

# CAPE KAAPSE LIBRARIAN BIBLIOTEKARIS

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FOR YOU

# editorial

One of the past few years' more troubling statistics found that 78 percent — that's one in four — of South African Grade 4 learners — cannot read for meaning. The latter refers to the cognitive fulfilment of the process whereby the concept of what's being described is fully understood beyond the mere recognition of words.

The root cause of this shocking phenomenon has many branches. Overfull schools, education-unfriendly socio-economic environments, overworked parents, and of late — the never-ending tentacles following the COVID-19 pandemic, are all contributing offenders.

The good news is that a few simple steps taken by parents, teachers — and even librarians providing reading sessions during school holidays — can go long a way towards the advancement of juvenile reading skills.

Critically, the first step is to select an age-appropriate title to match the reader's linguistic and intellectual ability. Thereafter, a before-during-after approach by the caregiver will help the learner establish reading comprehension skills.

The 'before' phase sees the reader being asked what their expectations are, based on initial interaction with the cover and pictures when paging through. Next up is the 'during' phase, whereby the unfolding of the story is discussed, and difficult-to-read words. It is important to establish an understanding of what is happening.

Finally, the 'after' stage is for the child to gather their experiences of the book and re-tell it to the caregiver. What was their most captivating or least favourite part?

As we see some flickering of a pre-COVID existence slowly emerging, many challenges still lurk ahead. But in 2022, an illiterate youth corps needn't be one of them: it's time to break the cycle.

En van die afgelope paar jaar se onstellendste statistieke het bevind dat 78 persent — oftewel een uit vier — van Suid-Afrikaanse skoolleerders nie kan lees met begrip nie. Laasgenoemde verwys

na die kognitiewe voltooiing van die proses waartydens die konsep wat op die bladsy waargeneem word, se blote herken van die woorde gebruik — oortref en ten volle verstaan word.

Hierdie skokkende verskynsel het heelwat onderliggende oorsake. Oorvol skole, onderwys-onvriendelike sosio-ekonomiese omstandighede, oorwerkte ouers en natuurlik die nimmereindigende tentakels van die COVID-19-pandemie — is almal bydraende en verswarende faktore.

Die goeie nuus is dat 'n paar eenvoudige stappe wat ouers, onderwysers en selfs bibliotekaris tydens skoolvakansie-groepsleessessies kan navolg, 'n deurslaggewende uitwerking op die bevordering van jeugleesvaardighede tot gevolg kan hê.

Die heel eerste stap is die noodsaaklikste, naamlik dat ouderdomsgestapte titels wat in lyn is met die leser se taal- en intellektuele vermoëns, geselekteer moet word. Daarna moet die opvoeder 'n voor-gedurende-agterna-benadering volg om die jeug se leesbegrip vas te lê.

Die 'voor'-fase behels dat die leser vooraf gevra word oor hulle verwagtings, gebaseer op aanvanklike interaksie met die voorblad en prentjies vervat in die titel. Volgende is die 'gedurende'-fase, wat behels dat die ontvouing van die verhaallyn, sowel as woorde wat moeilik is om te lees, bespreek word. Die allerbelangrike vaslê van gebeure vind hiertydens plaas.

Laastens, bied die 'agterna'-fase die geleentheid vir die kind om sy ervaringe van die boek te herroep en verwoord deur dit aan die opvoeder oor te vertel. Watter deel van die storie het die meeste of minste byval by hulle gevind?

Hoewel die skimme van 'n pre-COVID-bestaan weer stadig begin flikker, skuil heelwat uitdagings nog om die draai. Maar in 2022 hoef 'n ongeletterde jeug nie een van hulle te wees nie: vanjaar kan daardie bouse kringloop nekomgedraai word.



## Editor | Redakteur

Braam Peens

## Layout and design | Uitleg en ontwerp

Wynand Coetzee

## Contributor | Medewerker

Dr Francois Verster

## Contact details | Kontakbesonderhede

Email Braam.Peens@westerncape.gov.za

Address PO Box 2108, Cape Town, 8000

Website www.westerncape.gov.za/library

Twitter @WCGovCas

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Die **Kaapse Bibliotekaris** is die huisblad van die Wes-Kaapse Biblioteekdiens en verskyn twee-maandeliks. Dit bevat artikels oor biblioteek- en inligtingwese, nuusberigte, resensies, aanwinstlyste 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.

*Braam*

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## The Reading Room — gateway to the archives

Since ancient times the human need for collecting or storing information for future reference paved the way for the establishment of modern archival repositories. Yet, for centuries, and particularly during the Dark Ages of Europe, public access to state documents were strictly prohibited and only designated officials from the nobility were responsible for safekeeping confidential documents. The French Revolution of 1789 marked a significant breakthrough for archives in terms of accessibility, for it led to wider access by the ordinary people, as well as the creation of a more centralised archival service. Worldwide the enormous increase in the sheer volume of archival records would gradually necessitate greater access, and simultaneously, improvements to reading room facilities.

The contemporary Reading Room of the Western Cape Archives and Records

Service was opened in November 1989, after it had moved from the former Cape Archives Depot in Queen Victoria Street to 72 Roeland Street. The building construction conformed to international standards. The Reading Room is based on a horizontal layout with lifts situated in close proximity, which enables efficient retrieval of records from the strong rooms. Together with the finding aids room, which contains the inventories, guides and lists to the archival groups housed in the repository, the Reading Room fulfils a critically important role in providing an environment conducive to research and studying family, legal or academic subject matters. Separate tables with glass partitions are available to visitors to view the archival records. Essentially, the Reading Room forms the central point of the archival building where Client Service staff renders valuable assistance and

provide advice to enquiries from public and international researchers. The dedicated and knowledgeable staff strive to uphold the integrity of the Reading Room as a fundamental function of the archival service, and rightfully considers it the 'face of the archives.'

*The Cape Librarian extends its gratitude to the Western Cape Archives and Records Service for making available its rare collection of vintage photographs of the Cape for the cover images for all issues of the magazine in 2022.*

**Cover image:** Cape Town Station, taken between 1861 and 1875

## people

### We welcome two new ICT support officers



Noncedo Fono and Collen Mathye join the Municipal Support Services Unit as ICT support officers. They will be providing ICT support to our rural libraries. We wish you all the best.

Cecilia Sani, Director: Library Service

### New assistant director in George



Jongihlanga Mbanga is the new assistant director for the Eden and Central Karoo Control Area. He joined us in the George office. Welcome Jongi!

Cecilia Sani, Director: Library Service

## skrywers en boeke

### Hier is die beoordelaars vir die Booker-prys

Die beoordelaars vir die gesogte Booker-prys is bekend gemaak. Uitgewers kan nou boeke vir vanjaar se prys voorlê. Die Suid-Afrikaanse skrywer Damon Galgut het dit verlede jaar vir sy roman **The promise** losgeslaan.

Neil MacGregor, kultuurhistorikus, skrywer en uitsaaier, dien as voorsitter. Hy word in die paneel vergesel deur die akademikus Shahidha Bari, die historikus Helen Castor, die romanskrywer en kritikus John Harrison, en die romanskrywer en digter prof. Alain Mabanckou.

'Dit is dalk maklik om te vergeet die Booker-prys is internasionaal,' sê Gaby Wood, literêre direkteur van die Booker-prysstigting. 'Soos wat ons jaar ná jaar in die voorleggings gesien het, is die Engelse taal aansienlik verryk deur 'n wêreldgevoeligheid, of dit 'n Londense romanskrywer is wat deur 'n Maori-skrywer beïnvloed is, of 'n Turk wat in Engels skryf of Skotse dialek wat in New York gepubliseer word... En die prys het 'n internasionale invloed. Die wenners en skrywers op die kortlys word wêreldwyd gevier.'

Die paneel fokus op fiksieboeke wat van 1 Oktober 2021 tot 20 September 2022 in die Verenigde Koninkryk en Ierland



Neil MacGregor, voorsitter van die Booker-paneel

uitgereik is. Die langlys word in Julie bekend gemaak, waarna die kortlys in September aan die lig kom. Die wenner, wat £50,000 losslaan, word in November aangekondig.

Die Booker-prys bestaan sedert 1969 en word deur Crankstart geborg.

([netwerk24.com](http://netwerk24.com), 16/01/2022)

## libraries

### Ocean View Library youth career day



Ocean View Library hosted a youth career day at the end of 2021. Several guest speakers from the community shared their tips and motivations. The day was organised by Fatima Kiel (librarian), Natasha Arendse (librarian), Ulfah Davids (assistant librarian) and Ashley Lewis (librarian-in-chief).

### George and Pacaltsdorp library displays



George Library created awareness for disability rights (top) while Pacaltsdorp Library was gearing up to go back to school with their display

### SALW: ReImagine! RePurpose! ReDiscover... Libraries!



South African Library Week (SALW) will be celebrated from 14 to 20 March 2022 this year with the theme *ReImagine! RePurpose! ReDiscover... Libraries!*.

Libraries continue to be affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, with many still grappling with providing appropriate services or affected by their ability to provide services. Sectors of the LIS community have also responded differently and this continues to be a cause of concern. With this in mind, the theme for SALW 2022 will explore and interrogate the ways in which libraries are having to:

- Reimagine their services and ability to render those services
- Repurpose both their spaces and their services to continue being effective to the communities that they serve, and in this way allowing users to
- Rediscover the library and the way in which it benefits them.

The theme for 2022 builds on the 2021 theme of *Libraries matter!* by moving the narrative forward from one of confirming relevance to one of demonstrating how libraries continue being relevant in society.

The 2022 theme will also echo throughout the year, as LIASA celebrates its 25th anniversary. LIASA throughout this year will continue striving to reimagine itself and repurpose the association for a new generation of professionals and in this way, helping the sector rediscover LIASA as a professional body for everyone.

**Nazeem Hardy, Senior Professional Officer: Acquisitions at City of Cape Town Library & Information Services and President: LIASA**

## LIASA Conference 2021 – an overview

The LIASA Conference 2021 was hosted as an online conference, a first for the Association, from 27–30 September 2021. The theme for the conference was *Libraries matter: Reflecting on a year of change*. Having dealt with the immediate impact of the COVID-19 during the Virtual Indaba we hosted in 2020 and various other events, the conference attempted to look at the changes that libraries faced since the onset of the pandemic and the impact of these on our services.

The conference was an amalgamation of our traditional conference, together with the lessons we learnt from the Virtual Indaba and featured academic papers, discussions, conversational presentations and electronic posters/lightning sessions as part of the event. The conference proper covered the first three days and the LIASA AGM as well as the presidential handover session that took place on the final day.

This year's conference also saw the introduction of an MC for the entire event. Dr Buhle Mbambo-Thata, university librarian of the National University of Lesotho, graciously filled this role and kept things ticking over between sessions throughout the duration of the event.

Together with the papers, posters, lightning talks and conversational presentations, the three days also saw us hosting guest speakers and special topics that we deemed as important to the broader conversation that we need to have as a profession. Our guest speakers included Zanele Njapha, Dr Siphiwo Mahala and Sihle Khumalo.

Zanele, also known as The Unlearning Lady, was our main guest speaker on Day One. Her talk focused on how we can learn to unlearn our past behaviours in order to deal with the

challenges presented by our current situation. Dr Mahala, renowned author and editor of the recently published *Imbiza Journal*, spoke on how libraries can support local content while Sihle, also a renowned author, spoke about the issue of public lending rights, a contentious issue and one that requires further discussion.

Our special focus sessions included among others:

- Libraries and Social Justice — a session chaired by the IFLA FAIFE Chair, Ellen Tise and featuring presentations by Prof Dennis Ocholla and Dr Peter Lor
- Library Preservation and Conservation — a session chaired by the president-elect in conversation with the UCT Library Executive Director, Ujala Satgoor on the lessons learnt following the UCT Jagger Library fire and the way forward, not just for LIS but the entire GLAM sector.

The various papers and Lightning Talks resulted in 19 papers being delivered together with three Lightning Talks, presented by 25 LIS professionals. This included speakers from the African continent as well as one American speaker.

The president, Nikki Crowster and president-elect, Nazeem Hardy hosted a Khuluma Nenduma session, fielding questions and concerns from LIASA members but also discussing the way forward in terms of LIASA restructuring, the LIASA Academy (later announced as the LIASA/Clare Walker Professional Development Centre) and other burning issues that require attention.

The DSAC session on the Conditional Grant Funding was also used as

an opportunity to showcase the *#LibrariesMatter* video that we commissioned as part of the South African Library Week celebrations earlier this year. The video is intended to be used by schools and libraries, among others, to showcase the various types of libraries to be found and stimulate an interest in the field as a career choice. It is available in English, Afrikaans, isiXhosa, isiZulu and Sepedi.

While the Conference showcased high quality presentations, the lack of public library presentations was a continued cause of concern. The sector is arguably the biggest in the country and yet, we had virtually no papers presented by someone from this sector. The lone public librarian braving the virtual stand was Kim Beukes from the Wynberg Library in the City of Cape Town. This is something that needs to be addressed and LIASA will be conducting workshops on crafting abstracts for conference submissions in 2022. Hopefully this will attract participants from the public library sector as well.

The three days of conference sessions ended with the awards session on Wednesday, 29 September. The SALI Trust Lifetime Achievement Award was awarded to Denise Nicholson, recognising the work that she has done in the copyright legislation arena, among others.

The LIASA president also recognised the work done by her executive committee as well as the contribution by the editors and others who contribute to the LIASA publications. For *LIASA-in-Touch*, the editor, Nohra Moerat and the graphic designer, Mudhni Grimwood were recognised. For *SAJLIS*, the editor-in-chief, Prof Rocky Ralebipi-Simela (who sadly passed away on 16 January 2022), as well as Wynand van der Walt and the president-elect, Nazeem Hardy were recognised. Furthermore, the University of Stellenbosch was also recognised for its continued hosting of *SAJLIS* on the OJS platform.

The LIASA accountant, Nikki Kennedy and the National Library of South Africa (NLSA), were recognised as exceptional service providers to LIASA. The NLSA continues to provide





Conference MC Buhle Mbambo-Thata

support and the hosting of the LIASA National Office.

The best conference paper and Lightning Talk also received an award on the day. The best paper was selected by the programming committee and the best Lightning Talk was voted for by those who attended the conference. The winners were each awarded with R2,000.

- Ingrid Thomson was awarded Best Lightning Talk for her presentation, 'Promoting Wikipedia programmes to libraries in COVID times'.
- Cornelle Scheltema-Van Wyk was awarded Best Conference Paper for her presentation, 'A digital scholarship centre at the University of the Free State'.

this time when library services were limited. Sunitha is also a former Librarian of the Year runner-up.

- Christelle Lubbe, the Head for Professional Services & Programmes (PSP) in the City of Cape Town Library & Information Services Department (LIS), coordinates programmes within the city of Cape Town that introduce new ways to reach out to communities and ensure that libraries remain relevant to the communities that they serve. Christelle is a former Librarian of the Year runner-up.
- Thembi Mathenjwa, a teacher librarian at the New Ermelo Primary School, through her programming initiatives, went beyond the call of duty to keep library services relevant to school children.

These changemakers had the courage to do things differently, organising events ranging from online storytelling to reading programmes and advocating for library services. They worked throughout the pandemic restrictions, thought out of the box and put into action programmes and services that ensured delivery to their communities.

The final day of the conference was allotted to the business meeting of the Association, namely the AGM, a member's only event. As this was an election year, the results of the election were announced as well. Charlie Molepo was elected as president-elect, Mokgadi Senyolo as secretary, Danie Malan as treasurer and Linda Ntaka as the public relations officer. They joined the incoming president, Nazeem Hardy, and the LIASA manager, Annamarie Goosen as the LIASA leadership for 2021-23.

The 2021 LIASA Conference was an exhilarating experience that showcased high-quality presentations by an array of LIS professionals. The conference stimulated and encouraged discussion, some of which could not be covered during the conference sessions. The sessions also pointed to future discussions to be hosted by LIASA via the branches and interest groups.

**Nazeem Hardy, Senior Professional Officer: Acquisitions at City of Cape Town Library & Information Services and President: LIASA**



Guest speaker Zanele Njapha

Honorary membership this year was awarded to our electoral officer, Laila Vahed. A veteran of the Association, Laila has played a pivotal role in the election process during the last few terms and has also been a wealth of knowledge when constitutional matters raised its head. Laila is currently the library director at the University of Zululand and has previously been a winner of Librarian of the Year.

The last award presented was the Library Changemaker Award. The traditional Librarian of the Year and Executive Librarian of the Year had last been awarded in 2019 and since that time, we had been in discussion with our traditional sponsors regarding changes to the award. The changes were meant to come into effect in 2021 but due to the prolonged pandemic this had not materialised. The advent of the LIASA Conference as an online event brought its own challenges and for this reason, the idea for a new award was born. In line with the theme, it was decided to create the Library Changemaker Award, to recognise those colleagues who have gone beyond their call of duty to keep library services relevant to their communities during the COVID-19 pandemic. The winners of the award, each winning R10,000, were announced as follows:

- Sunitha Richard, a librarian at the Eastwood Public Library in the Msunduzi Municipality. She has continued to run programmes, workshops and activities to empower and educate the community during



Guest speaker Siphiwo Mahala

# Leibbrandt's legacy

by Gustav Hendrich

‘Ordinarily he was to be found sitting in a little glasswalled box in a corner of the dark vaults of Parliament House — a heavy round shouldered figure in clerical surtout and a black velvet skull-cap over his white hair,’ was the description of a man that would pave the way for the establishment of South Africa’s first archival service.<sup>1</sup> Over the past century the name of Leibbrandt has become renowned, almost synonymous with the Western Cape Archives among researchers and the public, as seen from the almost never-ending requests for his publications or writings. It remains a testimony to the enormity of his work that he has bequeathed to us.

140 years after Hendrik Carel Vos Leibbrandt became the first archivist in January 1881, often referred to as the Keeper of the Colonial Archives, his archival works still have immense resonance in the research community. They are considered to be of incalculable value within the contemporary Western Cape Archives and Records Service (WCARS) in Roeland Street, Cape Town. And in the archives building his legacy

is omnipresent. Portraits hanging from the walls portraying a staunch, bearded and strong-willed figure, as well as the Leibbrandt Manuscript series, finding aids in the form of lists, registers and catalogues all attest to his undeniable influence.

### Our first archivist?

The argument persisted over who can be considered the first true archivist at the Cape has raged on for many years within academic circles. Although the historiographer, George McCall Theal commenced in March 1879 as a state clerk and archivist, he merely held that position for a duration of two years after which the British colonial government decided to appoint Leibbrandt. Whereas Theal’s interest leant more towards historical writing, and which would elevate him as the foremost colonial historian for his exceptional publications, most notably the *History of South Africa, 1691-1795* and *Records of the Cape Colony* — Leibbrandt had more time to concentrate his

attention on the archives. Much to the dismay and disappointment of Theal in Leibbrandt’s appointment as Keeper of the Archives and Parliamentary Librarian, the two would vie and contend with each other, a competition that would ultimately be to South Africa’s benefit in terms of the voluminous amount of work they produced.

Leibbrandt, who was officially known as Reverend HCV Leibbrandt, was born as a gifted individual in Cape Town in 1837. He studied at the South African College before venturing to the Netherlands to study theology at Utrecht with the intention of becoming a reverend in the Dutch Reformed Church. Nonetheless, during his studies he was noticed by Professor Nicolas Beets (Hildebrand) for his intellectual capabilities, who would soon acquaint Leibbrandt with the methods and organisational aspects of library and archival source material. Following his return to the Cape and ordainment as reverend at Victoria West, and later Graaff-Reinet, his liberal viewpoints gradually led to a schism with the Dutch Reformed clergy and members of his church.



Besides his uneasy tenure at Graaff-Reinet, Leibbrandt held an interest in documents of historical significance. At the Drostdy Magistrate Office he noticed the vast bundles of neglected and wholly deteriorated condition of the documents, and brought the need for their urgent preservation under the attention of the colonial authorities.<sup>2</sup> The Cape colonial government, who at that stage already appointed an Archives Commission in 1879 with Dr JW van Oordt, who played a fundamental role in pressing for greater care for the old documents, henceforth consulted with Leibbrandt.<sup>3</sup> A request for the proper management of the Graaff-Reinet documents were made. The creation of the Archives Commission was a notable first step, since prior to that knowledge of archives was wholly inadequate.

Leibbrandt immediately realised that his first task was to collect the already stockpiled documents to prevent their further deterioration. Because he still worked as a reverend, he had limited time at hand and extracted the most valuable documents in the Drostdy. Thereby he devised, or created, the English *précis*, or extract format, which he as multilingual and a prolific linguist also transcribed and translated from Dutch to English before presenting it to the government.

The governor was so impressed that they recognised him as an appropriate successor to Theal. Consequently, and on request by the government, Leibbrandt relinquished his position as reverend after twenty years and accepted his new role as archivist and librarian in Cape Town. For the following 26 years he would work laboriously and painstakingly to 'collect and have bound and keep the Archives in order and safety, and at the same time to trace the whereabouts of such documents as were known to be missing'.<sup>4</sup>

### **'To collect, examine, classify and index'**

Before the advent of the 20th century the circumstances in which the early documents at the Cape existed were lamentable. With a general lack of understanding for the purpose and need of an archival repository, as well as disinterest in the history



J 11800. HCV Leibbrandt, Cape archivist

of the Cape among the public, the promotion of archives appeared a daunting task. Documents dating back to Jan van Riebeeck and the Dutch East India Company, the Batavian Republic and the period after the second British occupation in 1806 were mostly scattered or distributed in various government buildings, including the Castle of Good Hope and

Supreme Court; with some documents becoming lost over time. Following on the principles of the Archives Commission, Leibbrandt deemed it necessary to adhere to their instruction 'to collect, examine, classify and index the Archives of the Colony of the Cape of Good Hope'.<sup>5</sup>

As a preliminary measure, Leibbrandt compiled an inventory of all the

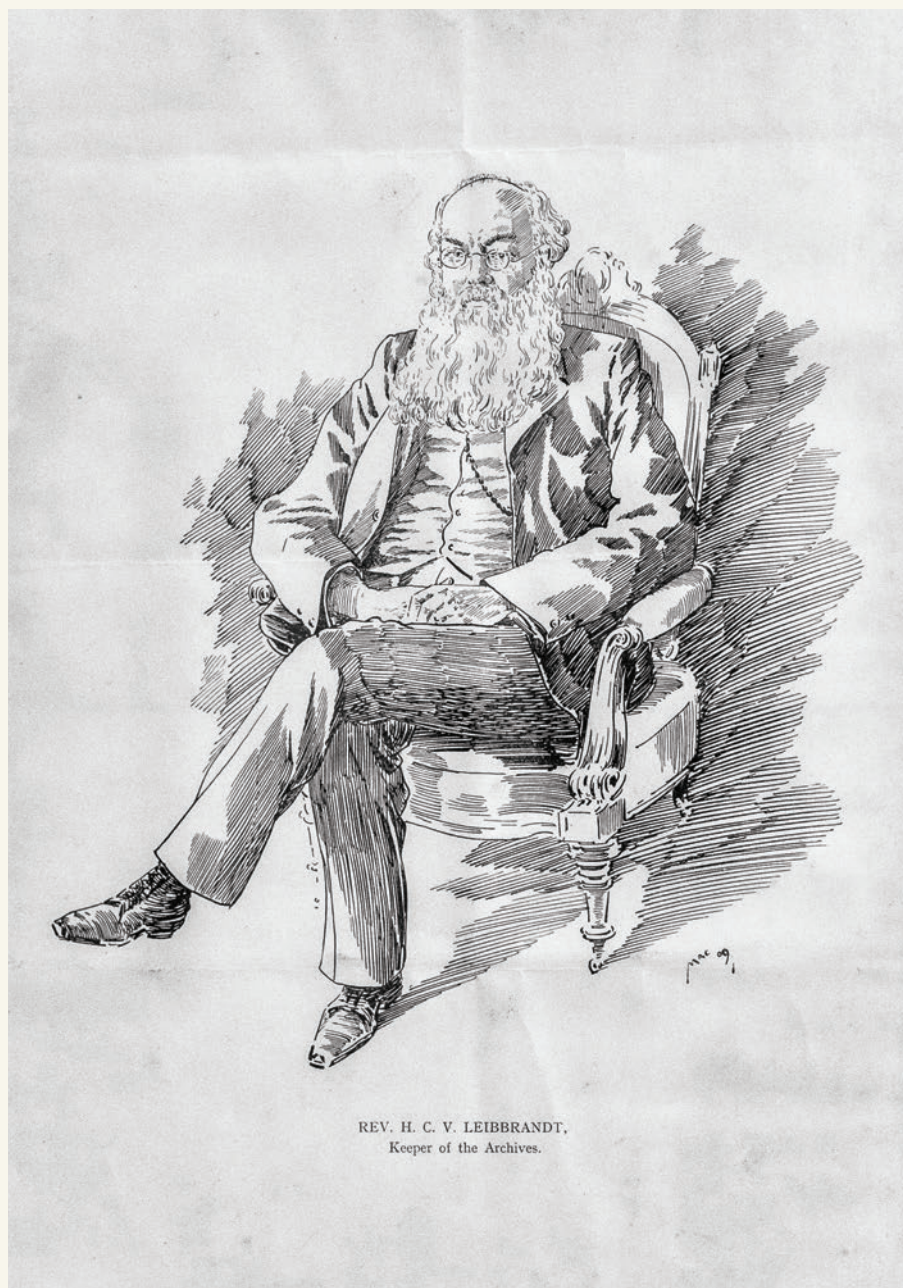
archivalia in his custodianship before commencing with the collection of archival documents. This in itself was a most challenging task, since he had to attain permission to allocate archives, for instance those of the Court of Justice, and of Koopmans de Wet — to be transferred to a permanent repository located in the basement of the Parliament (House of Assembly). Despite some resistance, Leibbrandt managed to convince the public of the importance of a single archival building in which documents of value could be entrusted for long-term preservation.

With regards to the accommodation of archives, he persistently made the government aware of an adequate building. Although it remains noteworthy that Leibbrandt did not have any formal archival training, he nonetheless played an active role in consulting with the Dutch and British archivists abroad on matters of archival practice. Leibbrandt made recommendations for iron instead of wooden shelves.<sup>6</sup> Regarding the occasional hindrances of infestations by insects on paper, he preferred the use of paraffin and rejected the use of the more dangerous carbon bisulphite due to its high flammability.

Leibbrandt furthermore expressed his disappointment in the limited storage space for archives, but as a result of the South African War of 1899 to 1902 and subsequent economic hardship, it is evident that he did not receive enough financial support from the government or public. Yet, he persisted and recommended in his own words: 'Some years ago I suggested a building quite fire-proof, should be erected solely for the accommodation of archives'.<sup>7</sup> In 1901 the positions of librarian and archivist were separated when he could fully direct his attention to the archives until his retirement seven years later.

### Précis of the archives

Apart from the physical preservation, Leibbrandt also needed to arrange, sort and describe the documents — key functions of an archivist. It was from this arrangement and description that his most pivotal work would originate. For Leibbrandt it was pointless if the archival source material could not be made accessible, and



REV. H. C. V. LEIBBRANDT,  
Keeper of the Archives.

Leibbrandt sketch in WCARS

especially in a readable or user-friendly format, to the public. Through the creation of a multitude of indexes and catalogues, researchers could thereby look-up subjects more conveniently. Furthermore, Leibbrandt took upon himself the voluminous work by writing his *Précis of the Archives of the Cape of Good Hope*, which meant that excerpts of documents were transcribed. These excerpts or summaries would then serve as a descriptive index. His not merely transcribing, but also translating — from the original Dutch records to English, which are often unreadable even for the modern-day reader due to its difficulty and style of handwriting — was outstanding.

Leibbrandt held the intention that the *Précis* would serve both inside the archive for reference purposes or be used in conjunction with the original complete documents; and outside the archives for persons distantly located. It would also stimulate interest in the Cape's earlier history. For the researcher and historian, including Theal, the creation of finding aids or indexes proved hugely beneficial. It saved precious time and enabled the task of researching more effectively. To this end, Leibbrandt expressed his aim to 'compile a copious index for the convenience of reference'.<sup>8</sup> Through the *Précis* he hoped to attract people to the intrigues of history, and in turn instil an interest in the developing archival service. Leibbrandt concurred that it is his task to 'bring them within the reach of all and has therefore been my object in writing this précis'.<sup>9</sup>

When considered in the light of the early archival evolvement, the creation of the *Précis* was a milestone. When Parliament was not in sitting, apart from his other mandated tasks Leibbrandt devoted almost all his spare time to this laborious exercise which would culminate in 17 volumes. For fifteen years he committed to the self-imposed task of transcribing, translating, and indexing the old documents of the Cape, thereby unlocking the otherwise inaccessible scripts.

The most fundamental parts of his *Précis* included the journal from 1699 to 1732 which covered the rule of WA van der Stel, with whom Leibbrandt had a fascination during his time of governorship; correspondence between the VOC and Batavia in the

PRECIS  
OF THE  
ARCHIVES  
OF THE  
CAPE OF GOOD HOPE,

DECEMBER, 1651—DECEMBER, 1653.

RIEBEECK'S JOURNAL, &c.



RIEBEECK'S FORT.

BY

H. C. V. LEIBRANDT,

KEEPER OF THE ARCHIVES.

PART I.

CAPE TOWN:

W. A. RICHARDS & SONS, GOVERNMENT PRINTERS,

1897.

*Precis of the Archives of the Cape of Good Hope*

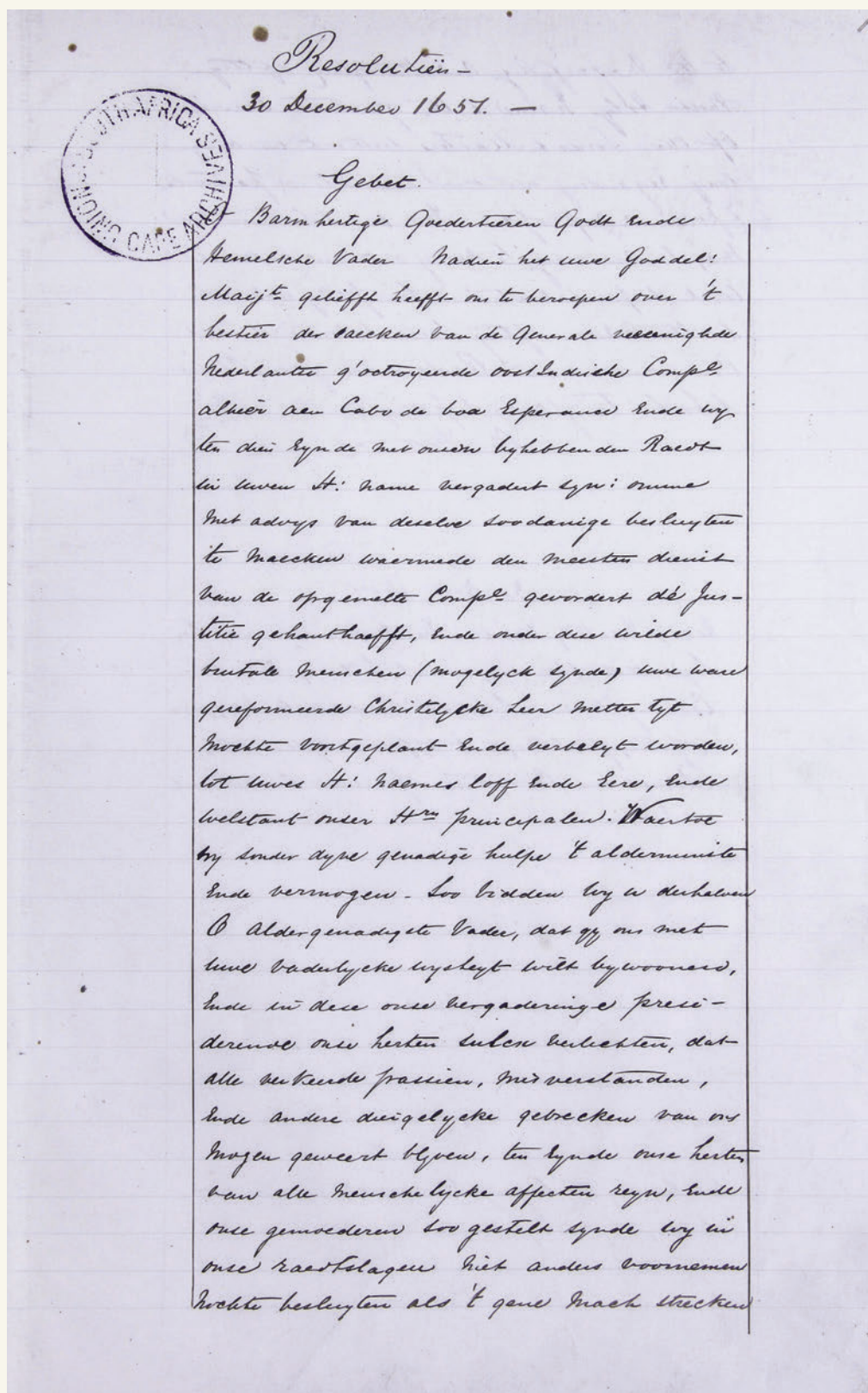
trading world of the East from 1695 to 1708; and the defence of Van der Stel to refute the accusations against the governor as a 'tyrant' from the side of Theal and others, although therein Leibbrandt did not make any personal viewpoints. The renowned *Riebeeck's Journal* is considered a masterpiece that reflected on Jan van Riebeeck and his family, and descriptions of developments at the Cape in the finest detail. In his study, Rossouw mentioned that these archives were invariably brought to the door of all interested persons. This notion was emphasised in the *Cape Times* of 6 June 1898 that stated 'Leibbrandt's translations are a treasure trove — to unravel the records and translate the manuscripts, is the work of patriotic piety'.

Other parts within the *Précis*, most notably *Resolutions of the Council of Policy*, *Letters despatched from the Cape*, *Letter documents, 1649 to 1662*; *Requesten of Memorials A-E and F-O*; *the Slachter's Nek rebellion*, and *Memorien of Governor van de Graaff*, are voluminous and have appeared in published format. Theal, his rival, through sharing a mutual respect for Leibbrandt's work, acknowledged the *Précis* since 'these volumes exhibited proofs of much patience and industry, we should draw attention to the value of the records of the Dutch administration'.<sup>10</sup>

### Leibbrandt Manuscript series

By the time Leibbrandt retired, his *Précis* remained incomplete and many of his manuscripts still unpublished. Again, these works were summaries of original documents, mostly handwritten in notebooks, such as the transcriptions of the *Resolutions of the Council of Policy from 1651 to 1713* which appeared mostly in Dutch, though complemented by English translations. Some of the later indexes or lists however appeared in typescript. Currently the WCARS is in possession of the Leibbrandt Manuscript (LM) series housed in the confines of a strong room, and can be requested by the public for viewing in the Reading Room.

In shedding light on the contexts and extent of these manuscripts, such documents can be consulted in conjunction with other archival



(Leibbrandt Manuscripts) LM1. Resoluties (Resolutions of the Political Council, 1651)

materials, particularly those from archives of the Council of Policy, Court of Justice, Government House, the Magistrate of Graaff-Reinet and others. Some series volumes were supplemented by later archivists, and the series themselves have been arranged and boxed according to archival best practice.

The most outstanding unpublished manuscript in the series are the *Resolutions from 1713 to 1760*, *The pomp and splendour statutes of Netherlands India and the Cape*, the *Journal of Cape Governors*, the *Instructions and regulations at the Cape pertaining to the bypassing ships and the free burghers*. Together with the vast number of indexes, there is the correspondence of General JW Janssens and the surrendering of the Cape to the British in 1806, which are complete transcriptions of the original documents.<sup>11</sup>

Since Leibbrandt also took up the pen, he engaged in historical writing published as *Rambles through the archives of the Colony of the Cape of Good Hope, 1688-1700*. His book had the purpose, as he mentions in his introduction, 'to lay before the reader in plain, unvarnished language' the history of the Van der Stel administration and the issue of the French refugees.<sup>12</sup> Furthermore, Leibbrandt worked on his second

*Rambles*, though that also remained incomplete as an unpublished manuscript. His manuscript on the *Cape, epitome of its early history, 1650-1843*, and lists of British settlers of 1820 comprising an alphabetic name index, are some of the fundamental archival material within the LM series. A concise and useful inventory to this series were compiled in 1990 by the archivist M Potgieter which enables researchers to allocate the manuscripts more conveniently.<sup>13</sup>

In reflecting on Leibbrandt's work, Rossouw once raised the question of 'how he managed properly, is difficult to understand', given the colossal amount, besides the requirement for physical preservation of the documents.<sup>14</sup>

*Précis* was a pioneering work through Leibbrandt's indexing, but his work was, of course, not without error or criticism. Theal, notably, would later regard the *Précis* as inferior because it was not a 'complete' transcription and thus of limited usefulness, although Leibbrandt had never stipulated it to be such in the first place. It was to be a descriptive index for reference purposes and broadening historical knowledge of the Cape.

According to the writer JC Gillmer, Leibbrandt left an everlasting influence on the archival discipline, despite his shortcomings and lack of financial

support. It is clear from the outside book covering and binding on inferior paper, that the *Précis* did not receive the necessary recognition, as stated that: 'financially his work was starved... meanly bound volumes, clad in cloth of depressing dinginess.'<sup>15</sup> Nevertheless, Leibbrandt did not complain, but merely wanted to communicate the facts and past as derived from the written documents. After his death in 1911 due to ill health and cancer of the mouth, he was buried in Woltemade.

The contemporary archival service in South Africa owes Leibbrandt a debt of gratitude in providing an instrument for research in the form of the *Précis*, as well as his role in the early archival service at the Cape. His devotion to make archives accessible by means of his tireless indexing and for collecting missing or lost pieces/parts of documents is remarkable. Dr Helena Liebenberg of the TEPC Transcription Project, expressed her indebtedness to Leibbrandt and hailed his efforts by stating that, 'if it were not for the determination and far-sightedness in the 1880s of two extraordinary men, Dr Theal and Rev Leibbrandt, these and other documents belonging to the Cape as their place of origin, would perhaps never have returned home'.<sup>16</sup>

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

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# Die engel van die biblioteek in die middel van nêrens

deur Madeleine Barnard

Laas Vrydag kry ek 'n WhatsApp. 'Ek het **A moveable feast** vir jou opgespoor,' skryf Reinie Smit, met 'n paar emoji's — 'n drukkie en 'n hartjie of drie. Ek wil half na my paspoort gryp. Want vanaf die veiligheid van my bed met sy baie kussings gaan ek die naweek weer op reis. Danksy die mees verbete bibliotekaresse wat ek ken. Wat werk by die biblioteek in die middel van nêrens.

Ek stap die Dinsdag ná die naweek in by Prins Albert se munisipale biblioteek. Alles is blinkskoon, netjies en op sy plek. Ek het skaars my hande gespuut of die koorspistool is op my pols. Ek vul die lys in. Maskers is oral.

Die biblioteek is een van die laaste plekke op die dorp waar niemand nog laat slaplê het met Covid-protokolle nie. Dit laat mens veilig voel in 'n onseker, halfbang tyd. Interessant dat die bib een van die min plekke op die dorp is waar Covid nog nie kop uitgesteek bet nie. As dit van Reinie

Smit afhang, sal daai bliksem nooit sy voete op die perseel sit nie.

### Ek en Hemingway stap deur Parys

Die voorafgaande naweek het ek danksy Reinie langs die jong Ernest Hemingway gestap deur die strate van die Parys van die 1920's. Daar het hy vir 'n paar jaar gewoon saam met sy eerste vrou, Hadley, hul babaseuntjie, Mr Bumby, en 'n geellogkat genaamd F Puss.

Saam met hom geteug aan whisky in Les Deux Magots, en gekonfereer met Ezra Pound in La Closerie des Lilas, oor hoe hulle genoeg geld kon bymeakaarskraap om die jong TS Eliot weg te kry van sy werk in 'n bank sodat hy op sy gedigte kon konsentreer.

Ek het my verlustig in sy gestroopte prosa, wat hy ook aangewend het om mede-literêres 'n paar literêre snotklappe te gee. Daar was F Scott Fitzgerald se dramatiese iepekonders,

Gertrude Stein se reuse-ego, nog groter opinies en haar persoonlike broertjiedood aan James Joyce. En Zelda Fitzgerald se ongebreidelde gesuip en legendariese babelasse...

### Die boekspeurder

Reinie Smit het die boek met haar gewone liefderyke verbetering vir my opgespoor by Oudtshoorn se streeksbiblioteek. Ek het dae lank saam met Anthony Doerr in Rome rondgelopen danksy 'n interbiblioteeklening van **Four seasons in Rome**, wat heelpad van Saldanha af gekom het.

'n Boek oor die wetenskap van slaap stap 'n langer pad na my toe. Dié spoor Reinie by die Mimosa-gemeenskapsbiblioteek in Beaufort-Wes op. Boeke word gewoonlik tussen biblioteke gepos, maar ek is haastig. Sy kry haar suster se seun om dit op te laai en hy bring dit Ladismith toe,

waar haar ouers woon. Sy kry dit daar tydens 'n naweekbesoek aan hulle en bring dit Prins Albert toe vir my.

Pieter Hugo, adjunk-direkteur van die Wes-Kaapse Biblioteekdiens, vertel: 'In die jare toe ek die streeksbibliotekaris op Beaufort-Wes was, het ons meer spesiale aanvrae vir spesifieke titels van Prins Albert af gekry as die hele res van die streek gesamentlik.'

Ek dink onwillekeurig aan Sylvia Beach, die legendariese stigter van die wêreldberoemde Paryse boekwinkel (en destyds biblioteek) Shakespeare and Company. Beach het altyd gesorg vir leesstof in Engels vir die boekhonger Amerikaanse skrywers wat hulle in die 1920's op die Stad van Lig se linkeroewer kom vestig het. Reinie is vir my die Sylvia Beach van die Groot-Karoo.

### 'n Wereldreis deur boeke

Sy praat nie met jou as sy jou verwelkom nie, daar is letterlik musiek in haar kenmerkende stem as mens by die biblioteek instap. 'Hal-lou Ma-deleine!' sing sy in dalende kadens vir my. Op haar katoenrok blom 'n guitige strooisel rooi hibiskusse. Sy verneem na my ribbekas — ek en haar assistent Jeanetta Nel het laas keer so gekla oor ons seer ribbes en advies en 'n salfie uitgeruil.

Ek gaan sit in die hoek by die groot tafel waar mense gewoonlik koerant lees, en hoor hoe sy gesels met 'n besoeker wat na 'n goeie 40 minute van rondsoek met 'n arm vol boeke en 'n paar tydskrifte by die toonbank aanmeld. 'Dankie, Anna!' sê sy toe Anna loop. 'Sê groete vir Maria!'

Ek stap 'n draai deur haar heiligdom — die rakke vol perfek gerangskikte boeke. Etienne Leroux, Dalene Matthee, Karel Kielblock, Elsa Joubert. Selfs Truman Capote se seminale **In cold blood** se Afrikaanse vertaling — **Koelbloedig** — sien ek daar.

Deur misdadafiksie loop ek enkeldiep in bloed en forensiese sousies. Baldacci, Nesbo, Lee Child, Kathy Reichs, Harlan Cohen, Michael Connelly, Deon Meyer, Karin Brynard, Chris Karsten.

Daar is ook heelwat om liefdesghonger harte vinniger te laat klop. Laaaaang rakke vol Ena Murray-en Tryna du Toit-omnibusse. Die wellustige Jackie Collins vir brilglase toestoom. Op 'n tafeltjie lê daar twee moedeloos geleesde eksemplare van **Fifty shades of grey** met oopgeknakte rugstringe. 'Selfs mense wat nooit hul hand aan 'n Engelse boek slaan nie, het **Fifty shades** uitgeneem,' sê sy laggend.

Vir ernstiger lesers is daar ook 'n smorgasbord van vreugdes. Tolstoj. Laurens van der Post. Jan Rabie. 'n formele Karel Schoeman staan op aandag neffens **Wit issie 'n colour nie** van Nathan Trantraal.

Watwo grendeltyd en toe landsgrense — in die reisafdeling is daar gidse vir elke land onder die son. Ek sien sommer die son blink op die blou waters by Santorini.

### Van Klein-Karoo na Groot-Karoo

Reinie se liefde vir boeke loop langpad, van haar kinderjare op Ladismith in die Klein-Karoo, waar haar pa jare lank tesourier by die afdelingsraad was en later sy eie winkel gehad het.

'Ek het grootgeword in 'n boekehuis waar almal gelees het. Behalwe stories lees toe ons klein was, het Ma soggens na *Siembamba-stories* geluister op die radio terwyl ons in die skool was en hulle dan saans vir ons op haar manier oortel.

'Van kleins af was Vrydagmiddae ons biblioteektyd. Dan het ek, my sus Marianna, my niggie en 'n vriendin of twee biblioteek toe gegaan.

'Elke Saterdag het ek, Pa en Marianna kafee toe gestap om die week se *Bollie* te koop. Dan sit ons drie op die gras en Pa lees vir ons die hele *Bollie* — altyd 'Swape' eerste, want dit was sy gunsteling!'



Reinie Smit, Prins Albert se uithaler-biblioteekresse

Reinie vertel dat hulle as tieners *Bollie* verruil het vir *Patrys*, wat gereeld in die pos aangekom het, en ook behoort het aan die Daan Retief-kinderklub. Hierdeur het sy selfs Dickens se **Oliver Twist** in Afrikaans te lese gekry...

En hoe het 'n leeshonger jong meisie haar pad gekry oor die berg na Prins Albert? Haar roete het eers by die onderwys gaan draai. Danksy haar liefde vir kinders het sy aan die Oudtshoorn-onderwyskollege junior primêre onderwys geswot. Daar was ook haar en Johan Smit se kys, wat al op skool begin het en sy destydse werk in die polisie op Prins Albert.

Reinie kry toe 'n pos in Prins Albert, in die klas vir kinders met remediërende behoeftes. Sy hou vir twee jaar skool, en daar sluit die skool die spesiale klas.

Na ses maande by die huis sien sy 'n advertensie vir die dorp se biblioteekpos. 'Tot in daardie stadium was ek wel lid van die biblioteek, maar het in my wildste drome nie gedink ek sou eendag daar werk nie. En hier is ek steeds, amper 29 jaar later!

'Toe ek eers my voete begin vind en my lesers leer ken, het ek besef dat dit is waar ek moes wees — my absolute droomwerk. Dis steeds na al die jare elke dag vir my so lekker om hier in te stap. Oor my liefde vir boeke en lees, maar veral oor die mense.'

Dan is daar haar ekstrawarm hart vir die kleinspan, wat sy gereeld met geduld en liefde help om boeke uit te soek. Nou die dag nog soek ek en sy na Afrikaanse jeugliteratuur vir 'n Xhosa-sprekende seun wat skoolgaan in die dorp se Afrikaansmedium-skool en bietjie swaar trek. Ek is daar uit met 'n Jaco Jacobs-boek.

## Die Voortrekkernooi en die tjerries

In die biblioteek — gestig in 1862 en een van die oudste biblioteke in die Wes-Kaap — is daar 'n marmerborsbeeld wat al baie nuuskierige gesprekke ontketen het. Dis van 'n vrou met 'n kappie op, met twee kersies aan stingels wat tussen haar tande vasgeklem is. Sy is êrens in die 1950's aan die bib geskenk.

Nadat ek vir Jeanetta en Kato Malies, die derde lid van die biblioteek se formidabele vrouespan, afneem by



Die virus word nie in die biblioteek toegelaat nie

die nooi in die kappie, vra ek Reinie daaroor.

'O, dis die Heilige Pietra,' sê sy. Sy lyk nadenkend. 'Hoewel sy glad nie vir my heilig lyk nie.' Ek moet saamstem. Die stuitige dolla lyk meer vir my soos iemand wat iets onheiligs aangevang het na die kerbasaar se kerrie-ete.

Agter op die beeld is 'n naam gekerf — R Battelli, en 'Pietrasanta', wat sou vertaal na 'heilige rots' in Italiaans. Reinie vertel dat 'n man wat by die biblioteek kom kuier het, groot belangstelling getoon het in die marmormeisie en 'n bietjie navorsing gaan doen het.

Pietrasanta blyk 'n dorpie in Italië te wees wat bekend is vir die marmer wat sedert Romeinse tye in die nabygeleë

Carrara-berge gemyn word, en die beeldhouers wat om die rede daar bly. Hy het afgelei dat die stuitige borsbeeld heel moontlik deur Rafael Battelli van Pietrasanta gemaak is, want verskeie van sy ander nooiens had om een of ander duistere rede ook kersies tussen hul tande vasgeklem...

En nou woon die effens onheilige Pietra en haar tjerries in die biblioteek in die middel van nerens. Wie weet waar haar reis haar heen geneem het?

## Die boekebus van Beaufort-Wes

Reinie vertel die Beaufort-Wes-boekebus kom volgende week draai op die dorp. Die boekebus doen een



keer per kwartaal aan met nuwe boekevoorraad van Beaufort-Wes se streeksbiblioteek, wat Prins Albert se moederbiblioteek is.

'Ons kry kratte vol nuwe boeke en kan ook op die bus klim en uitsoek wat ons vir die biblioteek wil hê.'

Sy en Johan, wat nou al 20 jaar lank 'n vervoerbesigheid het, is al 37 jaar saam, van sy in Graad 10 was, en is 31 jaar getroud. Hul spannetjie dierekinders bestaan uit twee brakkies – Nina en Roxy – en hul twee kieters, Micky en Aby.

Reinie lees tans **Voetstoots** van Annelie Botes. Sy noem verwonderd

iets wat sy in die boek gelees het – dat in die munisipale gebied van Helsinki, Finland, geen inwoner buite loopafstand van 'n biblioteek mag woon nie.

### 'n Tuiskoms

'As mens in Prins Albert se biblioteek instap, is dit asof jy tuiskom na 'n lang afwesigheid – almal is bly om jou weer te sien,' sê Pieter Hugo.

'Reinie se biblioteek gaan nie in die eerste plek om boeke nie. Dit gaan om mense. Die boeke help om die mense

meer mens te maak. En om dit reg te kry, ken Reinie haar boeke en haar mense in sorgsame detail.

'Dit was welverdiend toe die Prins Albert-biblioteek die wenner was van die kategorie Beste Klein Biblioteek van die Wes-Kaapse Kultuurtoekennings in 2015/16.'

Ek ruil 'n paar boodskappe uit met Naaim Briesies, bestuurder van die PACT POP-jeugsentrum in Noordeinde, die dorp se township-area. Naaim is bo en behalwe sy werk by die POP-sentrum ook 'n al hoe bekender liedjieskrywer en rapper, en 'n skitterblink en baie 'cool' voorbeeld vir die kinders en jongmense van 'n gemeenskap met baie maatskaplike uitdagings.

### Geen stormreën in tannie Reinie se agterplaas nie

Dis geen verrassing as hy my vertel dat hy as kind een van die gereelde 'boekwurmpies' in tannie Reinie se biblioteek was nie. Hy vertel hoe sy hom gehelp het met boekkeuses. 'Ek onthou vir Biebie, Vlooi en Kalla. En vir Rooikappie, Hansie en Grietjie, en Jan en die Boontjierank.'

Naaim dink weer na oor tannie Reinie. 'Sy is altyd dieselfde, asof sy nie stormreën in haar agterplaas kry nie. Ek dink ek het soms sommer net biblioteek toe gegaan om tannie Reinie se stem te hoor. Die klank daarvan is genoeg om jou eie stormwaters te laat kalmeer.'

In my omswerwinge deur die rakke van die Prins Albert-biblioteek, in my geliefde misdaadfiksie-afdeling, trap ek vir Sally Andrews, die moeder van die Klein-Karoo se selfaangestelde speurder, tannie Maria, raak. Ek en my drie moordstories klok uit by die toonbank onder die hande van Reinie, wie se hande vir niks verkeerd staan nie. Sy sing my by die deur uit.

Hierdie naweek kuier ek miskien nie in Parys saam met Hemingway nie. Maar ek gaan oor die berg ry en lekker rondhang in die Klein-Karoo saam met tannie Maria. Danksy Reinie. Die engel van die biblioteek in die middel van nêrens.

*Hierdie artikel het oorspronklik op 19 Februarie 2021 in die Vrye Weekblad verskyn*



Reinie by die vermoedelik onheilige Pietra

# Advocacy for relevancy

by Leonard Fortuin

South African libraries are beset by many challenges — from funding shortages to the absence of legislative frameworks. The time has come to tackle these challenges through deliberate, organised, and sustained actions to increase library awareness and appreciation amongst decision makers and resource allocators; as well as potential users.

The library community, in partnership with users and other champions, need to convince the powers that be that libraries are essential in an information society and a valuable ally in their strategic agendas. I therefore thought it prudent to have a closer look at what advocacy is, and how we as a profession can utilise it.

During my research, I noticed that the terms marketing, lobbying, advocacy, public relations, promotions, and advertising are sometimes interchangeably used. As this was initially a cause of some confusion, I thought it necessary that we first distinguish between these concepts.

### Definitions

**Marketing** is any targeted action, directed at promoting and selling specific products, services or ideas via communication interventions (e.g. advertising, promotions), and is aimed at both current and potential clients.

**Lobbying** seeks to directly influence decision makers or resource allocators (e.g. a legislator) favourably on a specific issue.

**Public relations** focus on the professional development and/or maintenance of a favourable public image of an entity.

**Advocacy** is any action that speaks in favour of, recommends, argues for a cause, supports, defends, or pleads on behalf of others. According to Wikipedia it is undertaken by an individual or group (advocate/s) that aims to influence decisions within political, economic, and social institutions.

We can distinguish between three different types of advocacies: self-advocacy, where an individual effectively communicates, conveys,

negotiates, or asserts his or her own interests, desires, needs, and rights.

Individual/organisation advocacy happens where efforts are concentrated on the interest, desires, needs and rights of one or two individuals or an organisation.

Finally, systems advocacy focuses on changing policies, laws, or rules.

### Advocacy: a synopsis

Advocacy is the active promotion of a cause, interest or principle of someone or a group; and involves actions that have a beneficial impact on that cause, interest, or principle. It aims to bring about a specific course of action or decision by making use of facts, stories, existing relationships, media, and targeted messaging. Advocacy includes marketing, lobbying and public relations activities.

Mahatma Gandhi, Martin Luther King and Nelson Mandela are good examples of advocacy agents. They all displayed excellent communication skills, clear judgement and creativity. They were masters at evoking or creating memories, and exuded logical thinking. They furthermore valued clarity of purpose, equality and diversity, empowerment and putting people first.

Every one of us is an advocate, as everything we do in our professional capacity has advocacy implications. Advocacy is not merely the responsibility of a marketing department. If we deliver services as and when expected, it has a positive impact on a wide array of people's opinions. Every time we engage with a customer, it is an opportunity to expand their awareness and appreciation of what the library has to offer, which in turn influences their perception and behavioural responses. We underestimate, at our own peril, the value of word-of-mouth marketing of satisfied clients.

### Why advocacy for libraries?

There are many reasons for the library profession to embark on a sustained advocacy campaign.

Libraries are commonly known as a soft, rather than essential, service. We as librarians are more aware of



the value and worth of our profession, but at times our essential nature (e.g. purist, isolationist, critical, reactive, conservative, and demanding, which ironically makes us excellent administrators) undermines the universal endorsement of that value.

Stubborn reliance on statistics (e.g. number of books issued) as the primary benchmark of the difference we make, sends out an incomplete message of who we are and what we (can) achieve in reality. No wonder that in the public image libraries are almost universally synonymous with nothing more than just books. Linked to this is the erroneous perception that libraries and books are to be imminently replaced by virtual offerings, of which the consequent implication is that libraries are an outdated service concept.

This alone points to a need for rejuvenation, repurposing and redirection. If we fail to turn around such outdated perceptions, we will continue to deal with, for instance, rapid successions of funding decreases.

Also, in today's fast-paced and changing environment, we sometimes fail to provide decision makers with quick professional responses to emerging issues.

Another challenge in South Africa is the absence of an up-to-date legislative framework. This not only presents governing challenges, but also impacts on the division and allocation of budgetary resources (e.g. the underfunded mandate). In this context the value of systems advocacy immediately springs to mind.

In addition, we currently market our services, products, and substantial development facilitation capacity, largely in the library itself by traditional means (e.g. posters), thus preaching to a converted audience. Our profession contains and offers so much, but we fail to promote its excellence to the broader community — and even less so towards decision makers.

We have the responsibility to collectively promote our professionalism and worth. In order to do this, we have to jointly (locally, provincially and nationally) develop and implement a short- and long-term national advocacy strategic plan, which should include advocacy guidelines for individual, municipal, and provincial library services.





## Processes involved in an advocacy campaign

I would suggest that a small competent and representative national task team be appointed to develop a multi-layered strategic plan, which would establish where we are, where we want to go, and how we're going to get there. Before and during the development of such a plan, the following processes should be considered:

### Research and assessment

The following research areas are critical to obtaining data and insights to inform the development of an advocacy plan. They are:

- To generate an overview of our professional value and impact, and the critical role we play in communities and society at large (education, recreational, lifelong learning, social and development facilitation, intellectual freedom, virtual world offerings and so on).
- Critically assess the current state of the profession and the challenges it faces, including sacred cows, constraints, and impact of new technology. The results usually point to areas requiring change.
- Determine prevailing public and professional perceptions on library services and issues.
- Identify best practice scenarios which will provide invaluable insight, as well as tools, tactics, possible opponents, and policy impact stories.
- To then compile a segmented database profile of potential allies, opponents, stakeholders, decision makers, mobilisers, and resource allocators.
- It would be interesting to trace the lineage of our profession back to antiquity. I am sure it would yield interesting results!

Research results will provide the facts about an issue/s, the problems they cause, which stakeholders are involved, as well as possible solutions. This will enable us to craft messages and plans that would help persuade people to our way of thinking.



## Relationship building

The segmented database developed during research is an essential tool because advocacy implies extensive networking and the establishment of co-operative partnerships and coalitions. It would also enable diversified and specific targeting and rallying efforts, as depicted below:

*Current users:* Ongoing awareness of new services and changes in service delivery dynamics.

*Potential users:* Assessment of their needs, and outreach interventions delineating the array of services available and its benefits to the individual or group.

*General public:* Raise general consciousness and awareness of the value and impact of library services.

*Library and allied organisations:* Strengthening of relationships and propagate the value of networking.

*Decision makers and resource allocators:* Raise their consciousness, awareness, and appreciation of the value and impact of library service delivery with the purpose of obtaining specific interventions.

The database will contain library-specific stakeholders; mobilisers; potential and influential allies; decision makers; and resource allocators, including their contact details, core values, world view, cultural orientation, educational status, core agendas, responsibilities, and key objectives.

The law of politics is simple: The more people are perceived to share a particular opinion, the more chance there is to nudge a decision maker or resource allocator towards that opinion. Critical mass and numbers are important factors in advocacy.

Advocacy missiling and mobilisation require our members to be well versed in advocacy messaging and relationship building. Perhaps an advocacy education module can be developed and distributed by the appointed task team for implementation by relevant stakeholders?

It is heartening to note that once a decision maker or resource allocator has been won over, you have gained one more advocate for the cause.

Once an advocate joins your database, keep them informed and engaged about your biggest policy issues. Send them newsletters, surveys, petitions, polls, and more. Ensure your members

and volunteers are aware of the little accomplishments along the way so they can sustain the momentum necessary to achieve the ultimate goal.

Not much has to be said about Friends of the Library, other than that they are powerful and influential allies in the library service delivery cause.

### The core message

The information generated during the critical assessment of the profession, its challenges, and constraints; as well as the overview of our professional value and impact, will largely inform the core short- and long-term messages that will be used in the advocacy campaign. Such messaging will enable campaign flexibility and multiple targeting, whilst simultaneously maintaining campaign uniformity *and* avoid message contamination. The database profile, on the other hand, shall point to how the message should be constructed and who needs to be targeted, when.

Messages should reflect how a particular course of action would benefit both the library service and the community at large. The message must also resonate with the target audience, which will ensure a collective realisation that we share the same values, and that the desired action will yield mutually beneficial outcomes.

Successful advocacy guarantees that we reach the right audience with the right message at the right time, thereby substantially increasing the likelihood of meaningful engagement. It should be noted that messages get lost in a hostile environment, and it is advisable that the campaign is based on genuine respect for those we seek to influence.

### Advocacy implementation actions

Advocacy interventions are usually executed by multiple stakeholders guided by a strategic advocacy plan and its associated guidelines.

### Mass mobilisation

Mass mobilisation is directed towards the general focusing of attention and changing attitudes and perceptions through the following avenues:

Virtual mobilisation is carried out through mass media campaigns, television appearances and press releases. A strong focus could be on visually portrayed success stories.

Physical mobilisation is led by librarians through parades, rallies, public demonstrations, read ins, and protest actions.

### Targeting regulatory changes (systems advocacy)

The following actions are useful when extensive policy and legislative changes are targeted; and works best when implemented through coalitions:

- Special subject conferences with high profile and influential speakers
- Petitions
- Lobbying
- Litigation
- Political engagement
- Letter and email message distribution.

### Library user outreach

Ongoing engagement with library users provides them with an opportunity to express their appreciation and needs and is also an opportunity to sell your services. Execution takes place formally through mini-surveys and interviews (both inside and outside the library), whilst informal engagement takes place via chats and active listening. Besides providing ideas on how to improve your service basket, you obtain a wealth of other useful information.

### Promotional items

Some libraries have a small cache of promotional items (pens, ties, scarves, pins, bumper stickers, book bags, t-shirts) that they present as a token of thanks to people who visited or contributed to the library. Many of these items can also be mass distributed. Design of promotional items should reflect the advocacy message.

### Leveraging the virtual world

Digital solutions provide invaluable assistance in engagement, monitoring, tracking, analysis, and improvement of advocacy interventions.

### Library programmes

These programmes, aimed at increasing and improving service delivery, are also used to increase awareness of the valuable services and resources we offer to the community. A wealth of library programmes exists to choose from, e.g. library card sign-up month; fine-free weeks, banned books weeks; summer reading programmes; book trolley drill teams; library advocacy days and many others.

### Campaign assessment

It is normal practice for a strategic plan to include key milestones, benchmarks, and indicators to track progress towards reaching desired outcomes. Ongoing tracking and collection of data during every step of the campaign is thus advisable. The data provides measurement possibilities, as well as indications of those that were successful and those that weren't; as well as facilitating feedback to members and volunteers, keeping them motivated, engaged and on track. It usually points to the necessary strategic tweaking and re-directing of implementation actions.

### Conclusion

Our libraries stand at a critical juncture. As an agency that facilitates access to information (in competition with other agencies) we experience intense competition for public, private, and institutional budgets. This makes it more crucial than ever that library services are positioned high on decision makers' agendas. The library community must therefore accept the challenge of library advocacy to ensure that the integral role of libraries within society is maintained and strengthened. Only through strong and unified efforts will libraries continue to guarantee and uphold the principles of universal access to information, and their associated developmental impact.

*Leonard Fortuin is the Assistant Director: Metropole Control area at the Western Cape Library Service*



# Afrikaanse boeke om seuns se belangstelling te prikkel

saamgestel deur Stanley Jonck

**V**olgens Lessing-Venter & Snyman (2017)<sup>1</sup> bestaan daar 'n behoefte in Suid-Afrika om kinders voortdurend gemotiveer te hou om te lees. Dit is belangrik dat kinders lees as genotvol moet ervaar. Die Wes-Kaapse Biblioteeks beskik oor 'n breë verskeidenheid Afrikaanse titels om kinders leesplezier te verskaf.

Die fokus van hierdie geannoteerde leeslys is om spesifiek seuns se belangstelling in lees te prikkel. Die genoemde titels kan moontlik as inspirasie dien om die regte boek by die regte en ontvanklike leser uit te bring. 'n Kort lys van resente beskikbare beginnerlesers word voorsien, gevolg deur boeklyste vir seuns wat alreeds vlot kan lees.

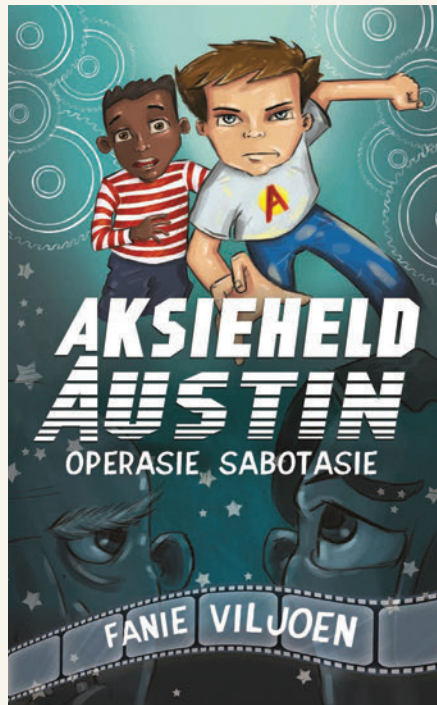
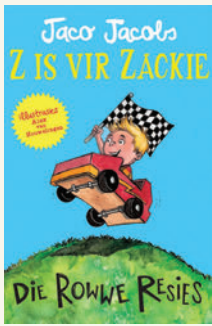
## Beginnerlesers

Jaco Jacobs is 'n uiters gewilde skrywer van boeke vir kleuters, kinders en tieners. Sy veelbekroonde topverkoperboeke sluit die *Z is vir Zackie*-leesreeks in, gemik op beginnerlesers. Die boeke is in volkleur geïllustreer deur Alex van Houwelingen, met prettige stories waarin jong lesers Zackie se avonture kan geniet saam met sy hond, Frankenstein, sy beste vriend, Vincent, die moeilikheidmaker Anton en die kwaai buurvrou, mevrou Langenhoven. Die titels sluit in: **Die rowwe resies** (1), **Die padda-poets** (2), **Die beste boomhuis** (3), **Die perfekte pizza** (4), **Die pretpark** (5), **Die tent-avontuur** (6), **Die woeste toertjie** (7),

**Die slymerige slakke** (8), **Die dieretuin** (9) en **Die vreemde fossiel** (10). In **Die rowwe resies** is Zackie en Vincent baie opgewonde oor die skool se beplande kaskar-resies en kan nie wag om deel te neem nie. Die skoolboelie, Anton, het egter ook 'n nuwe kaskar en wil verseker dat Zackie en Vincent nie die resies wen nie. LAPA het die reeks in 2016 en 2017 uitgegee.

Die bekende kunstenaar André Trantraal is die skrywer en illustreerder van 'n reeks beginnerlesers met die titel *Keegan & Samier*. Hierdie twee seuns is beste vriende en woon op die Kaapse vlakte. Samier se tweelingsussie, Samia, en ander familieleden vorm deel van die vriende se avonture. Daar is Jenni-Lee, Keegan se klein sussie, asook Keegan se slim en streng





ouma. Die klasboelie, Brent Petersen, versuur die twee vriende se lewe. Die reeks sluit in: **Die sleutelspeurders** (1) (2019), **Die sokker-fiasco** (2) (2020), **Die strokiesprent-kompetisie** (3) (2021) en **Die nuwe vriend** (4) (2021). LAPA is die uitgewer van hierdie reeks en beskryf dit as volg: 'Die stories is eenvoudig, identifiseerbaar en geskryf met 'n lekker pas wat lesers se aandag sal hou.' In **Die sleutelspeurders** kuier Samier en Samia Vrydagmiddag ná skool by Keegan totdat hulle pa klaar gebid het by die moskee. Op pad huis toe tel Jenni-Lee 'n bossie sleutels op. Ouma besluit om hulle te wys hoe vingerafdrukke werk en saam doen hulle 'n bietjie speurwerk om uit te vind aan wie die sleutels behoort.

### Jeugboeke vir seuns wat reeds vlot kan lees

Peti Troskie is die skrywer van die boek **Lukas bou 'n superkar** (LAPA, 2021) wat handel oor die seun, Lukas en sy liefde vir motors en die bou van ingewikkelde Lego projekte. Terwyl hy een oggend sit en dagdroom oor 'n regte Ferrari, begin sy Lego-sportmotor tot sy verbasing groei. Sy vriend, Arrie, is net so opgewonde hieroor en die twee beplan allerhande nuwe projekte vir die toekoms. Die skoolboelie, Bertus, en kwaai wiskundejuffrou sorg vir verdere intriges. Die boek is ideaal vir voorlees vir jonger seuns, of selfies vir ouer seuns. Hjalmar Pretorius het die boek in kleur geïllustreer.

Die veelbekroonde Fanie Viljoen is die skrywer van die *Aksieheld Austin*-reeks, uitgegee deur LAPA. Die hoofkarakter is die laerskoolleerder, Ewald. Lona Gericke<sup>2</sup> skryf as volg oor die openingsboek, **Operasie sabotasie** (LAPA, 2017): 'Ewald Eloff is 'n akteur en waaghals en hy is die ster in die eerste flik in die reeks oor die gewilde aksieheldstrokiesprente. In die rolprentatelljее se aantrekkamer ontvang hy 'n pop — sy ewebeeld — 'n bemerkingsfoefie. Sy vriend, Cardo, vergesel hom op hierdie eerste belangrike dag van verfilming. Maar dit word selfs meer aksie-belaai as wat selfs Ewald kon droom met 'n afgedankte spesiale-effekte werker wat hom wil wreek op die regisseur, deur die flik te saboteur met kandelare wat val en 'n vlymskerp saaglem wat chaos saai. Nog erger: 'n bom is geplant en kan enige oomblik ontplof. Sal Ewald kan vasstel waar die bom versteek is? 'n Verhaal reg in die kraal van jong lesers wat deel wil wees van hul storieheld se avonture. Volop aksie en verrassings. Fanie Viljoen het self die illustrasies gedoen en kon die teks dus oortuigend illustreer. 'n Reeks wat gewild behoort te wees.' Die opvolgtitels is **Nag van grille** (2018), **Onheil op Skedelbaai** (2019) en **Doodskreet van die Dino's** (2021).

De Wet Hugo se topverkoperreeks, *Grilgrypers*, is uiters gewild. Elke boek in die reeks het verskillende hoofkarakters — seuns en meisies — en kan alleen gelees word. Die titels sluit in, **Die vloek van Vreesbaai** (1) (2018), **Web van die mummie** (2) (2018), **Kamp vir monsters** (3) (2018), **Die meisie in die maanlig** (4) (2019), **Die groen watergraf** (5) (2019) en **Die geheim van die spookwerf** (6) (2020). Shân Fisher is die illustreerder van die reeks. Boek 1 handel oor die dertienjarige Miek wat saam met sy ouers na Vreesbaai trek. Dit is egter 'n spookagtige kusdorpie waar vreemde dinge plaasvind. Miek word gedurig gekonfronteer met sy grootste vrees: 'n monsteragtige, woedende hond. Sy nuwe vriende by die skool dra ook elkeen 'n geheim met hulle saam. Dit lyk of al die kinders op Vreesbaai deur iets afgryslig geterroriseer word. Die reeks is ideaal vir kinders wat van grillerige stories hou.

Hugo is ook die skrywer van die *Kies-jou-avontuur*-reeks **Die gevaarlikste speletjie op aarde** (2020),

### Die gevaarlikste boek op aarde

(2021) en **Die gevaarlikste flik op aarde** (2021). Johann Strauss het die reeks geïllustreer. Human & Rousseau gee die reeks uit en bemark die eerste boek as volg: 'Mario is die skool se rekenaarspeletjie-kampioen. Wanneer hy egter deur 'n eienaardige nuwe speletjie weggevoer word na die kuberruim, moet hy veg vir sy lewe. 'n Geheimsinnige wese genaamd Gigabyte verduidelik dat hy na die sewe wonders van die antieke wêreld moet reis om ses goue muntstukke te vind, voordat hy kan terugkeer huis toe. Lewensgevaarlike uitdagings wag op hom. Dit is 'n *Kies-jou-eie-avontuur*-storie vol avontuur en naelbyt-aksie!'

Anzil Kulsen en haar seun, Keenan, se reeks, *Bitterbosbende*, speel af by Laerskool Bitterbos. Kulsen sê dis die 'verhaal oor 'n boetie en sussie, Kurt en Nieke, hul maats Zia, Bonggi, Leonard en Simone, en mevrou Bosman, die nuwe skoolhoof van Laerskool Bitterbos, wat die kinders op groot avonture en 'n ontdekkingstog neem.'<sup>3</sup> In plaas daarvan om die Graad 5's te straf toe hul sonkrag-oondjie eksperiment vir 'n natuurwetenskaptaak verkeerd loop en 'n groot ontploffing veroorsaak, daag mevrou Bosman hulle liewer uit om iets nog groter aan te pak. Die reeks skop af met **Die geheim van die nuwe hoof** (2020) en word gevolg deur **Die been in die bos** (2020) en **Die grafsangers** (2020). Volgens Kulsen is 'Kurt, Nieke en hul vriend, Bonggi, se ouers argeoloe wat gedurig op soek is na artefakte van honderde jare gelede. Dis ook die rede waarom hulle in die koshuis op Bitterbos is; dalk ook die rede hoekom mevrou Bosman hulle juis uitsonder om haar groot ontdekking te maak.'<sup>3</sup> Stephen Wallace se illustrasies rond die boeke af. Tafelberg is die uitgewer.

Jaco Jacobs vertel dat hy met sy *Professor Fungus*-reeks 'n 'aweregse, avontuurbelaaide storiereeks vir laerskoolkinders wou skryf met wetenskap as vertrekpunt'.<sup>4</sup> Die eerste titel in die reeks is **Professor Fungus en die zombie-tamaties** (LAPA, 2012). Die hoofkarakters is die tweeling Jenny en Bennie. Hulle is mal daaroor om by hul ma se neef, professor Fungus, te gaan kuier en hom met sy eksperimente te help. Professor Fungus is 'n wetenskaplike. Daar gaan byna nie 'n dag verby sonder dat iets in sy laboratorium ontplof nie. Saam met Edison die robot en Argon die



blaffende konyn, beleef Bennie en Jenny tonne avonture. Elke boek in die reeks kan afsonderlik gelees word. Agterin elke boek verduidelik professor Fungus hoe om een van sy fantastiese eksperimente by die huis te doen. Die boekies is dunnerig, in kleur geïllustreer deur Johann Strauss, grappig, en met teks in verskillende lettergroottes. Die ander titels in die reeks is: **Professor Fungus en die ongelooftlike miniatuur-avontuur** (2012), **Professor Fungus en die mensvreter-piranhas** (2013), **Professor Fungus en die skrikwekkende Snotzilla** (2013), **Professor Fungus en die dino-avontuur** (2014), **Professor Fungus en die robotkrisis** (2014), **Professor Fungus en die jellimonsters van Mars** (2015), **Professor Fungus en die BreinDrein-eksperiment** (2015), **Professor Fungus en die diepsee-dilemma** (2016), **Professor Fungus en die vreeslik gevaarlike tuinkabouters**

(2016), **Professor Fungus en die sneemasjien** (2017), **Professor Fungus en die monsterformule** (2017), **Professor Fungus en die onsigbare skurk** (2018) en **Professor Fungus en die gekloonde konyn** (2018).

Theresa van Baalen se reeks, *Justin Fortuin*, bevat elemente van fantasie en spring weg met **Justin Fortuin, skattejagter** (LAPA, 2020) waarin lesers kennis maak met Justin en sy avonture by tannie Mary se geheimsinnige ou kasteel tydens hul seevakansie. Sy verras hom met 'n pratende papegaai as present — Kaptein Kraakbeen. Hierdie is geen gewone papegaai nie en spoedig bevind hy en sy vriend Liam hulle in die middel van 'n opwindende avontuur vol raaisels en geheime. Die boek word opgevolg deur **Justin Fortuin, seerower** (2020).

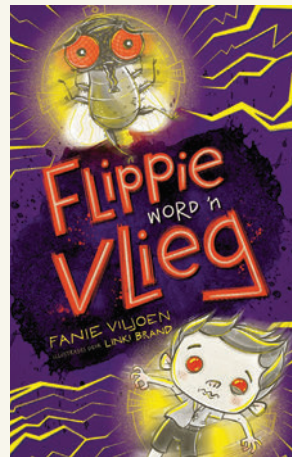
*Jungu Josh* is Constant van Graan se avontuurreeks oor die dertienjarige



seun, Josh. Die uitgewer, Tafelberg, bemark die eerste boek, **Die goue kalbas** (2020), as volg: 'Josh woon by sy tannie Verona en haar gesin op 'n plaas in Oos-Afrika nadat sy ma twee jaar gelede skielik verdwyn het. Op 'n dag daag 'n vreemdeling by die plaas op en probeer Josh ontvoer. Gelukkig red Doris, die huishulp, hom uit die kloue van die bose man. Sy vertel hom dat 'n groep mense sy bloed soek en dat hy moet vlug na 'n magiese geheime vallei, Kalimbula, waar hy veiliger sal wees. Hy moet die wyseman, Ngandu, in sy grot gaan spreek. Josh en Njeri, 'n kanniedood 15-jarige meisie, se paaie kruis. Sy help hom om die wyseman te vind — en Josh word met 'n opdrag weggestuur: die opsporing van die goue kalbas. Josh weet dat al sy vrae beantwoord sal word wanneer hy die kalbas kry en hy pak die reis deur Kalimbula alleen aan. Hy ontmoet Masjeba, die heks,

wat hom help om die legkaartstukkie van sy ma se verdwyning bymekaar te sit. Wanneer die kalbas uiteindelik oopgemaak word om die naam van die volgende troonopvolger te onthul, kry Josh die verrassing van sy lewe.' Die opvolgtitels is **Die kryger van Aboemondja** (2020) en **Die waters van Wafu** (2020).

In Fanie Viljoen se jeugboek, **Flippie word 'n vlieg** (LAPA, 2021) leer die hardwerkende seun, Flippie Visagie oor al die grillerige feite van vlieë in hul Wetenskapklas. Hul onderwyser het 'n spesiale masjien ontwerp om vlieë na Antarktika te transporteer, aangesien hulle so 'n verpesting is. Toe die klasboelie vir Flippie reg voor die masjien se strale instamp, word Flippie se brein met dié van 'n vlieg s'n omgeruil. Tot sy groot onsteltenis besef Flippie dat hy heeltemal teenoorgesteld begin optree as vantevore. Die nuwe Flippie



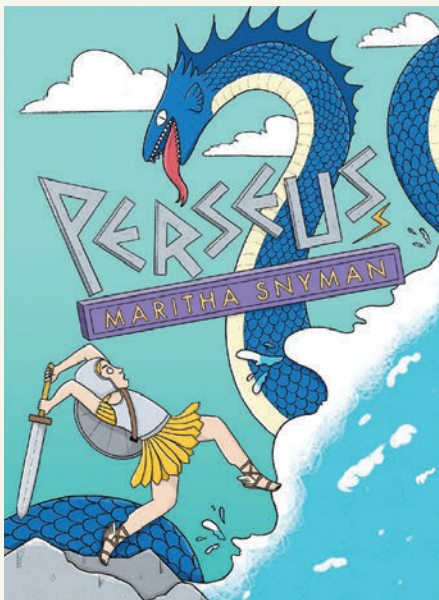
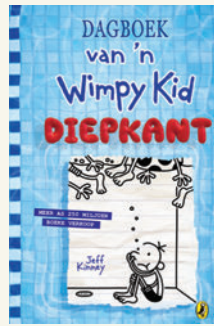
is lui, slordig, wil net slaap en stel glad nie belang in skoolwerk nie. Flippie die vlieg probeer om met mense te kommunikeer, maar hulle sien hom slegs as 'n laspos. Snaaks genoeg kan hy met die klasboelie kommunikeer en dis met dié se hulp, asook sy vriende, dat hulle 'n plan maak om Flippie te red. Lesers word vermaak met allerhande interessante en grillerige feite oor vlieë. Linki Brand is verantwoordelik vir die kleurillustrasies.

Andr gewilde titels waarin seuns moontlik belang sal stel, sluit in:

Jaco Jacobs se **Zackie Mostert**-jeugreeks, uitgegee deur LAPA, met illustrasies deur Alex van Houwelingen: **Zackie Mostert en die (byna) baie briljante idee** (2010), **Zackie Mostert en die ongelooflike kulkunsie** (2010), **Zackie Mostert en die super-aaklige soen** (2010), **Zackie Mostert en die gemaskerde groen gevaar** (2011), **Zackie Mostert en die spokerige storie** (2011), **Zackie Mostert druk 'n drie** (2012), **Zackie Mostert en die geheimsinnige gedaante** (2013), **Zackie Mostert en die wriemelende wurmkoekies** (2014), **Zackie Mostert en die meisie-moles** (2014), **Zackie Mostert en die baie beroemde hond** (2014), **Zackie Mostert en die katkrisis** (2015), **Zackie Mostert en die vreeslike verjaardag** (2015), **Zackie Mostert en die super-stinkbom** (2017), **Zackie Mostert en die slim speurder** (2017), **Zackie Mostert en die monstermelksommel** (2019), **Zackie Mostert en die fantastiese fliëk** (2019), **Zackie Mostert slaan 'n ses** (2020) en **Zackie Mostert en die skreeusnaakse plan** (2020).

Elizabeth Wasserman se **Speurhond Willem**-reeks, uitgegee deur Tafelberg, met illustrasies deur Chris Venter: **Speurhond Willem op reis** (2010), **Speurhond Willem en die seerowers** (2011), **Speurhond Willem en die wilddiewe** (2011), **Speurhond Willem in die ruimte** (2012), **Speurhond Willem in New York** (2012), **Speurhond Willem en die diamantdiewe** (2014), **Speurhond Willem in Australië** (2020) en **Speurhond Willem in Skotland** (2021).

Jürgen Banscheraus se vertaalde **Speurder Kwaikofski**-reeks, uitgegee deur Human & Rousseau, met illustrasies deur Ralf Butschkow: **Die kougomstrik** (2012), **Die geheim van die vlieënde koei** (2012), **Die pienk skoolspook** (2012), **Die aand van die**



blou kaalkoppe (2013), **Die slinkse slangslenter** (2013), **Honde, hoede en hande** (2013), **Speurder teen speurder** (2014), **Vuilspel en nat voete** (2014), **Die stinkstorie** (2014), **Monsters, maanlig en mottegif** (2015), **Soene en sirkusse** (2015) en **Muise en gespuise** (2015). Kobus Geldenhuys is die vertaler.

Andy Griffiths se vertaalde *Die boomhuis*-reeks, uitgegee deur Protea Boekhuis, met illustrasies deur Terry Denton: **Die boomhuis met 13 vloere** (2018), **Die boomhuis met 26 vloere** (2019), **Die boomhuis met 39 vloere** (2019), **Die boomhuis met 52 vloere** (2020), **Die boomhuis met 65 vloere** (2021). Uit Engels vertaal deur Kobus Geldenhuys. Daar is nog vele opvolgtitels waarna uitgesien kan word wat alreeds in Engels uitgegee is. Hopelik volg dit ook later in Afrikaans.

Jeff Kinney se humoristiese vertaalde reeks oor die dagboek van

'n seun, Greg Heffley, uitgegee deur Puffin: **Dagboek van 'n wimp** — Greg Heffley se joernaal (2012), **Dagboek van 'n wimp** — Rodrick regeer (2013), **Dagboek van 'n wimp** — die laaste strooi (2013), **Dagboek van 'n wimp** — in die hondehok (2013), **Dagboek van 'n wimpy kid** — die nare waarheid (2016), **Dagboek van 'n wimpy kid** — kamerkoors (2016), **Dagboek van 'n wimpy kid** — drie is een te veel (2017), **Dagboek van 'n wimpy kid** — ongeluksvoël (2017), **Dagboek van 'n wimpy kid** — hardepad (2018), **Dagboek van 'n wimpy kid** — goeie ou dae (2018), **Dagboek van 'n wimpy kid** — kluitjies bak (2019), **Dagboek van 'n wimpy kid** — wegkomkans (2019), **Dagboek van 'n wimpy kid** — koue voete (2020), **Dagboek van 'n wimpy kid** — breekyster (2020) en **Dagboek van 'n wimpy kid** — diepkant (2020). **Dagboek van 'n wimpy kid** — kolskoot (2021) is onlangs uitgegee en nog

titels behoort te volg. Tinus Horn is die vertaler. Die spotprente in die boeke sorg vir vele humor.

Andy Shepherd se vertaalde trilogie oor die seun, Tomas en sy draakavonture, uitgegee deur Protea Boekhuis, met illustrasies deur Sara Ogilvie: **Die seun wat drake kweek** (2021), **Die seun wat saam met drake lewe** (2021) en **Die seun wat saam met drake vlieg** (2021). Uit Engels vertaal deur Kobus Geldenhuys.

Laastens handel Maritha Snyman se boek **Perseus** (LAPA, 2021) oor die Griekse mitologie en die seun van die hoofgod, Zeus. Met swart-en-wit illustrasies deur Cristy Zinn.

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Stanley Jonck is 'n boekkeurder by die Wes-Kaapse Biblioteekdiens



# Book reviews

compiled by book selectors

### ADULT FICTION

**ALEXANDER, Poppy**

**The littlest library.** - Orion Books, 2021.  
'What do you get if you mix romance, bats in the attic, and a library, you get the most comforting warm embrace of a read, that's what. When Jess starts a new life she discovers her cottage comes with the addition of a telephone box that has to be used for the community. What would a former librarian do, turn it into a little library of course. Jess needs a helping hand in the confidence department, and her willingness to lend her hand and get involved means she has a lot of support... Poppy Alexander has created a perfect escape, with an idyllic village, intriguing neighbours, and several relationships to ooh and aah over. While romance most definitely features, friendship lies at the heart of this novel, with community spirit to the fore. The **littlest library** is a wonderfully easy and soothing read...' (*lovereading.co.uk*, Liz Robinson)



**BENNETT, Brit**

**The vanishing half.** - Dialogue Books, 2020.  
A beautiful novel with a bold and commanding plot about twin sisters, each struggling with identity issues, who flee their suffocating community and eventually find themselves, individually. The plot is inclusive as it involves family sagas over different



generations hitting serious issues of race, culture, identity, love and trauma. An absorbing read that has received high praise. **The vanishing half** is shortlisted for the Women's Prize for Fiction. Judges on the panel for this British award have stated the following: 'It's a beautifully written novel, and psychologically very complex.' **LKK**

**GRIFFIN, Anne**

**Listening still.**- Sceptre, 2021.

'A novel about self-discovery and learning about what is really important in life. Jeanie Masterson, a young woman who works in the family undertaking business, has a very special gift. She has the ability to hear the last messages of the dead... Her life had been mapped out for her from a young age and now, with her parents moving on, and away, Jeanie is stricken. Is this really the life she wanted? Is this really the path she would have chosen had she felt no pressure from others? Anne Griffin has a talent for bringing her characters to life (no pun intended) with writing that just sings off the pages... Anne Griffin, has again written characters that have captured my heart. [The book] will impact every reader differently. It is an affecting, contemplative tale about finding one's true path in life, about accepting yourself for who you really are and about taking control of your own destiny. A charismatic read with just the right amount of poignancy that will play with your heartstrings. It will leave you contemplating life and death and all the complexities in between.'

(swirlandthread.com)

**JOFFE, Lynn**

**The gospel according to Wanda B Lazarus: a novel.**- Modjaji, 2020.

'Wanda B Lazarus is a bit wild, a freethinker with a penchant for string instruments and a sense of humour to boot, something that isn't widely appreciated in Iudaea in 33CE, round

about the time of Jesus' crucifixion. The story is a feminist take on the Myth of the Wandering Jew, which condemns the man who refused to give Jesus water. In this book, it's Wanda who inadvertently doesn't give Jesus water, and so, is accidentally cursed with wandering the earth through the ages. When Wanda "dies" the first time, she lands up in the place where the nine muses of Greek mythology live. She desperately wants to become one and so the others, whom the author describes as a bunch of "mean girls", give her a series of near-impossible tasks she needs to complete. Surprisingly, Wanda proves quite adept at taking care of herself and of almost unintentionally finishing her missions. Wanda is fun and fiercely funny and completely lovable. This book takes mythology and turns it on its head. This book is a witty satire full of adventure. A real romp of a read. Stephen Fry called it "Just what the world needs now — a novel charged with music, energy, bounce, juice and joy.'" (goodreads.com)

**NAPOLITANO, Ann**

**Dear Edward.**- Penguin Books, 2021.

'Twelve-year-old Eddie Adler is flying with his family from New York City to Los Angeles, a temporary relocation for his mother's television writing job. As he and his brother fight over who gets the window seat, their parents worry how the boys will cope with the move. The 216 passengers aboard their plane include a soldier returning from

Afghanistan, an unexpectedly pregnant woman hoping for an engagement ring from her new boyfriend, and a dying tycoon. When the plane crashes in Colorado, Eddie is the sole survivor. Napolitano's (**A good hard look**, 2011) latest follows Eddie in his struggle to build a new life without his family. Now living with his aunt and uncle, Eddie (now calling himself Edward) develops a relationship with Shay, his next door neighbour. Their relationship becomes the deep and stabilising force in Edward's new life, and together they discover a cache of letters hidden in his uncle's garage that ultimately gives Edward's life new meaning. With its expert pacing and picture-perfect final page, **Dear Edward** is a wondrous read. It is a skillful and satisfying examination of not only what it means to survive, but of what it means to truly live.'

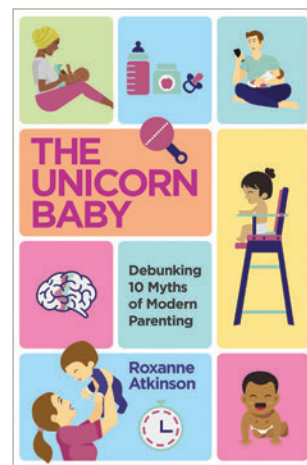
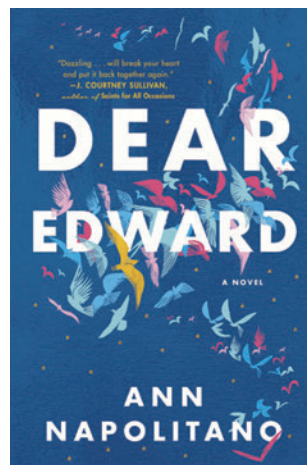
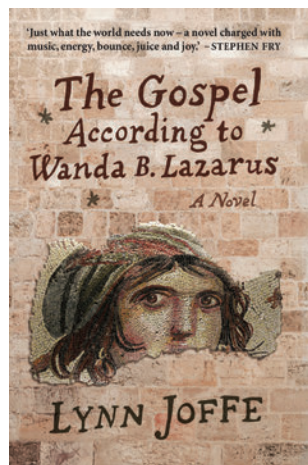
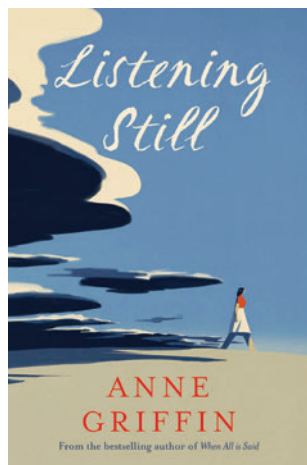
(booklistonline.com, Carol Gladstein)

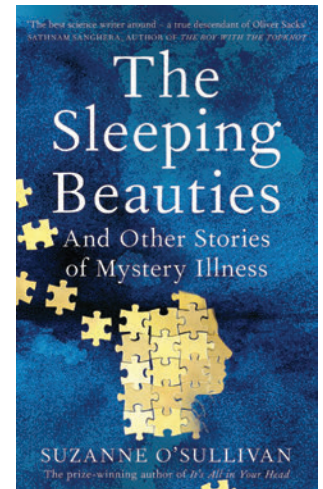
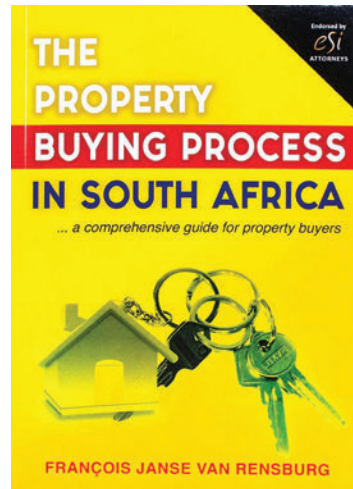
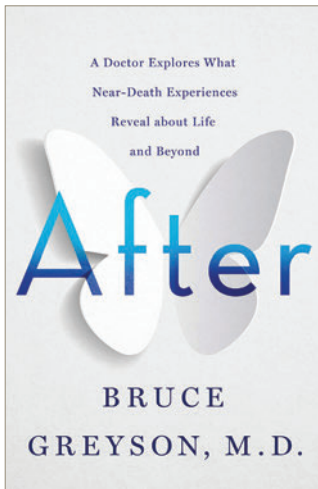
**ADULT NON-FICTION**

**ATKINSON, Roxanne**

**The unicorn baby: debunking 10 myths of modern parenting.**- Jonathan Ball, 2021.

This is a locally-written practical guide with informative parenting tips, and combats assumed myths: all babies are the same; technology gives you and your baby an advantage; breastfeeding comes naturally, and others. All in all, it is a well-compiled guidebook with black-and-white illustrations and added humour. References and index included. **LKK**





### GREYSON, Bruce

**After: a doctor explores what near-death experiences reveal about life and beyond.** - Bantam Press, 2021.

'With a well-written and clear narrative delivered in layperson's terms, this book chronicles Dr Greyson's incredible quest to learn all he could about near-death experiences, or NDEs. He begins by telling readers of his pragmatic upbringing and how his skepticism fueled his need to study all he could. He presents many firsthand examples of his "Experiencers" episodes, telling his audience how these NDEs were transformative for every Experiencer and how the event not only affected how they felt about dying but also changed their view on living. He also states that 10 percent of people will have an NDE so there is no way to tell who will or won't have one, and that NDEs have become much more socially acceptable and an "Experiencer" today would be much less likely to be offered counseling as in the past. He also tells readers how his title reflects the mixed focus of not only life after death but also life after an NDE.'

(*libraryjournal.com*, Debbie Haupt)

### JANSE VAN RENSBURG, Francois

**The property buying process in South Africa: a comprehensive guide for property buyers.** - Janse van Rensburg, 2021.

A local, informative and easy to follow guide for first time home buyers. The book addresses all the questions first-time buyers would ask regarding

different types of properties, legal entities, costs involved, the functions of different role players, credit score, pre-qualification and obtaining finance and the bond registration and transfer process. **APM**

### O'SULLIVAN, Suzanne

**The sleeping beauties and other stories of mystery illness.** - Picador, 2021.

'Much of doctoring involves detective work. Clues gleaned from the story the patient tells, a physical examination, and results of medical testing are puzzled together to form a diagnosis. Neurologist O'Sullivan vigorously examines several outbreaks of enigmatic sickness occurring around the world and identifies them as mass psychogenic illnesses. She convincingly explains how psychological, cultural, and social factors give rise to symptoms and can produce disability. She provides a powerful perspective of functional neurological disorders. O'Sullivan warns readers not to underestimate these conditions nor devalue their legitimacy. The "sleeping beauties" of the title refers to hundreds of children (most from families seeking asylum) in Sweden who cannot be awakened and require feeding tubes. They appear to be unconscious, but their brain-wave tracings are fine. The condition is dubbed "resignation syndrome". Elsewhere, more than a hundred people in neighboring towns in Kazakhstan behave strangely and develop a kind of sleeping sickness.

Schoolgirls in Colombia suddenly begin fainting. Miskito people in Nicaragua suffer from an illness manifested by visual hallucinations and convulsions. Diplomats in Cuba are afflicted with hearing problems, dizziness, and headaches (Havana syndrome). Teens in New York develop Tourette-like tics. This is a startling and empathetic investigation into the power of the mind, the contagiousness of fear, and the consequences of hopelessness.'

(*booklistonline.com*, Tony Miksanek)

### YOUNG ADULT FICTION

#### ALBERT, Melissa

**Tales from the hinterland/illustrated by Nick Hayes.** - Penguin Books, 2021.

'The plot of Albert's brilliant debut novel (**The Hazel Wood**, 2018) revolved around *Tales from the Hinterland*, a collection of original fairy tales by the protagonist's grandmother, Althea Proserpine. Albert has now "collected" these 12 tales in a volume with striking, unsettling illustrations. The writing is as spare and precise as poetry, connected to the darker, edgier elements of fairy-tale conventions. There are princes, princesses, fishermen, midwives, enchanters, and merchants, and Death frequently makes an appearance. The protagonists are not the sweet, thoughtful, and kind heroines of traditional folk and fairy tales; all are brave or daring to some degree, but what they do with that bravery varies.

Some give themselves up to whatever cause presents itself, while others act solely for their own interests, taking risks that benefit them alone... Albert's rich and tightly focused collection forms the core of the mythology created in her novels, and her fans will be thrilled at this further glimpse into that world.' (*booklistonline.com*, Donna Scanlon)

**JOHNSON, Varian**

**The Parker inheritance.**- Scholastic, 2019. 'Part historical fiction, part critical problem-solving exercise, part suspenseful mystery, this story weaves through the past and present of one town's struggle with hatred and racism. Candice and her mother have moved temporarily from Washington, DC, to her mother's hometown in Lambert, South Carolina, while her parents finalise the plans of their amicable divorce. Candice is miserable until she meets Brandon and finds an old letter addressed to her from her deceased grandmother with a puzzle enclosed. Twenty years prior, her grandmother had tried unsuccessfully to solve the puzzle that would yield a great deal of money to the town and the person who solved it. Together, Candice and Brandon make their own attempt... The characters are varied, authentic, and well developed. The plot moves along quickly and seamlessly between the past and present, with chapters from the 1950s shaded in light grey for a smart visual effect. The present day isn't sugar-coated, showing readers that racial equity is still an unresolved

problem. Appended author notes offer additional context, making it an excellent link to social studies or history units...' (*slj.com*, Anne Jung-Mathews)

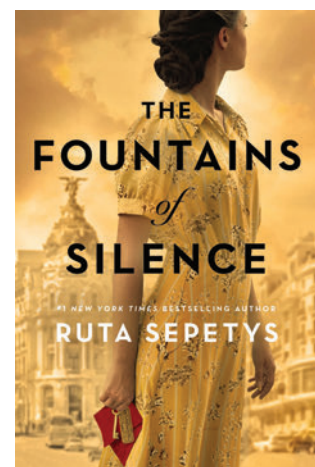
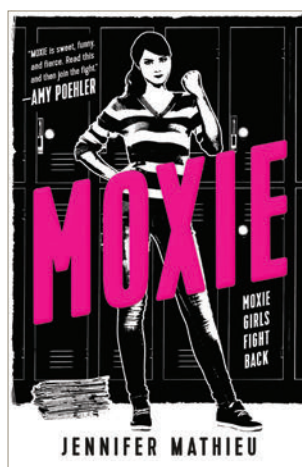
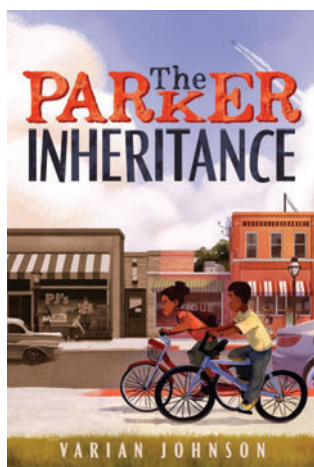
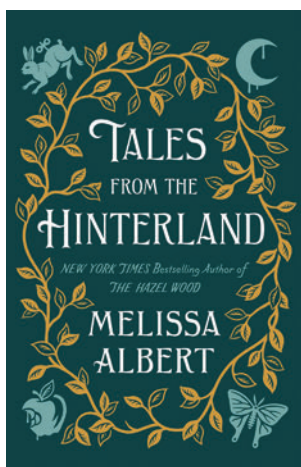
**MATHIEU, Jennifer**

**Moxie!**- Hodder & Stoughton, 2021. 'Fed up by her high school's culture of misogyny, Vivian leads a feminist rebellion... Some of Vivian's protest ideas are inspired, as when girls wear bathrobes to protest the unfair enforcement of the school's dress code. Soon Moxie supports such additional projects as girls' soccer fundraisers, successfully strengthening the school's sisterhood. But there are troubling moments when Vivian excludes willing male participants, seemingly suggesting that achieving female empowerment requires gender separation. And Moxie moves dangerously toward vigilante justice when it's used to accuse a student of attempted rape. Vivian's incensed reaction when her boyfriend suggests the anonymous accuser might be lying ignores the American judicial system's core tenet of due process... Designed to empower, the novel occasionally fails to consider that changing a culture of misogyny requires educating and embracing support from members of all genders.' (*kirkusreviews.com*)

**SEPETYS, Ruta**

**The fountains of silence.**- Penguin Books, 2019. 'Sepetys's riveting historical epic examines the enduring effects of

the Spanish Civil War through the perspectives of four young people living under the shadow of Franco's fascist dictatorship in 1957 Madrid. Ana and Rafael are siblings whose Republican educator parents were murdered for opposing Franco's Nationalist party. Now, almost twenty years later, the family still struggles. Ana is a maid in an American-style hotel, while Rafael splits his time between working in a slaughterhouse and digging graves. They earn pennies even as Franco's government grows rich off American tourism and oil industries. Their cousin Puri, a loyal fascist, is a caregiver at a Catholic orphanage, where she is increasingly disturbed by some troubling discoveries concerning the infants in her charge. Daniel, an aspiring American photojournalist whose mother is from Spain and father is a Texas oil baron, befriends Ana and Rafael and begins to question everything he's been told about Spain and its pretty façade especially after he and Ana fall in love. Through lively characters and short, swiftly paced chapters permeated with elements of mystery and suspense, Sepetys's thoroughly and sensitively explores the vast social, economic, and political issues that plagued postwar Spain, including the selling of stolen Republican infants to Nationalist families. Excerpts from newspapers, government documents, and interviews from and about the time add another layer of veracity... An exemplary work of historical fiction.' (*hbook.com*, Jennifer Hubert Swan)

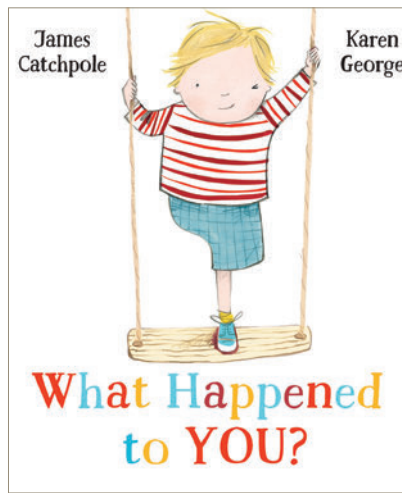






**YOUNG ADULT NON-FICTION**

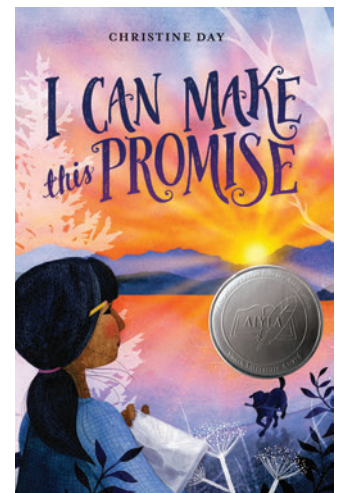
**WOODSON, Jacqueline**  
**Brown girl dreaming.**- Puffin Books, 2016.  
 'A multi-award-winning author recalls her childhood and the joy of becoming a writer. Writing in free verse, Woodson starts with her 1963 birth in Ohio during the civil rights movement, when America is "a country caught / between Black and White". But while evoking names such as Malcolm, Martin, James, Rosa and Ruby, her story is also one of family: her father's people in Ohio and her mother's people in South Carolina. Moving south to live with her maternal grandmother, she is in a world of sweet peas and collards, getting her hair straightened and avoiding segregated stores with her grandmother. As the writer inside slowly grows, she listens to family stories and fills her days and evenings as a Jehovah's Witness, activities that continue after a move to Brooklyn to reunite with her mother. The gift of a composition notebook, the experience of reading John Steptoe's **Stevie** and Langston Hughes' poetry, and seeing letters turn into words and words into thoughts all reinforce her conviction that "Words are my brilliance". Woodson cherishes her memories and shares them with a graceful lyricism; her lovingly wrought vignettes of country and city streets will linger long after the page is turned. For every dreaming girl (and boy) with a pencil in hand (or keyboard) and a story to share.' (*kirkusreviews.com*)



**JUVENILE FICTION**

**CATCHPOLE, James**  
**What happened to you?/illustrated by Karen George.**- Faber, 2021.  
 'A ground-breaking, funny picture book that helps children understand what it might feel like to be seen as different. Imagine what it would feel like to always be asked the same question, to only be seen for your disability? Joe is very cross about that — he just wants to play pirates and so he ignores the other children and eventually they become curious and eventually they all join in the imaginative game and great fun is had by all. In a letter to parents and careers at the end of the book the author tells us about losing his own leg and so we have no doubt that this reflects an authentic-lived experience. He also gives wonderfully straightforward advice about the conversations parents can have with their own children about disability. This is the very opposite of a worthy issues-based book. It is a funny and very enjoyable read that will nevertheless perform an urgently needed task and generate very useful discussion at home and school. An absolute essential purchase for all schools and early years settings.' (*lovereadng4kids.co.uk*)

**DAY, Christine**  
**I can make this promise.**- HarperCollins Publishers, 2020.  
 'It's summertime in Seattle for 12-year-old Edie, and between animating a short film with her best friends and



adjusting to new braces, she is keeping busy. Nothing could have prepared her for a discovery in her parents' attic: a box full of photographs and letters belonging to a woman named Edith Graham, someone whose likeness is uncannily similar to Edie's. Edie always knew her mother was both Native American and adopted, but who was Edith Graham? As we follow Edie in unraveling this mystery, Day (herself having ties to the Upper Skagit tribe) offers readers a rich story that is both powerfully genuine in its conflicts and delightfully imaginative in its resolutions. The narrative explores issues relevant to tween readers, such as maneuvering through a friendship that is changing, coping with painful braces, and confronting family secrets. If that weren't enough, this debut also offers compelling historical knowledge about the Pacific Northwest Native American tribes, the Indian Child Welfare Act of 1978, and what it means to find one's heritage.' (*booklistonline.com*, Stephanie Harper)

**Note:** At the time of going to press some of these titles are not yet at the libraries.  
**APM** Ayanda Majola  
**LKK** Lieschen Kays



# The role of libraries in promoting a reading culture among teenagers

by Yvette Herbst

For the past few years, a reading culture has been on the decline. Research has shown that this is partly due to the emergence of technology and the rise of social media. As our youth's lives become increasingly digitally centred, books compete with the compelling lure of social media, online games, and smartphones. With these phones, individuals, children and young adults have access to a variety of social networking sites (Facebook, Instagram, TikTok and WhatsApp). They spend hours on these platforms sending messages, making video calls and sharing videos online. There is also an overriding desire amongst young people to spend more time with their friends rather than to remain at home

reading, resulting in them ending up with bad reading habits.

With a poor reading culture cutting deep into the fabric of our youth, it has become necessary for public libraries and librarians to promote and instill a culture of reading among our children and young people. The effective use of library books and library resources have the inherent advantage of promoting good reading habits. Libraries are the custodians of knowledge and information, hence the need to develop effective means of promoting a reading culture. Reading not only has the power of stimulating the development of an individual, but its holistic importance to human life in an era of information explosion cannot be underestimated.

What is reading? People read for different reasons. Some read for leisure, while others read to gain information and knowledge — and others for academic purposes. Reading is an intellectual action which is possible only if a person forms a habit of reading which is practiced from early childhood.

In the past, before television, smartphones, social networks and other internet-enabled gadgets, people spent hours reading books and magazines. Their minds travelled far and wide through reading; and they were similarly informed about other countries, races, cultures and events. They could build or fix things, enjoy stories, discover other beliefs and develop ideas or beliefs of their own.

Reading provides the key to all forms of information necessary for our day-to-day survival and growth. Over time, people have lost their passion for reading, owing to the many competing activities individuals can engage in besides reading, such as surfing the internet, chatting on social media sites or viewing online videos. Reading not only improves vocabulary, word power and language, but also affects or improves confidence in subjects such as social studies, science and mathematics.

Reading has the capacity to promote development, instill discipline, independence and self-confidence. Every individual should aim to develop a good reading habit. The art of reading could be a very interesting experience for children and teens if they are guided properly. A reading culture cultivated early in life helps a child grow into an independent adult.

### What is the role of the library and librarians in the development of a reading culture?

Libraries are perfectly positioned to support and provide the kind of meaningful connections that young people need for both their formal academic learning and reading for leisure. In a society where some young people succeed and others are left behind, libraries play a crucial role by promoting a reading culture and thus preparing teens to be productive, engaged members of the community in both their work and personal lives.

'The community's rethinking and paradigm shift of the library role won't change until our profession makes the shift first.'  
- George Needham

Library staff have traditionally been information keepers; and as young people and their learning expectations change, so will the role of the librarian adapt to the role of co-learner and become more comfortable working alongside young people and learning together. A significant attribute of public libraries is their ability to support a broad mission that can appeal to people of all ages. Libraries are also ideally suited to support connected learning because they are built on a solid foundation of choice: young people can choose what they want to read, explore or participate in. Teens are drawn to libraries to access its internet or IT facilities, use the research resources, study, read, write, discuss books, socialise, participate in library activities or to just hang out. Libraries are neutral, safe public spaces that provide opportunities for adolescents to grow intellectually, emotionally, socially, develop new literacies for learning and expression as well as to gain workplace preparedness.

Libraries used to be grocery stores. Now we need to be kitchens.

The library is no longer simply a quiet place to connect to physical content. It is instead a place — physical and virtual — to learn how to connect and use resources of all types, whether it be





books, magazines, computers or attend library activities. It is a kitchen for mixing resources to empower teens to build skills, develop understanding, create and share and overcome adversity.

The definition of literacy has also expanded. Today teens must be able to read, write and interact across a range of platforms, tools, media and digital social networks. The expanded definition of literacy impacts the types of services, programs and collections that libraries provide as well as the nature of the work the library staff perform.

Amidst the excitement of the digital age and the change that surrounds libraries, there are some pragmatic realities that exist for today's teens that libraries are poised to help address. While all teens must prepare themselves for entering the workforce and becoming engaged citizens, many teens today face realities such as poverty, bullying, homelessness, becoming a young parent and dropping out of high school. All teens deserve a high-quality library service connected to their learning, no matter the circumstances. The library can be a vital resource for teens during the short but often tumultuous period where they must transition from childhood to adulthood.

For teens, reading may take the form of ebooks or articles online, but the urge to just quickly check the latest on YouTube or TikTok, WhatsApp messages or social media feeds is strong. It is not surprising then that research shows teens and adults are reading fewer books than before. Therefore, as the concept of reading broadens to encompass digital and bite-sized content, libraries need to ensure teens' reading opportunities are also broadened. Libraries need to keep offering new opportunities and new options to teenagers. A graphic novel one day, a cool new app the next, a novel on the third day, or a poem, a play, an investigative article, or a description of a new discovery. The idea is to keep opening doors so that occasional readers recognise something of interest, something appealing, stimulating, or unexpected waiting for them when they do take the time to read. With stiff competition from the digital side, it becomes even more important for libraries and librarians to work together to engage every teenager with reading.



### Why is it important for teens to read?

Teens who enjoy reading are more likely to succeed in school and in their engagement within their own communities as well as in their own personal lives. Continuing the habit of reading from early childhood into teenage years helps teens to deal with their increasingly complex world and understand some of the adult issues they will have to contend with. Teens must know that they are not alone in their everyday struggles — others may be thinking and feeling the same way as they do. Teens who read open lines of communication, particularly if parents, teachers and librarians provide opportunities to discuss what they are reading. A reading teen can share and see how others have found solutions to everyday problems, develop their vocabulary, broaden their imagination, improve writing and gain confidence when speaking.

To better engage teenagers with reading, it is helpful to first understand the benefits, motivation and types of reading they engage with. Everyone needs a reason to read. Are teenagers reading because they have to for an assignment or school project, or is it because they want to for relaxation as they are curious and interested in the

subject or is it because they feel they absolutely must, where reading is like breathing for them?

As librarians we believe in the right book in the right hands at the right time for the right reason. Peer validation of teen reading choices should also not be underestimated; they will quickly tell you when they think a book you suggested is boring and of no interest to them. Many teens need an excuse to read. If they are interested in pursuing a certain hobby, they will want to read all about it and seeing a shelf full of books about their hobby can be exciting and an eye-opener. If one is able to tap into the current 'cool' subjects and books, it is possible to add to a teen's reading range with ease. It is important to note that your own reading habits, preferences and motivations helps a lot as you help a potential reader to find books and reading that will fuel their own passion.

What do teens read? Books they've chosen themselves of course! Although they can self-select and follow their own interests, reading follows naturally with most kids. Librarians should encourage teens to read widely. Sometimes readers get in a rut and don't read beyond their favourite genre or author. Encourage them to read outside of their preferred genres

in order to build a wide vocabulary and broaden their background knowledge. While the librarian should encourage readers to read within their recommended reading range, do not limit them to specific levels: giving them the freedom to know that what they read is key. In terms of preferences teens want to read books:

- that will make them laugh
- that let them use their imagination
- that have a mystery or problem to solve
- that have characters they wish they could be like
- that tell a made-up story (fiction)
- that teach them something new
- that let them forget about real life for a little while
- that tell a true story (readable non-fiction)
- that are a little scary
- about things they experience in real life
- have characters that are in love
- have a character that looks like them.

Many storylines in teen fiction deal with social and personal issues teenagers identify with and of whom the main characters are also in their teens. The settings in these books vary wildly from the present real world to the dystopian domains of fiction such as

*The Hunger Games* to the supernatural and even historical. There are books for the discerning, the mature and even for the most reluctant of teen readers.

### Keeping a finger on the teenage reading pulse

Given the value teens place on relationships, culture and peers, an understanding of the teen genre is critical for a librarian if you want to engage them in reading. The trick is to provide easy access to an array of enticing material for teen readers. This can be done through:

- knowing your readers
- listening to their recommendations
- reading yourself and
- immersing yourself in the world of teen reads.

Include teens in your collection development. Survey their interests, considering what is the newest trend — vampires this year, future worlds the next and make use of media-derived material such as movie tie-ins. Know your library stock. It is difficult to guide readers to the right book if you do not know them yourself. Read the teenage fiction on your shelves so that you can offer informed recommendations to your young readers.

To get teens reading, libraries should be social spaces with reading material available in a range of formats. Along with the traditional library resources such as books and magazines, provide a range of relevant, diverse and appealing books both in fiction and non-fiction. Try sophisticated picture books — authors such as Graeme Base, Babette Cole and Anthony Browne or graphic novels, ebooks, different databases and the internet. Provide opportunities to promote and share what students are reading through social media, blogs, YouTube and book-sharing sites. Libraries need to provide the resources and opportunities for students to engage with reading, possibly by having more generous opening hours (teens have sport practice after school and on weekends and may need the library to open earlier, later or simply more often). Provide a mix of quiet, comfortable spaces with busy social hubs that allow for different types of reading engagements or reader-friendly library policies, such as liberal borrower limits.



Appeal to consumer-savvy teens. Teenagers are used to getting exactly what they want when they want it, so as they say in the corporate world, you must create a good customer service experience. How can you improve your customer service? Recruit additional volunteers; the goal is to attract more kids who do not want to use the library frequently, which means you need more people on hand to answer new visitors' questions. Reach out to parents as well as teens who are familiar with the library and willing to volunteer. Ask for feedback, set up an opinion box where teens can drop comments or suggestions for displays, new books, or activities.

Start a website or a Facebook page for your library and look for ways to make it more meaningful for your teenage customers, like posting a few books on your site or page for a week and invite teens to submit their reviews of the books. Collect the book reviews and bind them into an annual volume. Tap into techies (computer-savvy teens) to help you brainstorm simple ways to make your website or Facebook page better by creating downloadable flyers or adding new graphics.

Keep an up-to-date calendar to promote upcoming events at your library as well as activities happening in your community. Then build a display. Declare a fine-free week where lenders can return overdue books and have their fines waved. Host a library read-in where guests can participate in all-night readings, poetry slams and other exciting activities. Include viewings of movies based on books and have the participant discuss the differences between the book and the movie. Once you get teens through the door, keep them interested with exiting and creative book displays that will appeal to teen readers as well as their more reluctant peers.

Be a reader yourself. Your goal is to inspire the teens visiting your library to read more or to start reading. Make reading a habit for yourself. It is hard to sell what you won't buy yourself and reading is no exception. Let them see you reading in the library as part of your daily routine. To foster a more organic love of reading, make good content accessible at your library.

Display interesting books, collect old favourites or classics and reintroduce them via a read aloud or displays. Most libraries also lend digital content; listening to an audio book can also

spark an interest in reading. Expand your definition of what you think good content looks like. The key is to grasp the teen's interest to support his or her reading success, even if that means that you as the librarian must learn about content outside your own comfort zone, or even if that means reading more graphic novels or *The Hunger Games* series.

Get parents involved. Encourage parental involvement by allowing your teens to check out books from your library to read at home with their parents. Since some teens come from homes with limited access to books, make sure kids have a book or two in their hands when they leave the library. This will ensure they have something to read with an adult at home.

Start a teen book club. A community of readers sometimes happens naturally. However, book clubs are a perfect way to foster connectivity around books and reading. Have the members host their own book club. Encourage author visits: readers need to learn about how writers get their ideas and turn those ideas into books, this could even inspire some teens to become writers themselves.

Important points to remember: Do not do it alone! Pull in other librarians, parents and community members and make use of all the digital and social media tools available to you. Reading aloud is vital throughout all stages of a child's life — from their birth right through to their teens. Use exciting and creative book displays to lure teens towards books and reading. Know your stock, read children's and teenage books, book reviews and teen magazines to stay up to date with the latest teen trends and interests. Discuss and share books yourself. Put the right resource in the right hands at the right time for the right reason.

Creating a reading culture is paramount if we want to encourage children to become engaged and motivated readers. But developing this culture requires time, commitment and investment. The role libraries and librarians play in a child's academic life and in their transition from childhood to adulthood cannot be overemphasised.

Libraries are the foundation of promoting a reading habit and important reading skills in a child's education and formative years. Every librarian shares an unwavering belief in the power of literacy. Helping kids

become readers is significant work that will transform a child's life and give them a source of comfort for years to come. A child who reads will be an adult who thinks.

*The more that you read, the more things you will know.  
the more that you learn  
the more places you'll go.*  
- Dr Suess

*Yvette Herbst is the assistant director of the Cape Winelands and Overberg region at the Western Cape Library Service*

## References

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spotlight on central reference

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# Soul food at SN

by Sandra Kingswell





Are you thrilled by the powerful beat of good rock or sweet jazz, the soaring flight of a great opera singer, the intriguing sounds of folk music of Asia and Africa, or perhaps the intricate architecture of classical music or the spine-chilling sounds of electronic music?

Music has always been able to affect our mood. When we listen to sad songs, we tend to become melancholic and a bit weepy. When we listen to happy songs, we feel happier and can't stop smiling. Upbeat songs with energetic tones tend to make us excited and we have the urge to jump up and dance or at least tap our feet and sing along with the lyrics. Not many of us can hear the theme song for *Jaws* without getting goose bumps and vowing to stay out of the water.

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SN has over 2,000 CDs in stock. These are available for loan to all affiliated libraries. Below are some CD titles of interest.

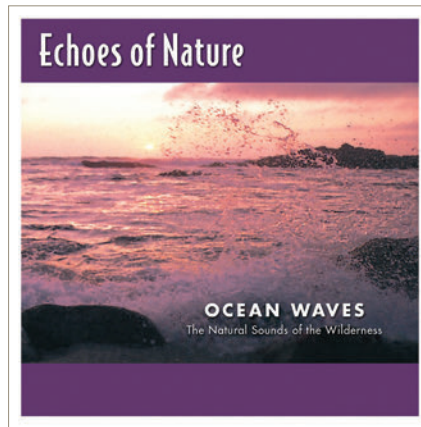
#### **Wild wild west: songs of the silver screen**

From the majestic *Magnificent seven* to the urgent rhythms of *Bonanza* to the other worldly nature of the Spaghetti Western themes, cowboy movies have always had music that moved us. **Wild, wild west** features the most popular of these scores presented in fresh and exciting recordings.

Contents on disc: *Gunsmoke / The good, the bad and the ugly / Laredo / The rifleman / How the west was won / Maverick / The Alamo / Wagon train / Rawhide / High Noon / Magnificent seven / Bonanza.*

#### **Echoes of nature — Ocean waves**

**Ocean waves** will carry you off to a remote beach where you can relax to the gentle crashing rhythm of the waves. Listen closely to the sounds of pebbles tumbling in the surf and oystercatchers calling as they feed among the rocks. Sea gulls, sea lions and surf side songbirds all contribute to the song of the sea.



Other titles available in the *Echoes of nature* series:

- Echoes of nature: American wilds
- Echoes of nature: Bayou
- Echoes of nature: Frog chorus
- Echoes of nature: Jungle talk
- Echoes of nature: Morning songbirds
- Echoes of nature: Sampler
- Echoes of nature: Thunderstorm

**Sacred spirit**

Musicians have made astonishing leaps of the imagination in recent years in fusing often contradictory music — Celtic with African and reggae with Bhangra. **Sacred spirit volume 2 culture clash** is an album that attempts the audacious: to combine the raw essence of the blues with the sophisticated orchestral structures of classical music, and then to underpin the two with contemporary rhythms. You will have heard nothing quite like it.

Contents on disc: *Intro / Culture clash / Lay down / On the road / Legends / No more cotton / Interlude 'To be a slave' / The sun won't talk no more / Black progress / Roots / Babes in the juke house / Brownsville, Tennesse (Instrumental) / Slow and easy / Sonnet XVIII.*

**Music around the world: Jamaica**

Reggae is one of the world's few living folk music styles. It has remained incredibly popular and is spontaneously generated by people's experiences, emotions, and traditions. Since its birth reggae music has been Jamaica's emotional outlet, to express thoughts and feelings about life, love, and religion.

Contents on disc: *System / Dance, dance people / Speak out / I'll be missing you / There's mystery / Live as one / Cheer up people / War is real /*

*Mind yourself Mister / Save planet earth / Policeman / Medicine.*

Other titles available in the *Music around the world* series:

- Music around the world: Austria
- Music around the world: Bolivia
- Music around the world: Chile
- Music around the world: Corsica
- Music around the world: Egypt
- Music around the world: Greece
- Music around the world: Hungary
- Music around the world: Israel
- Music around the world: Italy
- Music around the world: Japan
- Music around the world: Latin America
- Music around the world: Maroc
- Music around the world: Middle East
- Music around the world: Nepal
- Music around the world: Philippines
- Music around the world: Russia
- Music around the world: Scotland
- Music around the world: Switzerland
- Music around the world: Tex Mex

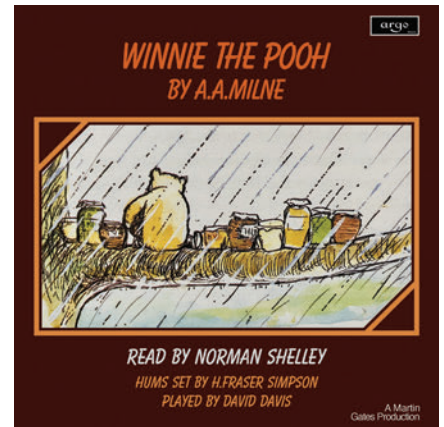




Music around the world: Tibet  
 Music around the world: Turkey.



*Die lied van Annabel / Ajee, myn minnag rusten.*



**Winnie the Pooh — Alan Alexander Milne**

These stories were published over 90 years ago, and the world is now a very different place but Pooh, Piglet, Eeyore, Owl, Rabbit, Tigger and all his friends and relations and of course Christopher Robin, will live on forever. Pooh is not the only hero in English literature with a head full of fluff, but he is certainly the greediest and most endearing. He instigates most of the adventures, and best of all, is full of love for Christopher Robin.

Contents on record: *We meet Pooh / Pooh goes visiting / Pooh and Piglet go hunting / Eeyore loses a tail / Piglet meets a Heffalump / Eeyore has a birthday / Kanga and baby Roo come to the forest / Christopher Robin leads an expedition to the North Pole / Piglet is surrounded by water / Pooh has a party and we say good-bye.*

All items listed in this article as well as numerous other items already in SN's collection may be requested via IMPALA or e-mail. For all book, record, CD, language course and audiobook requests please send your e-mail to [Sandra.Kingswell@westerncape.gov.za](mailto:Sandra.Kingswell@westerncape.gov.za) and all film, video and DVD requests to [Hoeda.Salaam@westerncape.gov.za](mailto:Hoeda.Salaam@westerncape.gov.za).

*Sandra Kingswell is the senior library assistant at Central Reference*

SN has almost 5,000 vinyl records in stock. These are available for loan to all affiliated libraries. Below are some vinyl record titles of interest.

#### Happy birthday Bach — John Bayless

Just think of it! You are invited to the birthday party of the year. Celebrating Johann Sebastian Bach's 300th anniversary. Who will be there to celebrate this incredible event?

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, Ludwig van Beethoven, Frederic Chopin, Maurice Ravel, Igor Stravinsky, George Gershwin and John Bayless. Mr John Bayless is giving this party and assures us that all of the composers attending are going to improvise *Happy birthday* in their respective styles in honour of Mr Bach. John promises that a good time will be had by all and wants everyone everywhere to wish *The happiest birthday of all* to Johann Sebastian Bach.

#### The Cape Malay Choirs

Enjoy the memories of the Cape Malay Choirs' wonderful concerts in the comfort of your home. This is a live recording of some of the highlights of the competition held at the Three Arts Theatre in Plumstead.

Contents on record: *Die ruiter / Die vuil moffie / Hoor matroosies, hoor / Skone ernfis / WP / Net een ster /*

#### Poppie Nongena — Sophie Mgcina

Based on the award-winning novel of the same name, *Poppie Nongena* tells the true story of a mother's desperate fight to protect her family during the bitter years of apartheid in South Africa. We follow the fortunes and misfortunes of Poppie from a relatively carefree girlhood at 13 to a worn and bruised 36, when having raised four children under the most trying of circumstances, having offered passive but great-hearted resistance to 'The Law' — she can finally do no more. She passes the torch of perseverance on to her children.

Voices of: *Thuli Dumakude / Sophie Mgcina / Seth Sibanda / Tsepo Mokone / Fana Kekana / Selaelo Maredi / Maggie Soboil / Alex Wipf.*

#### Island life — Grace Jones

Grace Jones is a big star. She is a face that launched a million haircuts. She's had audiences of men down on their knees. She's had Arnold Schwarzenegger complaining about her being too tough on the set of *Conan the destroyer*. She has had more lookalikes than Michael Jackson and Prince put together and of both sexes. Grace's music is exotic, catchy, and rhythmically compelling.

Contents on Record: *La vie en rose / I need a man / Do or die / Private life / I've seen that face before (Libertango) / Love is the drug / Pull up to the bumper / Walking in the rain / My Jamaican guy / Slave to the rhythm.*



# Book review index/ Boekresensie-indeks 2021

compiled by Braam Peens

This index includes book reviews. Entries are alphabetical under the main catalogue entry, in most cases that of the author; giving the page number, month of issue and year.

Hierdie indeks bevat boekresensies. Inskrywings verskyn alfabeties onder die hoofkatalogusinskrywing; meestal onder outeur, met die bladsynommers, maand van uitgawe en jaar daarby.

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# Index/Indeks 2021

compiled by Braam Peens

**T**he index to the **Cape Librarian** is compiled only in English as a bilingual index would double the work and size.

Articles are indexed under author and subject as well as under the column in which they appeared. The entries are alphabetically arranged. Subject entries are given in English only. Articles on authors, artists, composers, et cetera, are indexed under the heading relating to the person and followed by their name, for example: **Authors: Elizabeth Eybers.**

**D**ie indeks tot die **Kaapse Bibliotekaris** word slegs in Engels saamgestel, aangesien 'n tweetalige indeks die werk verbonde daaraan en die lengte daarvan verdubbel. Artikels word volgens outeur en onderwerp geïndekseer, asook die rubriek waaronder dit verskyn het. Die inskrywings word alfabeties gerangskik. Onderwerpinskrywings word slegs in Engels aangedui. Artikels oor skrywers, kunstenaars, komponiste, ensovoorts, word onder die opskrif wat betrekking op die persoon het, byvoorbeeld, **Authors: Elizabeth Eybers**, ingeskryf.

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## parting shot



Punch machine operators in 1960



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