds against her. Inspired by true events of a whale unable to communicate with other pods because his frequency is higher than the other mammals, 12-year-old Iris is determined to help him as she completely relates to Blue 55's difficulty. A cautionary tale that is both winning and inspirational. *Kirkus Reviews* had the following to say: '... A quick-moving, suspenseful plot takes her (Iris) from junkyards to a cruise ship as she gains the confidence to stand up for herself and take control of her life... A satisfying, energetic read. Iris' adventures will engross readers, though deaf and hearing audiences will likely experience them differently.' **LK**

NESER, Christien

Absoluut Einstein.- Tafelberg, 2020. 'Christien Nesor se **Absoluut Einstein** is 'n verhaal wat handel oor die vyftienjarige Dylisia Mentoor. Dylisia

moes saam met haar ma, Felicia, vanaf Ashton in die Wes-Kaap na Johannesburg verhuis aangesien daar 'n geskikte werkgeleentheid vir haar ma was... By Parkland Hoërskool word Dylisia reeds in graad nege tot die Verteenwoordigende Leerlingraad verkies. Haar ma is baie trots op haar, maar haar vriendskap met haar beste vriendin, Simone, ly daaronder. Boonop het die adjunkhoof, doktor Papenfus, vir Dylisia 'n belangrike projek vir die jaar gegee. Sy moet Micha Steinman, 'n outistiese seun, help om sosiaal by die hoërskoolomgewing in te skakel nadat hy tot dusver tuis skoling ontvang het... Dit blyk egter 'n uitdagende taak te wees... Die roman bied 'n belangrike blik op outisme en wat dit behels. Die verhaal eindig met 'n spanningsvolle en aksiebelaaide avontuur [en] bevat ook talle humoristiese oomblikke wat leerders terdeë sal geniet. Die roman is 'n deurnisvolle verhaal van aanvaarding, deursettingsvermoë en vriendskap.' (*academia.edu*, Dewald Koen)

One snowy night/illustrated by

Alison Edgson.- Stripes Publishing, 2018. A heart-warming collection of animal tales that makes for wonderful bedtime reads. Set in various settings, these short stories are written by numerous well-loved authors that include Linda Chapman, Holly Webb, Jeanne Willis, and others, with illustrations by Alison Edgson. Each story is filled with pleasing adventures with a special Christmas flair. Andrea Reece from *LoveReading4Kids* says: '... Linda Chapman's opening story features snow leopards in Mongolia, while

Candy Gourlay's is all about pandas in China. Michael Broad describes a special Christmas truce between moose and wolves, while... Leila Rasheed sprinkles a bit of Christmas magic over the story of a kitten finding a new home. Whether funny, surprising, exciting or thought-provoking, each story is perfectly told.' **LK**

Note: At the time of going to press some of these titles have not yet been received by libraries.

BHN Boniswa Notiki
LK Lieschen Kays

Ebooks are here!

by Stanley Jonck

Public libraries have moved one step closer in providing an agile, adaptive and technologically advanced service to its patrons – as the introduction of electronic books to our libraries has now become a reality.

That's why the Western Cape Library Service, with the support of the City of Cape Town Library and Information Services, has launched the OverDrive website for access to online borrowing of ebooks and audiobooks. Library members will be able to access the service on their mobile devices or by using their PC-based web browser.

The free Libby app enables library patrons to borrow books from the comfort of their homes or virtually any place. The app can be downloaded to their cell phones and other mobile devices and enables library books and other library material to be borrowed from the newly established Library Service OverDrive website.

Libby is available for Android and iOS devices; and as a desktop PC browser at libbyapp.com.

The digital library collection can be accessed through the Western Cape Library Service catalogue as well as the City of Cape Town Library Service OPAC website as a complementary digital library service to our 374 public libraries in the Western Cape.

Users can also sign in on the Library Service's OverDrive webpage to browse titles, reserve and download titles as well as making recommendations. The web address is westerncape.overdrive.com. Libraries' online public access catalogues provide another way of access to the OverDrive service. Members can log in to the service by using their existing membership number followed by a password.

OverDrive is a global reading platform and distributor of digital content for libraries and schools and comprises a large catalogue of ebooks and audiobooks that can be accessed anytime and anywhere to read and listen to. This website contains genres of fiction, non-fiction, suspense, thrillers, romance, mysteries and

literature. By clicking on a book title of your choice a synopsis of the book appears that patrons can read.

A search function allows the browser to search for a specific title of a book or any other library material.

The ebooks are available in English, Afrikaans and isiXhosa and the audiobooks are available in English and Afrikaans only. Registered library users with a library card will enjoy free access to the Western Cape Library Service website, and it can be done via the integrated:

- Libby app for handheld devices (libbyapp.com or downloadable from the Apple App Store or Google Play for Android devices)
- OverDrive website at westerncape.overdrive.com
- SLIMS online catalogue (WCLS) at wc.slims.gov.za/desktop/desktopwcl/
- OPAC Online catalogue (CoCLS) at opac.capetown.gov.za/client/en_US/e-resources/?dt=list

Internet connectivity is required to access the OverDrive website, SLIMS catalogue, CoCT-catalogue and Libby app, while reading ebooks can be done offline.

Stanley Jonck is a book selector at the Western Cape Library Service

OverDrive®





How to write right: tools to assist your inner essayist

by Braam Peens



Whether expressing ourselves in a personal or professional capacity, the ability to write clearly, concisely and informatively remains necessary at all times to convey our intended message. While the subject matter will determine the content — be it a formal letter or memo to staff — the basic structure of any written piece is always the same.

This feature will focus on creating the foundations required to write magazine articles.

For those without formal journalistic training, the prospect of penning an editorial piece may seem daunting. The prospect of a waiting blank page in front of you behind a beckoning keyboard may make you question your ability over what to say — and in the best way. Yet by employing a simple writer's tool kit, many uncertainties can be eliminated.

Getting started

Articles are written to inform, empower, entertain or persuade.

Every written piece also has a beginning, a body and an ending. But before you start typing away, to save yourself a lot of time, the best practice is to plan your article. Structuring your thoughts goes a long way to envisaging how the article will flow. What do you want to say? Who are you talking to? Have you done enough research to discuss your subject matter with sufficient authority, without sounding repetitive or having to pass opinions as facts?

Once you're ready, write the headline. This sets the stage for the feature and makes a promise to the reader of what's to come as much as they help guide your own ideas. Great headlines are attention-grabbing and set out the main idea of the article. A shorter headline is better: if it's too long, you haven't structured your thoughts sufficiently. Explaining the what, why or the how of your chosen subject goes a long way towards framing your headline.

The introductory paragraph serves as an expansion of the title, meant to lure the reader into wanting to further engage your writing piece. It tells them why this story is important, why they should read it and sets up the case you are about to make. You may even open with a controversial question. But only reveal enough to keep the reader curious: the conclusion should be left for the ending paragraphs. You will be arguing your case throughout the body of the piece and build up to a climax.

The first few paragraphs serve to establish a relationship between the reader and the writer. Once you've laid the bedrock of your feature, it's time to start building on it.

The body

Now you are ready to unpack your argument in the middle section. Set the scene with names, places and dates. Paint a picture — be conversational and keep it simple. Then state your case and support it with facts (to validate your viewpoint), stats, quotes (to personalise the topic), relevant jargon (to provide authenticity) and anecdotes and facts as supporting evidence.

Each paragraph is used to introduce a new idea. Sentence lengths should be varied to highlight different tones. Short sentences are dramatic. Long ones describe detail.

Rhetorical questions are good for a temporary tone of change and help keep the reader involved.

Follow-up arguments can be introduced with subheadings. Strong statements, expressed in short sentences — deserve their own paragraphs. Like water, great writing flows seamlessly through paragraphs from one into another, while never failing to pay heed to the promise the author has made in the title.

It is important to constantly question what you are writing. Not just in terms of grammar use, but also conceptually. Are you using the same words over and over; or repeating the same idea just expressed in a different way? Is the reader still engaged or have you got side-tracked? Is your argument clearly set out, does it evolve with each paragraph and does it make sense? Does the piece require more — or less — detail? Too much detail

is overwhelming and off-putting: the reader's eyes want to glide across your copy, not plough through it.

If at all possible — swop your role as author into that of the reader. Be critical: does your writing grab and hold your attention from start to finish? Read what you've written. Then re-read it. Then re-write it: great writing is all about rewriting.

Wrapping up

A well-structured piece will automatically direct the facts and ideas stated in the body towards a conclusion. There you may choose to briefly remind the reader what they've just read, before you resolve the piece by supporting, disagreeing with the source evidence and adding your own final analysis or calling for an appropriate course of action. This should encourage the reader to form their own opinion, encourage a change of opinion; or to entice a decision. Along with the introduction, the conclusion demands the most attention and polish by the author as it presents the reader with the final takeout of the piece. Always end strongly.

Further thoughts: Once done and time allowing, it is advisable to submit your writing to an overnight test by subjecting what you've written the previous day to a re-reading the following morning. Fresh eyes (and a fresh mind) see things differently; and omissions or blunt edges may be easier identified after time away from the keyboard.

What is good article writing? It may be many things to many people. But in its most distilled form, it's all about

- Creating a structure
- Providing evidence
- Concluding resolutely
- Polishing mercilessly
- And inspiring endlessly.

Braam Peens is the editor of the Cape Librarian magazine



The impact of reading and the role of libraries

by Leonard Fortuin

In three previous articles (*Active listening*, *Lifelong learning* and *Continuous improvement*) I highlighted topics that, if implemented, can contribute towards providing better services to our clients and have the potential to enhance our personal and professional development.

In this article I would like to touch upon one of the key vehicles for such development — which is also one of our core professional responsibilities: the facilitation of the reading process to establish and maintain a culture of reading.

Partners in reading

There are four actors on the reading stage that need to work with each other:

- The family unit (which lays the foundation for everything to follow)
- The education system (which, inter alia, transfers the technical skills required for reading)
- Libraries, bookshops and the electronic domain (which, inter alia, provide access to information via printed and electronic reading material)
- The reader. The decision to read is a personal decision, and is motivated by a variety of reasons such as a need for escapism, entertainment or relaxation; or for the purpose of education; or to obtain information or problem solving.



These motivations should constitute a key component of reading advocacy campaigns.

Technical Reading processes

Technical components of the reading process include language structure composition, accessing and expanding vocabulary knowledge, oral and print word recognition, text processing and comprehension; accessing prior knowledge and fluency.

The reader uses several conceptual strategies to understand what they are reading, structured as prediction, imaging, comparing, monitoring and correcting. The reader also locates and uses themes to organise ideas, as well as searching for textual clues to

find the meaning of newly discovered words.

Reading is a complex cognitive (thinking) process which, simply speaking, involves the active decoding of symbols to arrive at a particular meaning. It involves weaving together word recognition and comprehension of concepts in a fluent manner. As such there is an organic and ongoing interaction between the reader and that what is being read, and it results in a constructed comprehension of a person-specific reality.

Although the digital environment does have some advantages over print (being interactive and helping with hand-eye co-ordination), holding a book and turning pages is a more tactile and sensory (e.g. smell) experience. Reading focuses on the

decoding of words and understanding the story line, whilst the digital environment is more about anticipating what clicking on the next icon will bring.

We should bear in mind that the younger generation embraces new technologies easier than the older generation, which should impact on the service package(s) we provide in an age-appropriate manner.

Reading/literacy/information access programmes

Reading and facilitating access to information is an age-old profession. Libraries today focus primarily on providing access to information and embedding a culture of reading, which are essential components of

empowerment and transformation. We serve a diverse clientele and over time have developed a wide range of programmes to cater to specific information needs (this is in addition to free access to library print and electronic information collections).

The most critical reading interventions happen at home. There exists a great likelihood that children of parents who read will also read. Children exposed to bedtime stories or reading times are also advantaged. This lays the foundations of a vibrant culture of reading.

Libraries attempt to expand this culture by establishing book clubs, presenting storytelling and parent-child reading sessions, spelling bee competitions, as well as various outreach programmes such as to educational institutions. Colouring-in competitions, chess games and doing puzzles also contribute towards cognitive stimulation and should be part of the library's fabric.

It should also be appreciated that there's a reading genre for every literate person, and libraries must have information material or programmes to capture all its members' curiosity and imagination. We should therefore ensure that there are sufficient and varied resources available in libraries.

Advantages and impact of reading

Effective marketing focuses on the accrued benefits of using that product. It is thus necessary to briefly summarise (and running the risk of being accused of preaching to the converted) the positive impact of reading. This positive impact can be classed as emotional, imaginative, intellectual, physical and spiritual.

1. Reading expands the conscious mind

Due to its cognitive nature, reading rewires the way the brain works, e.g. through the creation of new synapses. In this sense readings act as a lubricant, which facilitates the learning brain to absorb and retain detail (increases memory capacity) more effectively.

This increased memory capacity promotes comprehension, which expands the mind and stimulates stronger analytical skills.

Increased comprehension capacity improves our learning, focus, listening and concentration abilities. These abilities help us not only to be fully present, but also assist in directing information towards a goal, resulting in better task completion.

More importantly, especially for the older generation, reading slows down cognitive decline. Reading keeps minds young, healthy and sharp. In this sense, it helps combatting the onset of Alzheimer's disease, thus contributing towards lengthened lifespans.

Just like any other muscle in the body, the brain requires exercise to keep it strong and healthy, so the phrase 'use it or lose it' is particularly appropriate when it comes to the conscious mind.

The added advantage for children is that it helps build their vocabulary and improves their spelling and writing capacity. You will notice more often than not that readers always have a dictionary nearby. It is important to note at this juncture that language and culture play a

pivotal part in reading, on which I will expand a bit later.

Our *weltauntschaft* (world view) also expands. Reading takes us outside of our closed-off bubbles, thereby allowing us to view matters from a more expanded perspective. Excellent general knowledge increases the accuracy of our how we perceive the world; and thus our understanding of it. Consequently, our responses and dealing with challenges are much more meaningful and nuanced.

It's thus not by chance that we say the pen is mightier than the sword. Expanding consciousness is serious business.

2. Reading enhances mental, social and physical well-being

Readers are intimately aware of its calming and relaxing impact. In this hectic, and often chaotic day and age where we are constantly bombarded by the sound, light, demands and movement from, amongst others, electronic gadgets, reading is the ideal way to relax and



calm those constantly active and anxious nerves. Research has shown that even just six minutes of reading significantly reduces muscle tension and heart rates. It also revealed that reading reduces stress levels by an impressive 68 percent. This in turn promotes healthier sleep patterns and mood stabilisation.

Reading can inspire and comfort individuals suffering from boredom, depression or routine. Reading about others makes us realise that we are not alone, has substantial empathy and a cathartic value. Reading transports ourselves to other realms or exposes us to other places. The increased perspective provided by reading also serves us with ample conversation starting material. Sometimes the gained insight has serendipitous value, e.g. it will be what will land you the job in an interview, or perhaps will even help you become closer to a potential romantic partner!

It has also been established that reading spiritual texts can lower blood pressure and bring about

an immense sense of calm; whilst reading self-help books can help people suffering from certain mood disorders and mild mental illnesses.

3. Creativity

As reading involves the construction of detailed conceptual imagery (unlike television which provides pictures for us on a proverbial platter), it stimulates the imagination, thus allowing us to dream, think in new ways or follow alternate pathways. It also increases articulation abilities.

Reading challenges

It is easy to convince those who find reading a pleasurable or fulfilling exercise to continue to do so. The real challenge facing our profession is to reach out to and convert those who do not read; do not see a reason to read; or have problems reading.

For instance, learning disabilities such as dyslexia or difficulty with vision, hearing, or speech may cause

difficulties in reading comprehension, whilst Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder can make it difficult for a child to focus, which compromises comprehension.

As a way of offering assistance, librarians can consider incorporating personalising reading experience elements and multi-sensory activities into their reading programmes. The bibliotherapy credo of the right book/information at the right time at the right place for the right person is still applicable.

Language, culture and reading

Cultures that emphasise and vigorously promote learning and reading often occupy eminent positions in world affairs. Multi-cultural societies that value the conceptual advantages of multiple languages, but from a practical perspective, have only one or two official languages (which promotes trade, industry and educational instruction) occupy similar positions. The literature mentions Hong Kong in this regard.

One should also look at how colonisation constructed the written representation of spoken indigenous languages. Is there a difference in how a language is spoken, and how it is written? Can such a difference (or lack thereof) have an impact on the reading process?

As librarians, we should be acutely aware that in order to successfully develop and sustain the motivation to read in others (which is our particular transformation agenda) we have to ensure that we ourselves are avid readers. We must walk the talk.

We have to periodically remind ourselves that amidst times of compliance to rules, regulations and other societal pressures, it is our duty to make an impact and effect a positive difference in the lives of those we serve. An additional challenge we have to tackle is to find qualitative (besides the existing quantitative) indicators that measure the differences and impact we make.

Leonard Fortuin is the assistant director of the Metropole Region at the Western Cape Library Service



Afrikaanse e-boeke nou gratis beskikbaar vir Wes-Kaapse biblioteeklede

deur Stanley Jonck

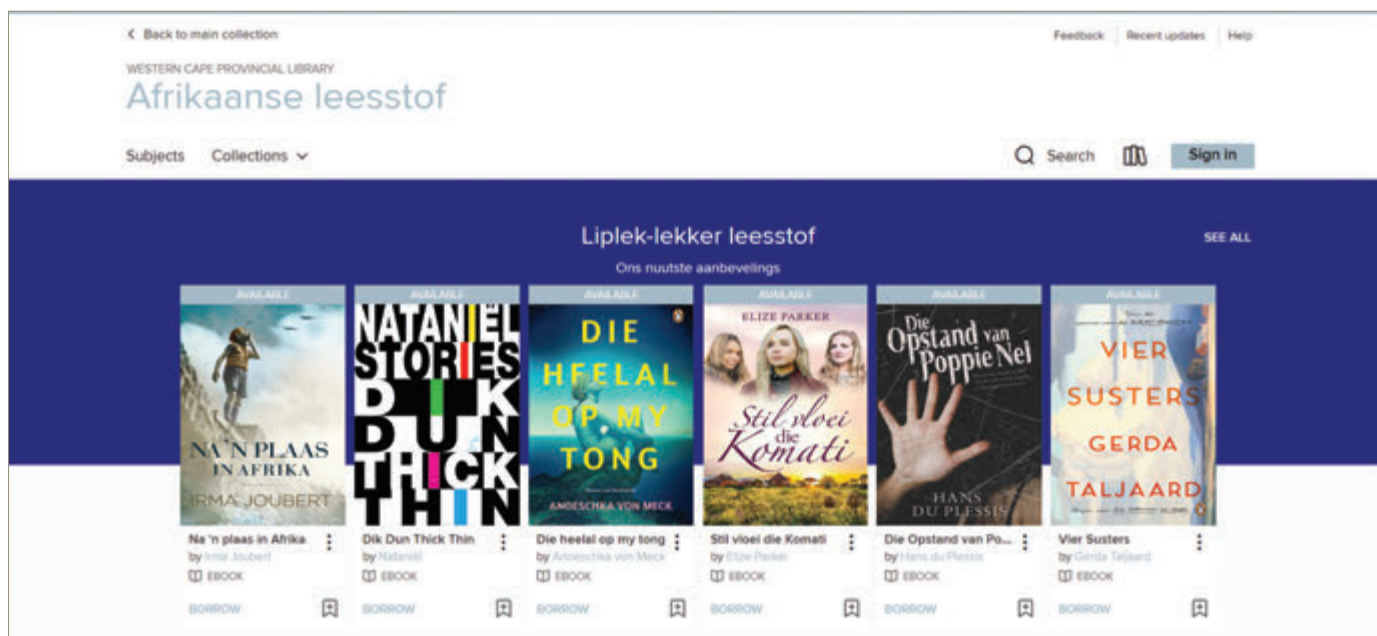
Die Wes-Kaapse Biblioteekdiens bied nou gratis toegang tot e-boeke in Afrikaans aan geregistreerde openbare biblioteeklede. Daar is ook Engelse en isiXhosa materiaal beskikbaar — selfs audioboeke in Engels.

Met hierdie artikel stel ons graag die huidige Afrikaanse e-boekversameling bekend. Die oorgrote meerderheid titels is gerig op volwassenes, hoewel daar wel 'n paar e-boeke vir tieners beskikbaar is. Die diens sal mettertyd uitgebrei word om ook in die behoeftes van jongmense, kinders en jonger tieners te voorsien. Op die oomblik is die hoofokus nuwe en gewilde verhalende lektuur, met 'n paar nie-fiksie titels. Ons lig graag 'n paar titels uit wat tans afgelaai kan word.

Die gewilde Irma Joubert se **Na 'n plaas in Afrika**, die derde boek in haar oorlogtrilogie wat volg op **Immer wes** en **Mentje, kind van Pas-opkamp** — het vroeër vanjaar verskyn. Oor die verhaallyn skryf die uitgewer: 'In 1939 bars die oorlogbom in Europa. Drie miljoen kinders word uit Londen ontruim na veiliger gebiede. Een van hulle is die sesjarige Charles Smith, op pad na 'n onbekende tante van sy pa in 'n klein dorpie in Skotland. By aunty Grace wag 'n nuwe lewe op hom. Aan die anderkant van Europa ruk die Duitse Sesde Leër op teen Rusland. Tussen die manskappe is die vurige majoor Oswald von Stein, Hildegard se stiefseun. Voor hulle wag die Russiese winter, Stalingrad en die krygsgevangenekampe van Siberië. Negentigduisend word gevange geneem, net sesduisend oorleef. Charles en Oswald beleef

teenoorgestelde kante van die oorlog. Beide bevind hulself egter op pad na 'n plaas in Afrika waar hul paaie sal kruis met dié van Seretse Khama en Mentje de Vries. Irma Joubert is die gewildste en mees geliefde skrywer van Afrikaanse historiese fiksie. Anders as met haar vorige boeke, word die verhaal grootliks vanuit twee manlike perspektiewe vertel.' Ilse Salzwedel¹⁵ skryf: 'As jy hou van 'n lekker storie en 'n interessante stuk wêreldgeskiedenis wat vanuit ongewone hoeke belig word, kan ek **Na 'n plaas in Afrika** sonder skroom aanbeveel.'

Anoeschka von Meck se **Die heelal op my tong** word beskryf as 'n roman met 'n sterk outobiografiese inslag. Die uitgewer skryf: 'Willemien is keelvol vir dik wees. En bang wees vir kaas en vir inkopies doen. Hoe kan mens so verwyderd van jouself wees dat jy van buite liederlik oebes is, maar in



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jou kop sing jy vry en kaal op 'n krans? Sy wonder waar kom die rondomskrik van haar lyf vandaan terwyl sy en haar sus in die vretende hitte van die Richtersveld 'n kluis in 'n winkeltrouie sleep. Willemien is vasbeslote om dit oor 'n afgrond te boender. Voor hul eindbestemming het die langpad se strepe Willemien soos 'n ritsluiser oopgetrek. Dit smaak haar daar is 'n heelal op haar tong. Vir eens moes sy haar sprokieskarakter opgee om haar ware self te wees én te wys. Sy het dekades laas haar lyf bewoon. Haar

suster moes hoor van die verlede. Van hul aardige ouers wat banger was vir oorgewig as 'n grondeis. 'n Ma wat paniekaanvalle oor suiwel en selluliet gekry het en 'n pa wat geen imperfeksie by sy vrou of dogters geduld het nie. Dié is ook die storie van Pa. Hülle pa.' Joan Hambidge' sê: 'In hierdie meesleurende roman... word die hele kwessie van liggaamlikheid ondersoek. Haar vader haat vet vroue. Trouens, reeds met haar geboorte weier hy om die foto's te hou van haar en die moeder, omdat hulle oorgewig

is. Hierdie boek gaan egter oor meer as liggaamlikheid, oorgewig en om vasgevang te wees in die norme van die gemeenskap. Dit word 'n besondere aweregse biografie van die werklike vader, Vloog Theron. Deur oor hóm te skryf, kom sy by haarself uit. Sy is inderdaad soos die Russiese matrioskas verskillende selwe in een liggaam vasgevang... Dit is leesplezier uit die boonste rakke. Geskryf met 'n vaste hand en met vreesloosheid. Hierdie leser kon dit eenvoudig nie neersit nie...'





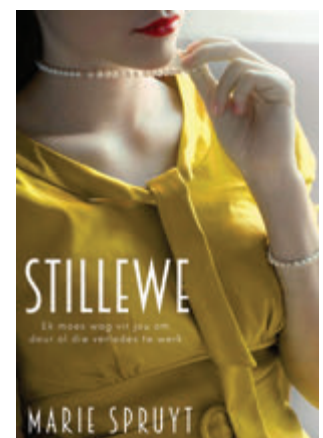
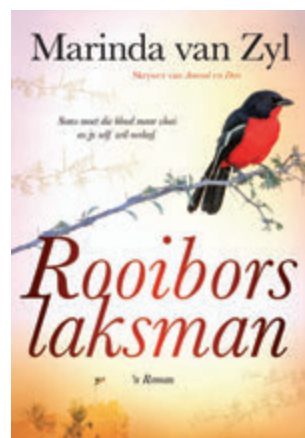
Elize Parker se boek **Stil vloei die Komati** speel in die Laeveld af en fokus op natuurbewaring, renosterstropery en horinghandel, trauma, mensehandel, vergifnis en romantiese liefde. Toe Jaco deur 'n fratskoeël in sy voorkop getref word, hou sy ouers die drie niggies vir sy dood verantwoordelik. 'Jare later word Lenore se hulp ingeroep om die renosterkalfie by Bateleur te help versorg. Haar droom is om 'n toevlugsentrum vir dierslagoffers van wildmisdaad te stig. Tarien droom daarvan om 'n skuilhuis vir die slagoffers van mensehandel teen die grens te vestig. Maar nou is sy al hoe minder oortuig sy is waar sy moet wees. Bella dra ontwerpverspakkies. Hofsaak ná hofsaak maak sy seker die waarheid seëvier. En nou is hulle deur Tjaart, wildboer en een van die rykste suikerrietboere duskant Komatipoort, bymekaar gebring om die bande te knip of bevestig.' (Uitgewersprikkel).

Susan Coetzer se aanhangers kan haar nuutste roman, **Die uil in die ysbos: 'n sprokiesroman vir grootmense** nou aanlyn lees. Die uitgewer skryf: 'Gracie-Jane Coetzee se eerste kleinkind word gebore kort voordat die president die eerste inperking aankondig. Gracie is 'n skrywer en illustreerder van kinderboeke, en nie juis 'n konvensionele ouma nie. Sy verkies die geselskap van haar getroue basset-hond bo enige ander verhouding in haar lewe. Saans wanneer PTS haar tussen die mure van haar huis rondjaag en die gevoel van onheil soos 'n uil op die dak kom sit, dokter sy graag die kompulsief obsessiewe simptome met 'n glasie wyn of twee.'

Trisa Hugo² sê: 'Coetzer is bekend om haar Christelike romans, boeke met 'n boodskap waar God jou hart sag en jou gees nuut maak. **Die uil in die ysbos**, met sy vrolike omslag, is 'n welkome verandering waar die karakters self verantwoordelikheid neem vir hul gedrag en optrede. Dit is 'n roman wat sy plek kan volstaan op die rakke en hopelik die *chick lit*-etiket met 'n soetigheid vir die siel afskud.' Temas soos 'menslike verdriet, wroeging, posttraumatische stresversteuring (PTSV), tragedies, pogings om vergifnis te kry en te gee, en straf vir gewaande sondes' word 'met 'n mengsel van humor en erns' hanteer.

Jaco Wolmarans se aksiebelaaide spioenasieriller, **Skag: sand verberg alle euwels**, wat in 1987 afspeel, is met lof deur resensente ontvang. Die verhaal is deur ware gebeure geïnspireer. Die uitgewer skryf: 'Die opdrag aan Spesmagte se sersant

Jos Fourie is eenvoudig: pas 'n vrag missiele op wat stil-stil uit Oos-Duitsland verskep moet word. Maar iets vrot. Eers die onverklaarbare teenwoordigheid van 'n groep US Navy Seals wat hom in Duitsland dophou, daarna die skokontdekking van wapengehalte uraan-235 wat versteek is in sy vrag. Jos het elke greintjie vernuf waaroor hy beskik nodig om aan die lewe te bly onder die aanslag van Nigeriese seerowers, die agtervolgende Angolese vloot en sy ontluikende gevoelens vir die mooi ingenieurstudent Ashley Ramirez. Dit word 'n nagmerrie-tog van die Noordsee tot by 'n geheimsinnige Weermag-skag in die Kalahari se duine, 'n aksiebelaaide wedren teen tyd om 'n katastrofiese kerntoets te stop voor dit 'n internasionale insident veroorsaak en sodoende die brose onderhandelingsproses na Suid-Afrika se ontluikende demokrasie kelder.'



In Marinda van Zyl se historiese roman, **Rooiborslaksman**, die vervolg op **Amraal**, word die negentiende-eeuse konflik tussen die Namas, die Herero's en die Duitsers in die Suidwes-Afrika vervleg met die lewensverhale van Liesbet Lambert wat wees gelaat word tydens die pokke-epidemie en Frederik Vlermuis vir wie Gobabis se kerktooring soos die kameeldoringboom lyk waaraan die rooiborslaksman sy prooi ryg. Riette Rust⁴ skryf: 'Die rooiborslaksman is in Namibië ook as die "Duitse vlag" bekend. En in dié roman is die voël 'n simbool van dít wat in die vooruitsig lê – die Duitse besetting.' Sy skryf verder: 'Al sal vele lesers reeds van die historiese gegewe waarop die roman gebaseer is, bewus wees, skep Van Zyl 'n duidelike en lekkerlees-spanningslyn'... 'n historiese roman soos **Rooiborslaksman** help om te voorkom dat belangrike geskiedkundige gebeure, gebruike en ouwêreldse taalgebruik vir die nageslag verlore gaan'.

Human & Rousseau, die uitgewer van Juanita Aggenbach se roman, **Stille waters** (2020) skryf: 'Hanna, 'n dinamiese en suksesvolle personeelagent, lewe teen 'n vinnige pas. Sy't haar eie besigheid, is gelukkig getroud en het twee kinders rondom wie sy haar besige lewe beplan. Maar toe sy een middag ná 'n blitsbesoek aan die winkels by die huis opdaag, stort haar hele kaartehuis ineen. Sal sy in die maande wat kom ooit weer haar kop kan lig?' JB Roux³ sê die deurlopende tema hier is tienerselfdood; die 'karakters en intrige oortuig' en 'die einde is oortuigend en bring hoop'.

Vir diegene geïnteresseerd in liefdesverhale en romanses, sluit ons 'n paar boekprikkelers vanaf die OverDrive webblad in, deur skrywers waarvan lesers verseker sal hou:

Stillewe deur Marie Spruyt: 'In 'n skoendoos vol papiere wat Lizette de Klerk by haar bejaarde ma kry, ontdek sy 'n brief van haar oupa. Dié versoek dat 'n bedrag geld aan die Italiaanse De Lucas-gesin betaal word. Haar oupa het gedurende die Tweede Wêreldoorlog in Italië geveg en is daar gewond. Presies wat tussen haar oupa en die De Lucas-gesin gebeur het, is nie duidelik nie, maar dit stuur Lizette op 'n speurtog na Italië. In Italië leer Lizette die ware betekenis van *la dolce vita* ken.'

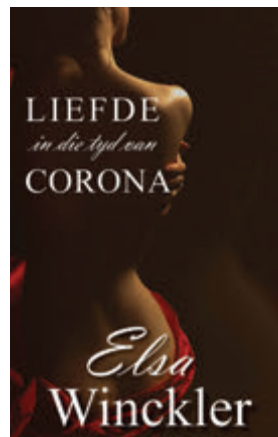
Die geheime lewe van Gita deur Jacolet van den Berg: 'Niemand mag haar sien sonder haar mantel nie. Gita kruip al haar lewe lank agter voorgee weg; 'n mantel vir elke okkasie. Flambojante, pienk-Gita, vir wanneer sy opspraak wil maak, swart-Gita wanneer sy wil wegraak en laag lê, rooi-Gita wanneer sy uitdagend is, en natuurlik die blinkkant-bo-baadjie as sy voor die familie is. Maar agter die mantels spook dit by Gita. Haar pa het weggeloop met 'n ander vrou toe sy tien jaar oud was. Sedertdien sukkel sy om mense naby haar toe te laat. Niemand mag haar sien sonder 'n mantel nie. Wanneer haar werk deure moet sluit, pak sy haar lewe op en vertrek Knysna toe. Daar waar haar pa is. Waar sy nuwe vrou is. Waar sy nuwe kinders is. Langs die pad ontmoet sy die kleurvolle Llewellyn wat haar as verkleurvrou tjie sien en sy is heeltemal oukei daarmee. Sy is wel nie oukei met die amper-blinde tjelloospeeler,

Darius, en sy broer wat haar geheime lewe wil oopkrap nie. Skielik is daar vier baie verskillende mans in haar lewe, en Gita het nie genoeg mantels om al kant te dek nie.'

Kanaän deur Sophia Kapp: 'Dis 'n liefde wat nooit moes gewees het nie - hy is 'n gewone Afrikanerboer uit die Vrystaat; sy is 'n gesofistikeerde Engelse meisie uit Johannesburg. Maar die liefde laat hom nie voorskryf nie; dit vra soms net 'n prys wat 'n mens nie weet of jy dit kan betaal nie.'

Winternag deur Madelie Human: 'Belinda Behrens is 'n bemaamde sangeres wat dikwels op koerantvoorblaaie pronk, maar haar hart hunker na meer. Sy wil haar dogter leer ken, uit die kollig kom en 'n tuiste op Groeneweide maak. Ongelukkig wil die beesboer met sy heldergroen oë haar net nie uitlos nie. Jaco Greyling is in die winter van sy lewe. Sy vrou is oorlede, sy twee tieners gee vir hom elke dag 'n ekstra kolletjie grys hare en hy staan op die rand van bankroetskapp ná jare van droogte. Hy is hoegenaamd nie gereed vir enige verhouding nie, maar die mooie Belinda met haar onwrikbare geloof dat die son weer sal skyn, spook by hom. Ten spyte van talle struikelblokke ontwikkel daar iets tussen hulle wat nie een van hulle kan vermy nie, en waar daar liefde is, is daar hoop.'

Liefde in die tyd van Corona deur Elsa Winckler: 'Toe die inperking aangekondig word, het Jenna pas haar verloofde en strooimeisie saam in die bed gevang. Sy het verkoue, 'n gebreke hart en die behoefte om weg te kom van almal se simpatieke kyke. 'n Vriendin bied haar die gebruik





van 'n strandhuis op Waenhuiskrans aan wat op die oomblik na die regte medisyne klink. Vir Jacques is die idee om vir drie weke stoksielalleen te bly die heerlikste vooruitsig. Waarop hy nie voorbereid was nie, was die lang blondine in die sitkamer van sy strandhuis. Dit maak nie saak hoe sexy sy is of hoe lank haar bene is nie, dis sy huis en die meisie moet eenvoudig 'n ander plan maak. Maar in die tyd van die Corona is niks eenvoudig nie.'

Vir liefhebbers van speur- en spanningsverhale is daar onder meer:

Die versoeking van Thomas Maas deur Chris Karsten: 'Ella Nesper is terug van haar Karibiese skeepsvaart, en soort van terug in Lou se arms. Haar nuwe opdrag, as private speurder, is 'n bisarre een. Donna Maas, eggenoot van die sielkundige Thomas Maas, is oortuig haar man het 'n skelmpie. En dit is Ella se taak om dit te bewys. Die roman begin egter by die einde, waar

Ella haar verslag optik. Daar is 'n moord gepleeg, maar wie is die slagoffer en wie die skurk? 'n Verbysterende roman deur een van die top-spanningsromanskywers in Afrikaans.'

In Madelein Rust se sewende misdaadroman, **My naam is Legio**, veg 'n forensiese sielkundige teen 'n demoon-uitdrywer, maar ook teen haar eie demone. Sy word van 'n las verlig, maar nie sonder dat sy verloor wat vir haar dierbaar was nie.

Bloedsteen deur Irna van Zyl: 'Dinge ontrafel vinnig wanneer iemand speuradjudant Storm van der Merwe se ma voor 'n trein op Paddington-stasie instamp. Storm moet Londen toe, al is sy tot oor haar ore met 'n moordsaak: Beebee Bukelwa Babu, bemaamde Suid-Afrikaanse modeontwerper, lê leweloos in 'n luukse hotel op Hermanus. Hande om Storm te help met die ondersoek ná Beebee se dood is min, want protesaksie lê die dorp

lam. Boonop sweep 'n charismatiese profeet die skare tot 'n histerie op. Storm besef gou dit is nie net haar ma se lewe wat in gevaar is nie. Sy is self 'n teiken. Intussen probeer haar ekskollega, Andreas Moerdyk, nou 'n privaat speurder, om 'n skaars rooi diamant van onskatbare waarde op te spoor. Van Londen se donker strate tot Antwerpen se diamantebeurs, van Port Nolloth se verlate kuslyn tot Storm se geliefde Hermanus, ontvou die storie in Irna van Zyl se derde misdaadroman teen die pas van 'n sneltrein.'

Reeksliefhebbers word nie afgeskeep nie. Die nuutste gunsteling is hier beskikbaar:

Donkerdrif deur Deon Meyer: 'n Koelbloedige moord by die Kaapse Waterfront. Wat dalk verband hou met geheimsinnige briewe wat geskorste luitenant Bennie Griessel en Vaughn Cupido ontvang het. Maar eers moet Bennie-hulle op Stellenbosch soek





na 'n verdwene student, en die spoor vat van die eiendomsagent wat die kooptransaksie van Donkerdrif, korporatiewe swendelaar Jasper Boonstra se peperduur wynplaas, behartig het. Stadigaan besef die speurders al hul ondersoek het 'n gemene deler: die donkerste drif, gierigheid.'

Hartedief deur Rudie van Rensburg: "n Reeksmoordenaar jag by stormweer, en Rooi en Kassie moet hom vastrek. Die Hartedief kom met moord weg, en dan is Kassie se volle aandag ook nie eintlik by die saak nie, want hy is smoorverlief op 'n aanvallige medeseëlversamelaar. Vlerksleep is nie vir sissies nie. Om sake vir hom en Rooi te vererger word hul baas daarvan verdink dat sy hul ondersoek in die wiele ry, en Kassie moet haar onskuld bewys. Intussen word Kaapse vrou vermoor wanneer daar onweer broei.'

Coralí deur Chanette Paul. 'As jong, uifers begaafde kunstenaar sou Coralí feitlik enigiets doen om haar kunstenaarskap voluit te kon uitleef. Daarom sou die kinders wat haar geliefde so graag wou hê hoegenaamd nie in haar lewe ingepas het nie. Haar ambisie en smagting na erkenning laat Coralí uiteindelik tot die ondenkbare instem, al kos dit haar die man wat sy liefhet. Vyf jaar later besef Coralí eers hoe duur sy daardie erkenning gekoop het en hoe tydelik en vervlietend roem is. Ná jare in Frankryk en Engeland keer sy terug na Vywerbaai waar sy as kind vakansies deurgebring het. Die eensaamheid knel. Die verbod wat aan haar gestel is, versmoor haar. 'n Swaard hang oor haar kop. Haar familie het haar afgeskryf. Alles wat vir

haar betekenisvol was, het sy verloor. Geleidelik begin die mense uit haar Suid-Afrikaanse verlede egter weer 'n rol in haar lewe speel. Boeta Naude wat vir haar soos 'n kleinboet is. Leon, die verinneweerde, afgetrede dokter met sy eie stryd en pyn. Mirre vir wie sy jare gelede onder haar vlerk geneem het, maar met wie sy kontak verloor het. Coralí is die derde deel van die *Vywerrou*-trilogie wat gaan oor vroue en mans wat hulle lewenslesse op die moeilike manier leer, maar nie moed opgee nie.'

Ander moet lees e-boeke waarvoor lesers gerus kan uitkyk is:

- Die veelbekroonde Ingrid Winterbach se nuutste literêre roman, **Voorouer. Pelgrim. Berg.**
- Jodi Picoult se Afrikaans vertaalde roman, **Negentien minute.**
- Anchien Troskie se roman, **Somtotaal.**
- Henriëtte Linde-Loubser se debuut Gotiese roman, **Plek van poue.**
- Elsa Winckler se ontstellende Christenroman oor dwelmverslawing en gesinsverhoudings, **Arendsvlerke vir Siebert: 'n verhaal van geneesing en hoop.**
- Mariël Le Roux se oortuigende verhoudingsroman, **Mieke**, oor die gestremde tienerseun, Boeta, wat hul rustige plaaslewe op 'n dag op sy kop kom keer.
- Brian Fredericks se kortverhaalbundel, **As die Cape Flats kon praat: Green eyes en ander stories**
- Helene de Kock se historiese liefdesroman, **Elisabet se oorlog**, wat ten tyde van die Tweede Wêreldoorlog afspeel.

Bronnelys

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New on the shelves

compiled by Sandra Kingswell

Over the last few months Central Reference (SN) has received some new and exciting items to add to its already extensive collection. 37 new books and 80 new DVDs have been added and shelved and are waiting to be borrowed.

All items listed in this article as well as the other 95,397 items already in SN's collection may be requested via IMPALA or e-mail. All book requests can be e-mailed directly to Sandra.Kingswell@westerncape.gov.za and DVD requests can be e-mailed to Hoeda.Salaam@westerncape.gov.za.

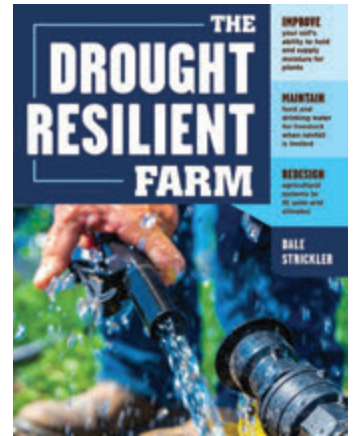
The latest arrivals at Central Reference (SN) are featured below.

Groote Schuur, one of South Africa's premier hospitals situated on the slopes of Devil's Peak in Cape Town, celebrates its 80th anniversary this year. Since its official opening in 1938, it has served as the training ground for some of South Africa's best doctors, surgeons and nurses. It attracted international attention in December 1967 when a young surgeon named Dr Christiaan Barnard completed the

world's first successful human heart transplant. **Groote Schuur Hospital 80th anniversary: the angels on Devil's Peak: the history and stories of their experiences, 1938 to 2018** written and compiled by Dr Bhavna Patel pays tribute to the history and heritage of this remarkable facility and the contribution it has made to the health sector in the Western Cape and the country. Information is gathered from various sources such as the Cape Hospital Trust and the hospital's annual reports which include statistics and graphs and of the personal experiences of staff members both past and present. The information is delivered in various time periods before moving onto departmental reports, expenditure, statistics, stories of staff and patients, and other relevant matters. It is attractively illustrated in both colour and black-and-white photographs. It also includes a nursing poem from one of its first matrons. The exceptionally high quality of care provided at this institution is phenomenal. It is not just a building, but a place of healing, a place

of teaching and learning, a place that is the heart and soul of each person who has entered its doors.

From the shores of Cape Town, Robben Island seems as ordinary as any other land formation that dots the ocean. It is only when one steps onto the island, peering into its now empty prison cells, that the full impact of its history is realised. Once a colonial and apartheid prison, Robben Island is now a museum and a World Heritage Site. Although it tells the tales of the thousands that it imprisoned, Robben Island is also a story of survival. It is for this reason that prisoner 468/64 keeps going back. Since 1994, Rivonia Trialist, Ahmed Kathrada, has taken some 300 guests from around the globe on tours of the island. **Triumph of the human spirit** offers a glimpse into the visits and the guests themselves which, amongst other things, include heads of state, celebrities, royalty, students, activists, sports personalities and ordinary folk. Kathrada is dedicated to preserving history. It is perhaps for this reason also, that he keeps going back to the place of his imprisonment, telling



the stories of his fellow revolutionaries, who despite being jailed, were sure of freedom. The photographs give a sense of the bleakness of the island and how, now a World Heritage Site, it has been transformed into a monument celebrating lives of courage. While a largely pictorial representation, the book also features reflective pieces from many of the guests who toured the island with one of its most famous prisoners.

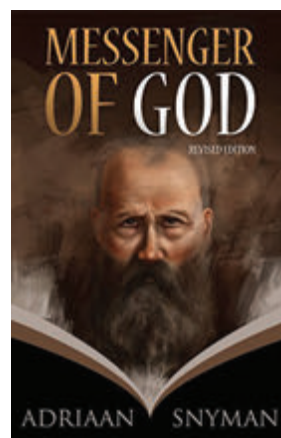
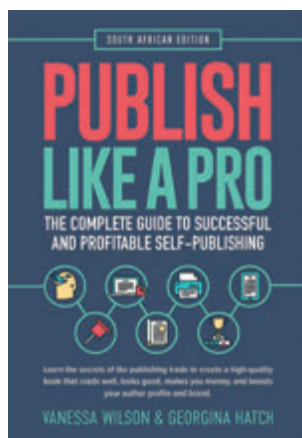
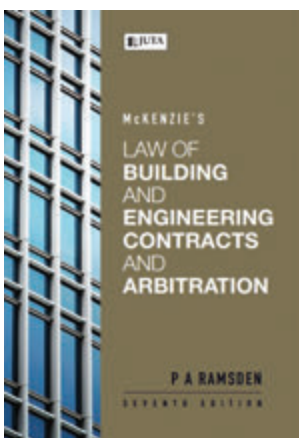
Agronomist and farmer Dale Strickler distils a wide range of agronomy literature and his own experience into a compelling set of principles and techniques to stay ahead of drought and use water more thoughtfully even in times of plenty. Aimed at the semi-arid region of his native Kansas, his book emphasises improvement of soil, maintenance of livestock with proactive management and planning, and redesign of agriculture through

flexible and creative approaches to cover crops and livestock plus more efficient irrigation. Using a mix of conventional and sustainable farming practices that are realistic if sometimes unusual, this volume is highly technical in nature, but amusing anecdotes and dry humor help make the charts and tables easier to follow. Even home gardeners without livestock will find this material provides helpful background for understanding their own soil improvement strategy.

The drought resistant farm by Dale Strickler is a valuable and entertaining book that offers some creative approaches to water use.

McKenzie's law of building and engineering contracts and arbitration is an essential reference for those connected with the construction industry. It is the leading reference work dealing with South African contract law relating specifically to

engineering and building contracts. This is the first book to explain the law applicable to the updated Joint Building Contracts Committee (JBCC) Principle Building Agreement (6th edition, 2014) and the Engineering General Conditions of Contract for Construction Works (2nd edition, 2010), which are both annexed to the book and extensively cross-referenced to assist the reader. The book also cross-references the relevant clauses of the FIDIC Contract Agreement (1999). Disputes arising out of building contracts are often referred to arbitration for solution. This work therefore deals with the effect of the Arbitration Act 42 of 1965 and the Association of Arbitrators Standard Procedure Rules, which are also reproduced as annexures in the book.



General

- 005.1 MCC McCue, Camille. Helping kids with coding.
070.573 WIL Wilson, Vanessa. Publish like a pro: the complete guide to successful and profitable self-publishing.

Philosophy and Psychology

- 133.32 SNY Snyman, Adriaan. Messenger of God.

Religion

- 296.09 GOO Goodman, Martin. A history of Judaism.

Social sciences

- 321.10968 TRA Buthelezi, Mbongiseni. Traditional leaders in a democracy: resources, respect and resistance.
325.3 FAN Fanon, Frantz. Alienation and freedom.
338.7622 FUT Valiani, Salimah. The future of mining in South Africa: sunset or sunrise?
343.6807 MCK McKenzie, Herbert Simon. McKenzie's law of building and engineering contracts and arbitration.
Q 362.1109 PAT Patel, Bhavna. Groote Schuur Hospital 80th anniversary: the angels on Devil's Peak: the history and stories of their experiences, 1938 to 2018.
378.68 BLA Khunou, Grace. Black academic voices: the South African experience.

- 378.68 PRA Prah, Kwesi Kwaa. The challenge of decolonizing education.
384.540968 GUN Gunner, Elizabeth. Radio soundings: South Africa and the black modern.
384.540968 HAR Harmse, Wynand. SABC 1936-1995: still a key player... or an endangered species?

Languages

- 491.43321 HIN Hindi English bilingual visual dictionary.
495.732 KOR Korean English bilingual visual dictionary.

Science

- 575.109 WIL Williams, Gareth. Unravelling the double helix: the lost heroes of DNA.
595.4609 LEE Leeming, Jonathan. Scorpions of Southern Africa.

Technology

- 631.432 STR Strickler, Dale. The drought resilient farm.

Arts and recreation

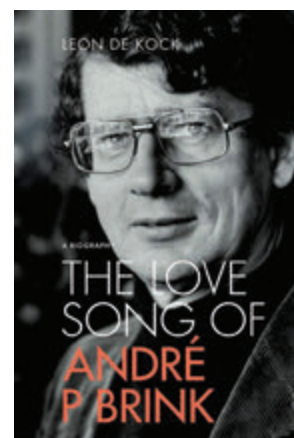
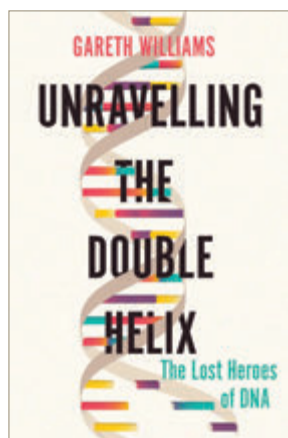
- Q 709.6 TWE Corrigan, Mary. 2019 contemporary African art ecology: the top 50 artists & the top 20 curators who validated them.
709.68 NDZ Ndzube, Simphiwe. Uncharted lands and trackless seas: 24 January - 13 March 2019 Stevenson, Cape Town.

Literature

- 808.3 WEL Weldon, Fay. Why will no-one publish my novel: a handbook for the rejected writer.
821.92 MUR Murray, Sally-Ann. Otherwise occupied.
822.92 DAN Daniels, Carlo. Onweer (Gathering storm).
839.3615 JOU Joubert, Marliese. Grondwater: poësie.
839.3616 LOM Lombard, Kobus. Tussen toeval en willekeur.

Geography/History/Travel/Biography

- 914.6 BRI Brierley, John. A pilgrim's guide to the Camino de Santiago: Camino Frances — St Jean Pied de Port, Santiago de Compostela — the ancient pilgrim path also known as The way of St James: a practical & mystical manual for the modern-day pilgrim.
915.6 MID Middle East.
915.9 SOU Southeast Asia.
915.97 ZGL Zglinicki, Maciej. Vietnam.
917.2 MEX Mexico.
919.31 HEL Helsztyńska-Stadnik, Magdalena. New Zealand.
920 A-Z HIL Hilton-Barber, David. Howard Timmins and his protégés: Lawrence Green, TV Bulpin, AP Cartwright and other popular writers of South Africa non-fiction.
920 BRI De Kock, Leon. André P Brink en die spel van liefde.
920 BRI De Kock, Leon. The love song of André P Brink.
Q 920 PIE Nel, PG. JH Pierneef: his life and his work.



Q 968.713 TRI Vadi, Zaakirah. Triumph of the human spirit: Ahmed Kathrada and Robben Island.
 968.9107 ROG Rogers, Douglas. Two weeks in November: the astonishing untold story of the operation that toppled Mugabe.

DVDs Fiction

A AMA Fellini, Federico. Amacord.
 U ANN Duvivier, Julien. Anna Karenina.
 A BLI Li Yang. Blind shaft.
 A BRE Loach, Ken. Bread & roses: the balance of power is about to change.
 A BUT Pinter, Harold. Butley.
 U CAP Webb, Robert D. The Cape Town affair.
 A CAR Babenco, Hector. Carandiru.
 A CAR Weir, Peter. The cars that ate Paris; and, The plumber.
 U CAT Loach, Ken. Cathy come home.
 U CHR Lewis, CS. Chronicles of Narnia. Prince Caspian.
 U GEE Marx, Franz. Geel trui vir 'n wenner.
 U GRO Roets, Koos. Die groen faktor.
 U HOU Hathaway, Henry. The house on 92nd street.
 U KAB Johar, Karan. Yash Johar's Kabhi khushi kabhie gham: it's all about loving your parents.
 U LAB Valdez, Luiz. La bamba.
 U LAD Welles, Orson. The lady from Shanghai.
 U LAG Robert, Yves. La gloire de mon pere.
 U LIF Goddard, Jim. The life and adventures of Nicholas Nickleby.
 J LOL Burger, Minki. Lollos 2 — bons dat dit gons!
 J LOL Joubert, Alta. Lollos 1 — my naam is Lollos!
 U MAN Baky, Josef von. Munchhausen.
 U MAN Silverstein, Elliot. A man called horse.
 A MAR Stevenson, Robert. Mary Poppins.
 U MAS Plisson, Pascal. Massai: the rain warriors.
 A MEM Nolan, Christopher. Memento.
 J MIC Luske, Hamilton S. Mickey and the beanstalk.
 A MOO Sembene, Ousmane. Moolaade.
 U NOR Wise, Herbert. The Norman conquests.

U PAR Abu Assad, Hany. Paradise now.
 A PIC Bresson, Robert. Pickpocket.
 U PIE Hedges, Peter. Pieces of April.
 U PIL Gordon, Michael. Pillow talk.
 J PIX Lasseter, John. Pixar short films collection. Volume 1.
 U PRI Newell, Mike. Prince of Persia: the sands of time.
 U PRI Marx, Franz. Die prince van Pretoria.
 U SAT Silke, Robert. The satyr of Springbok Heights.
 A SEL Campanella, Juan Jose. The secret in their eyes.
 U SHA Ivory, James. Shakespeare wallah.
 U SHE Evans, Graham. The Sherlock Holmes collection.
 A SPR Kim Ki-Duk. Spring, summer, autumn, winter... and spring.
 A SPR Tian Zhuangzhuang. Springtime in a small town.
 A THR Kieslowski, Krzysztof. Three colours trilogy.
 A UNC Sautet, Claude. Un coeur en hiver.
 U VAN Van den Bergh, Regardt. Van der Merwe P.I.
 A WHE Toback, James. When will I be loved?
 A YES Smith, Chris. The yes men.

Non-fiction

A 128.4 BOD Pummell, Simon. Bodysong.
 A 362.109729 CUB Burley, Ray. Cuba: the accidental revolution. Part 2, Medicine and health.
 A 362.7083 MOT Verster, Francois. The mothers' house.
 U 573.88 NIG Irving, Anthony. Night hunters.
 U 590 PAR Marshall, Greg. Wild detectives: parrot mystery.
 U 591.5 WIL Stringer, Nick. Wild chronicles.
 U 591.525 NAT Attenborough, David. Nature's great events.
 A 599.74428 LIO Van der Merwe, Fanie. Lions of the Kalahari. Volume 1.
 A 599.74428 LIO Lamberti, Peter. Lions of crocodile river.
 A 630.97291 CUB Burley, Ray. Cuba: the accidental revolution. Part 1, Agriculture.
 A 646.726 SEV Perricone, Nicholas. The 7 secrets of beauty, health and longevity.
 U 690.837 NIA Danneels, Martin. The Niall Mellon township challenge.

U 704.942 BRI Grant, Sebastian. The British face.
 A 709 PRI Davies, Russell. Private life of a masterpiece.
 U 780.9581 BRE Broughton, Simon. Breaking the silence: music in Afghanistan.
 782.42 VER Die verspotste kindertreffers. Volume 1.
 A 785.4309 BLU Wenders, Wim. Martin Scorsese presents the blues: a musical journey.
 U 791.43 OVE Montana, Tony. Overnight.
 U 791.53 STR Meschke, Michael. Strings of peace: the world of puppets.
 A 792.0968 MAK Anderson, Iain. The making of William Shakespeare's Twelfth night, or, What you will celebrating 50 years at Maynardville.
 A 796.333 MUR Rubin, Henry Alex. Murderball.
 U 797.32 TWE Carlino, Joe. 20 tricks.
 U 797.35 BEG Rathbun, Gordon. Beginning slalom: instruction for beginning skiers.
 U 799.0968 KRU Munro, James. The Kruger National Park: field guide to the animals, camps and private concessions...
 A 799.12 LES Rehbein, Fred. Lessons with lefty: a teaching guide for fly casting.
 U 799.1758 SA Engelbrecht, Renier. S.A. baars vliegengel.
 U 914.6 MAK Green, Stephen. The naked pilgrim: the road to Santiago.
 U 920 A-Z GRE Kemp, Stephan. Great scientists.
 U 920 DIC Dale, Liam. Classic literature. Charles Dickens.
 U 920.73 KEN Burns, Ken. Ken Burns America.
 A 940.53475 PAR Waletzky, Josh. Partisans of Vilna: the untold storey of Jewish resistance during World War II.
 U 952.19 WI Okazaki, Steven. White light, black rain: the destruction of Hiroshima & Nagasaki.
 A 968.221 SOW Du Plessis, Chris. Soweto: soul of South Africa.
 A 968.713 ROB Broodryk, Jaco. Robbeneiland we serve with pride.

Sandra Kingswell is the senior library assistant at Central Reference





Elizabeth de Roubaix, Bon Gertz, Jean Alberts and Lulu Leipolt: book selectors, 1960

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