

CAPE KAAPSE LIBRARIAN BIBLIOTEKARIS

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Western Cape
Government

FOR YOU

Cultural Affairs and Sport

contents | inhoud | iziqulatho

news | nuus | iindaba

- 2 libraries | biblioteke | amathala eencwadi
- 4 miscellany | allerlei | iincwadi ezahlukeneyo

archives | argiewe | iindawo zokugcina

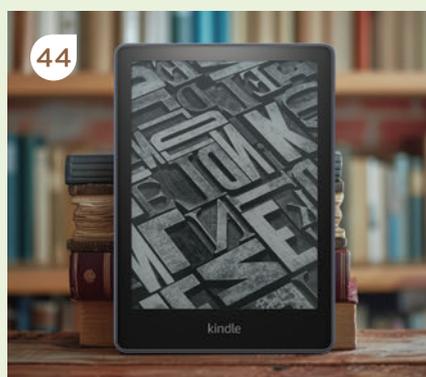
- 8 'The Queen of Adderley Street': records of the Cape's oldest bank
Gustav Hendrich

bookworld | boekwêreld | ilizwe leencwadi

- 14 Motor and sensory behaviour: the case for continuing to write by hand
Javier Marín Serrano, Miguel Ángel Pérez-Sánchez and Olena Vasylets

research | navorsing | uphando

- 18 The Research Section: an information hub for all Research Section
- 24 Genadendal Public Library turns 200
Research Section



genre | uhlobo loluncwadi

- 26 'n Skatkis van Afrikaanse avontuurverhale vir jong lesers: 'n kuur teen verveeldheid
Anél Taljaard

reviews | resensies | uphononongo

- 32 Book reviews
Compiled by book selectors

workroom | die werkkamer | igumbi locweyo

- 40 Online meetings and training: the good, the bad and how to make the best of it
Ronel Mouton
- 44 Libby for librarians: What's in it for us?
Luinda Lilley

ON THE COVER

A crucial river crossing by Gustav Hendrich, WCARS

The scenic countryside, with its clean air and lush vineyards in the approach to Worcester, remains a sight to behold for local and foreign visitors. However, before 1897, transportation and travel from the Cape to Worcester posed a serious challenge owing to impassable mountains and rivers. Produce had to be transported to the markets in the Cape, involving significant delays and hassle either across Bain's Kloof Pass or via Villiersdorp. Heavier cargo had to be initially sent via rail from Cape Town and then back to Worcester.

In June 1889, a Select Committee on the Breede River Bridge was established to discuss and urge the British colonial government to construct a proper bridge across the Breede River, thereby linking Villiersdorp and Caledon to Worcester.

In a report from the Divisional Council of Worcester in 1893, Mr De Vos proposed the desirability of a bridge that 'would not only connect the district of Caledon with Worcester and the railway by the shortest possible route, taken in a natural direction ...exactly calculated to secure the continued use of the proclaimed hard road'.

The construction of the bridge commenced on 25 March 1895 at a cost of £19,000, which, by the standards of the day, was enormous. Workers, under the supervision of Mr Chadwick, toiled painstakingly. A staggering 70,000 pounds of timber was conveyed to the Worcester station and from there to the building site at Nieuwe Drift. Upon its completion in December 1896, the meticulously built wooden bridge was considered one of the finest and longest bridges in South Africa. Esq. JWH Meiring expressed his gratitude, stating that the bridge 'will stand for long and many a day, and if it contributes to the prosperity of Worcester... then Worcester will derive immense benefit from it'.

The Breede River Bridge at Worcester was to become a vital infrastructural asset as it greatly reduced travel time to Cape Town. In 1956, the wooden bridge was replaced by a concrete, more durable bridge. In Worcester, some original wooden panels were placed on the central square as testimony to the building efforts. Together with the Du Toits Kloof Pass, the bridge today continues to serve as a crucial road transport artery for Worcester and its people.

The **Cape Librarian** extends its gratitude to the Western Cape Archives and Records Service (WCARS) for making available its rare collection of vintage photographs for the cover images of the magazine in 2024.

Picture credit: R169 Bridge, Worcester

In many of the past months, this column emphasised the value of libraries that extends beyond their mere stewardship of books. For this issue, however; I'd like to revisit the essence of literacy as the foundation for a prosperous society. And how reading fiction enables the explosion of neurons in the brain.

For starters, reading novels begets more reading. If you're devouring an impossible-to-put-down thriller that's at its climax, turning the page becomes almost addictive. And should that title form part of the series, one can't help but want to proceed to the next instalment. All along the way, your synapses are firing while learning new words, thoughts and concepts.

In the real world, those broadened horizons help us make sense of foreign cultures; reacting with empathy — as the solely most-missing human trait today.

But back to fiction. Even if one lacks an affinity for it, fiction remains a stepping stone to other forms of literature, that, again translates to the betterment of knowledge. Ever wondered how China — previously only known for copying — turned into a tech giant overnight? By sending a work group to study form at companies like Google and Apple. Guess what they learnt? All of these mega-corporations' innovators read science fiction as kids.

Fiction, then, isn't just about fairies and space thrusters. It's about the revelation of what's possible; that plants the seeds of disaffection that powers the reader to want to do more and be better.

And remember: everything that's man-made — be it from the paper you are reading this column on to a computer screen in your bricks-and-mortar home in a suburban house — was only imagined at some point.

That's the power of reading.

We live in a time where information is no longer a scarce commodity. It is written somewhere that, thanks to the internet, today more information is generated every two days than everything created from the birth of humanity until 2003 — *combined*.

Clearly, if not all the answers, then many — of the warning signs of the chaos we find the world in today — were written down a long time ago. Might the world have been a better place if someone had bothered to read them?



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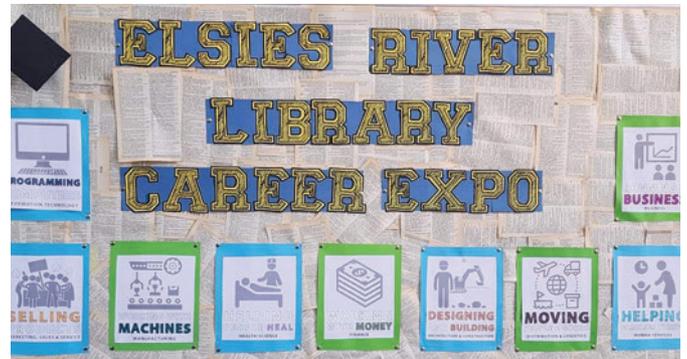
The *Cape Librarian* is the house journal of the Western Cape Library Service and is published bi-monthly. Articles in the field of library and information science, library administration, news items, reviews and accession lists are included. The editorial staff reserve the right to edit, shorten, or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

Elsies River sows the seeds of dreams

Elsies River Library, in collaboration with Cape Careers Exhibitors Association, hosted a career expo at the town's civic centre at the end of January.

We invited neighbouring schools and were able to accommodate more than 500 students, whose attendance was divided into two sessions. Eighteen institutions took part in the expo and included, amongst others, AFDA, CPUT, Future Flyers, HFPA, IMM Graduate School, I Student Academy, Mancosa, Northlink College, Open Window, Richfield, AAA STADIO, Stellenbosch University, The Paragon Generation, Unisa and Western Cape College of Nursing.

The library also had its own information desk where we handed out information about the library, membership forms, library bags, and marketing material.



As was priorly arranged, each school visited during different time slots. As part of the introduction, we explained the role of the library and the assistance available to students during the application phase at the institutions of their choice.

Learners were then directed to the booths representing the various institutions to ask questions and gather information on their career choices.

Elsies River Library provides a safe space for studying and doing research. The feedback from our schools and institutions indicated that the expo was a great success. We plan to host another expo in September with the long-term goal of making this an annual event.

Beverley Fortuin, Senior Librarian: Elsie's River Library

Bathandi, babhali, bafundi besiXhosa, sihlaba ikhwelo kuba ikhwelo lityala. Sicela nithumela amabalana, amangaku, nako nakuphi okunokuphucula, kufundise, kwazise, kukhulise, konwabise kuphinde kukhuthaza ukubhalwa nokufundwa kolwimi lwesiXhosa. Sikhuthaza ooSozilwimi ukuba imisebenzi yabo yophando eshankathelweyo ngesiXhosa ingangeniswa nayo ukuze ipapashwe njengenqaku eliyakufundwa luninzi lwabantetho isisiXhosa nabangwenela ukusifunda.

Kraaifontein is Wêreldboekedag-kampioene



Personeel van **Kraaifontein Openbare Biblioteek** het Wêreldboekedag op 23 April gevier deur soos hulle gunsteling storieboekhelde aan te trek. Ronique Warne het soos Dorothy van **The Wizard of Oz** aangetrek, Mahanda Bence as Liewe Heksie, Andiswa Mpukuluthi as The cat in the hat, Shana-Leigh Daniels as Pippie Langkous, Portia Horne as Mary Poppins en Noluthando Ndindibala as Gogo van die boek **Lindi and Gogo**. Almal het die dag geniet en allerlei komplimente van die publiek ontvang. Die span het ook 'n Inligtingkundesessie vir een van die nabygeleë skole aangebied en stories by 'n crèche gaan vertel.

Erratum: Ingrid Thomson's name was misspelt in the article *The wonder of Wikipedia* on page 36 of the March/April edition of **Cape Librarian**. We apologise for the error. - Ed

Protem is probleemoplossers



Die Protem-biblioteekspan in Bredasdorp laat hulle nie afsit deur hulle gebou se kompakte afmetings nie. Hulle gebruik van beperkte ruimtes en ongebruikte oppervlaktes is voorwaar vindingryk.

Listing the reasons for loving our libraries



Senior Library Assistant Gerhard van Wyk, winner Elmarie Lahoud and Librarian Yolanda Hofmeester

To celebrate *Love your Library Month*, **Caledon Library** held a competition for members to write a short message explaining their reasons for loving their library. The winning entry was the one submitted by Elmarie Lahoud. Her winning entry read:

Dear Caledon Library, I love you because it is my very happy place! I walk away from the world into an orderly and creative world of fantasy and fiction. You have the most friendly staff members welcoming and helping me. Long live this valuable gem in our town!

She received a hamper of books that she was thrilled to receive – an ideal prize for an avid reader.

**Gerhard van Wyk, Senior Library Assistant:
Caledon Library**

WhatsApp die wondermedium



Biblioteeklede in die Matzikama-streek is in Maartmaand gevra om per WhatsApp te verwoord wat boeke vir hulle of hulle kinders beteken. Die treffendste boodskappe is uitgedruk en by die ontvangstoonbank opgeplak, waarna die twee gekose wennerse pryse ontvang het. Dit is 'n eenvoudige, goedkoop manier om die publiek betrokke en opgewonde te kry by hulle biblioteke.

Recent activities held at Huguenot Square Library



On 17 January, the Flourish group presented an antenatal programme at **Huguenot Square Library**. Flourish is a national network of antenatal and postnatal classes that supports, celebrates and empowers mothers throughout the critical first 1,000 days of a child's life. Facilitated at the library by Nadiyah Alexander, the series of classes, that ran for five weeks, aimed to empower parents to provide responsive caregiving to their children. It covered everything from nutrition, baby bonding, financial wellness, breastfeeding and labour procedure.

On 20 February Huguenot Square Library hosted an inspiring employment programme in collaboration with the Expanded Public Works Programme, Department of Labour, Job Crystal, Kempston Recruitment and Marvellous Maids. The event attracted 128 community members eager to explore employment opportunities and gain valuable insights into career development. This exhibition, which is aimed to be the first of many, marked an essential step towards

addressing unemployment and empowering local residents.

On 30 April Huguenot Square Library hosted our annual reading competition. Participants from Dr van der Ross, Riebeeck Street, Symphony and Matroosberg Primary Schools were all very excited to be part of this contest. Joy April kicked off with a wonderful motivational talk and our Yeboneers team proceeded with an energetic icebreaker for the kids. Our librarian, Amy Victor, led an orientation tour before the contest began. Hunter Warne from Riebeeck Street was the winner in the English category and Tyreec Buys from Dr van Der Ross was victorious in the Afrikaans category. We wish to thank everyone involved in the smooth running of this competition, especially the councillor for his sponsorship; staff for their dedication and commitment and the teachers for the preparation of the contestants.

Cheryl Petersen, Assistant Librarian: Huguenot Square Library

miscellany | allerlei | iincwadi ezahlukeneyo

Two Service Excellence Awards for DCAS

On Friday, 19 April, two teams from the Department of Cultural Affairs and Sport (DCAS) were awarded for their hard work at the Western Cape Government's Service Excellence Awards, hosted by the Department of the Premier. The Service Excellence Awards are held every year to highlight the exceptional work being done by teams and individuals across all the WCG departments.

The Library Service team was nominated and won silver in the category of Best Support Services Team. In November 2022, the SLIMS system, managing Western Cape Library Service and its 375 libraries, crashed, with SITA struggling to restore it. Partial recovery in February 2023 resulted in data loss from June 4 to November 15, 2022, impacting 6 million items worth R478 million. A dedicated recovery team worked tirelessly, recovering over 10 million records alongside regular duties, ensuring service continuity and upholding Batho Pele principles and Western Cape Core Values.

The Departmental Information Management team won bronze in the category of Best Support Services Team.



Minister Anroux Marais with the Library Service team

Congratulations to these two teams for making DCAS proud! Thank you for your ongoing hard work to serve the people of our province!

Tania Colyn, DCAS Communications

Library Week: marching for social cohesion

How does a department such as the City of Cape Town's Library and Information Services, interpret the South African Library Week (SALW) 2024 theme, *Libraries Foster Social Cohesion*? By marching through the CBD with as many of its key partners as possible and ensuring that every single event during the week has key partners and broad community participation.

And that is exactly what happened on 15 March (and the rest of the week). The list of partners was extensive but none were more important than the LIS staff who came out to walk the 5 km-long route while singing, dancing, waving posters, wearing costumes — all with a whole lot of exuberance.

Joining the road marchers were the City's Mayoral Committee Member for Community Service and Health, Councillor Patricia van der Ross, and the Portfolio Committee Chairperson, Councillor Ronel Viljoen.

The walk seemed over way too quickly and stakeholders lingered long after the march at the end point, drinking some much-needed water while still soaking up the atmosphere.

Then the actual week happened, and as per usual for City Libraries, it coincided with Fine-Free Week, where patrons were given the opportunity to return outstanding material without paying a fine. It's the ideal chance to return material and indulge in something new to read, watch or listen to.

18 March marked the start of the SALW. Area East hosted an integrated programme with a poetry competition held at Melton Rose Library. Participants from Sir Lowry Pass Primary, De Kuilen High School, Khanyolwethu, Eerste River, and Sarepta High Schools were in attendance. Judging by the reaction of the audience, the poetry submissions were excellent. Learners were well-prepared and judged for content and delivery.

Area Central hosted a jam-packed programme with ECDs for pregnant and new mummies. Learners from Our Lady of the Rosary, Ikhlhas and Masjidur Rahman Educare were entertained by the Ward 47 Safety Ambassadors, Mayoral Urban Regeneration Programme (MURP), the Bridgetown



Taking to the streets for SALW 2024

Theatre Company, Aunty T and LiBee, as well as the City's Recreation and Parks department. Stakeholders in attendance also included City Health's Hanover Park Clinic and the Edith Stephens Nature Reserve.

Area South's programme was also geared for the ECDs. The event took place at Lentegour Civic Centre and the little ones were educated about littering and the importance of washing hands. The audience was also treated to fun storytelling sessions, and interactive exhibitions sharing the importance of caring for children.

Area North held a highly engaging event at Dunoon Library for the ECDs, concluding the week on a high note. Recreation and Parks took the young ones outside for a fun interactive start to the programme, and Traffic Services took the little ones on a journey on road safety and how to navigate roads as pedestrians. The Sports Development NGO and the Safe Foundation, who work to empower children living in townships, entertained the children with songs and stories.

Fine-Free Week results

The period turned out as one of the most successful Fine-Free Weeks, with more than half of the outstanding items safely being returned. At the start of the amnesty period there were 35,411 items outstanding, valued at R3,9 million. By the end of the week, 18,583 items had been returned (worth approximately R2,2 million), accounting for roughly 52% of the outstanding items. 20,275 fines were waived during the period.

This result constitutes a massive increase in comparison to Fine-Free Week in 2023; when only 19% of the more than 39,000 outstanding items made their way back.

Incidentally, titles from *The diary of a wimpy kid*-series by Jeff Kinney topped the list of outstanding items, as has been the case for several years. The top six items returned during the most recent amnesty period were all part of the series.

Merle Collins, Head: Marketing and Communications, LIS, City of Cape Town



The atmosphere was electric as CCT Librarians prepared to promote libraries as vibrant spaces

DCAS launches SA Library Week in Murraysburg

On Monday, 18 March, the Department of Cultural Affairs and Sport's Library Service Directorate hosted the launch of the 2024 South African Library Week event in Murraysburg, in partnership with Beaufort West Municipality. Murraysburg is the furthest library service point in the Western Cape, bordering the Northern Cape.

Although only 100 official guests were invited, the whole of the Murraysburg community joined in the event.

The Minister of Cultural Affairs and Sport, Anroux Marais' keynote address focused on the 2024 Library week theme: *Libraries foster social cohesion*. According to Minister Marais, fostering social cohesion was highlighted for its importance by the late President Nelson Mandela.

The Head of Department, Guy Redman, emphasised the importance of language and teaching children to read in their home languages, and to help guard against languages becoming extinct.

Director of Library Service, Cecilia Sani explained that during this week, we get to celebrate the profound impact libraries have on individuals, families, and communities across our nation. 'We recognise the tireless efforts of librarians who serve as stewards of knowledge, guiding us through the vast seas of information and inspiring us to explore new horizons,' she said.

We encourage all DCAS staff to go out and join their public libraries.

Cecilia Sani, Director: Western Cape Library Service



Executive mayor Gideon Pietersen, the Librarian of Murraysburg Bongwiwe Zahela and Minister Anroux Marais



Assistant director, Jongihlanga Mbanga escorted Murraysburg primary school to the launch with the book van at the back

Minister's book club launched

On Thursday, 25 April, the Western Cape Library Service, in partnership with the Swartland Municipality hosted the launch of the Minister's Book Club in Darling at the **Darling North Public Library**. The purpose of the book club is to encourage our communities to read more. It is also an opportunity to showcase the wide variety of books available at our public libraries. Finally, the book club demonstrates the Western Cape government's commitment to reading.

The acting Head of the Department, Carol van Wyk indicated that the department is in a strategic position to inculcate a reading culture and to promote and embrace reading. 'A reading society drives economic development, innovation and social cohesion. Individuals are empowered to access knowledge, information, and ideas regardless of their circumstances,' she said.

As the Minister of Cultural Affairs and Sport, Minister Anroux Marais is ideally positioned to lead the reading drive across the province through the establishment of a Minister's Book Club. In her keynote address, Minister Marais indicated that she is a keen and avid reader and this book club is a profound privilege. 'I have been reading since my childhood and there is always a book in my bag, a Deon Meyer or sometimes an Irma Joubert book.



Minister Marais officially launched the Minister's Book Club

Dreams can turn into reality by reading. Reading can take you to places you have never been'.

A competition will be held to come up with a name for the book club, so watch this space!

Cecilia Sani, Director: Western Cape Library Service

Skrywer, kenner van jeugliteratuur sterf in motorongeluk



'n Reuseverlies vir die Afrikaanse boekewêreld.'

Dit is hoe vriende gereageer het op die skoknuus dat die skrywer en afgetrede professor Maritha Snyman in 'n motorongeluk oorlede is.

Snyman (71), bekend vir topverkoper-kinderboeke soos die *Lekker lawwe lagboek*-reeks, 'n **Annerste ABC-**

boek vir aspatatte en verskeie titels in die *Reënboogrant maat*-reeks, het na Lephalale in Limpopo gery toe sy betrokke was in 'n motorongeluk met twee ander voertuie.

'Dit is 'n reuseskok,' sê Linette van der Merwe, 'n jarelange vriendin van Snyman. Volgens Van der Merwe was Snyman die toonbeeld van elegante grasia sonder

om ooit aanstellerig te wees. 'Sy was die beliggaming van ruimhartigheid in elke sin van die woord,' sê Van der Merwe.

Fanie Viljoen, jeugboekskrywer, sê Snyman se afsterwe laat 'n groot leemte in die kinderboek-genre. 'Ek ken Maritha van die ATKV-skryfskole af waar ons saam praatjies aangebied het... Maritha was nie net 'n uitstekende skrywer nie, maar sy het ook 'n uitsonderlike kennis van kinder- en jeugliteratuur gehad. Een van die vernaamste studies oor Afrikaanse kinders se leesgewoontes is deur haar gedoen,' sê Viljoen.

Nandi Lessing-Venter, uitgewer en hoof van die kinder-en-jeugboek-afdeling van Penguin Random House in Suid-Afrika, sê: 'Maritha sal met deernis onthou word ná haar skielike dood... Haar dood is 'n groot verlies vir die Suid-Afrikaanse literêre gemeenskap, maar haar nalatenskap leef voort deur haar stories vir jong lesers,' sê Lessing-Venter.

(Werner Beukes, *netwerk24.com*, 6/5/2024)

Biblioteekdiens groet voormalige direkteur

'Frans van der Merwe was 'n deeglike mens.' Só sê Ds Reinder Kingma tydens dié voormalige direkteur van die Biblioteekdiens se roudiens op Donderdag, 16 Mei.

En dit was inderdaad so. Frans (82) was die derde direkteur van die Kaapse Provinsiale Biblioteekdiens (later Wes-Kaapse Biblioteekdiens); 'n amp wat hy met onderskeiding van 1985 tot 1997 beklee het.

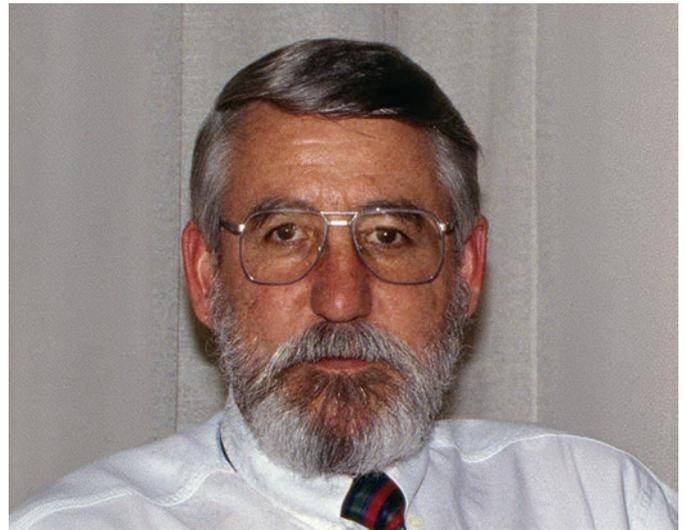
Hy het 1966 by die Biblioteekdiens begin werk en sy eerste pos was dié van streekbibliotekaris van die Kimberleystreek. Daarna word hy hoofbibliotekaris van die Noord-Kaap en in 1979 verhuis hy na Kaapstad as 'n assistentdirekteur van die Biblioteekdiens. In 1985 word hy tot direkteur bevorder.

Sy *tour de force* tydens sy jare in Kimberley was die oorskryf en hersien van die Handboek vir Streekbibliotekarisse. Dié omvattende gids van meer as 300 bladsye was vir amper 30 jaar 'n bybel vir die personeel van die streekorganisasie van die Biblioteekdiens.

As 'n nuwe besem het hy destyds nie gras onder sy voete laat groei nie. Die Biblioteekdiens het geweldig begin groei in die sewentigs en tagtigs en het Frans dienooreenkomstig gesorg dat die boekbegroting daarmee saam verhoog is. In 1985 was die aantal nuwe boeke 284,000 en in 1988 het hierdie syfer meer as verdubbel tot 691,000.

Hy het ook 'n werkstudie onderneem waarna die bestuursorganogram aangepas en meer senior poste geskep is om die Diens meer doeltreffend te maak.

Frans het die bemarking van biblioteekdienste as belangrik beskou en tydens sy jare aan die stuur is daar op groot skaal projekte aangepak, waarvan die jaarlikse Biblioteekweek 'n hoogtepunt was. Onder meer is t-hemde, ballonne, plakkate, boekmerke, plakkers en vrolike plastiese drasakke vir boeke uitgedeel. Nog 'n hoogtepunt was die konferensies waarna hy internasionale sprekers genooi het, soos die een in 1990 tydens Unesco se Jaar van die Leser.



Frans was progressief en met die verskyning van die Zaaiman-verslag in 1998 het hy werkswinkels gereël om dienste uit te brei na die provinsie se benadeelde swart gemeenskappe. Hy was ook instrumenteel om subsidies aan te vra om nuwe biblioteke te bou. Tydens sy diensjare is die biblioteekdiens ook gerekenariseer.

Hy was ook 'n man wat self uitstekend geskryf het. Ná sy besoek aan Rusland verskyn **Nagvlug oor Siberië**.

Frans se invloed by die Biblioteekdiens was onmeetbaar. Hy het 'n onuitwisbare indruk gelaat op ons wat onder hom gewerk het. Dankie Frans, ons sal jou nooit vergeet nie.

Stefan Wehmeyer, voormalige Direkteur: Streke, Wes-Kaapse Biblioteekdiens



‘The Queen of Adderley Street’: records of the Cape’s oldest bank

by Gustav Hendrich

For a century and a half, the Standard Bank building in the centre of Cape Town has not only been a majestic architectural gem to passersby, but also represented the bank’s financial resilience. In reflecting on its historical value, it proves conducive to shed light on this venerable banking facility. As for its stature, the historiographer Dr George McCall Theal mentioned that ‘in 1883 it was a very prominent building, and was the largest and finest structure used for banking in South Africa... only to be dwarfed by the surrounding General Post Office and Cartwright’s Mansion House’.¹

Ideally situated in the main thoroughfare of Adderley Street, neighbouring the flower market next and Greenmarket Square in the adjacent block, the building has become an integral, almost inseparable part of the city. In later years, John R Shorten of the

City of Cape Town pointed to the striking appearance of the ‘figure of Britannia raising her trident above the porticoed building... which has symbolised the security and financial strength of an institution, (and) which has been part of the history of the City and of the whole of South Africa’.² After its closure in 2015 the contested status of ownership of the building hung in the balance for almost a decade; facing the possibility of conversion to a city museum or governmental offices. It was auctioned off in October 2021 and still holds the title of South Africa’s oldest bank.³

Against the backdrop of its striking architecture and long-lasting banking legacy, the Western Cape Archives and Records Service in Roeland Street in Cape Town is in possession of primary sources and photographic imagery that attested to the longstanding presence of the bank in serving both state and civil society.

Meagre banking beginnings

It is safe to argue that the earliest banking practices during the settlement of the Dutch East India Company in 1652 were for the most part rudimentary. With the intention of the Cape to merely serve as a refreshment station, little attention was given to the advancement of a fully-fledged bank. Only as late as 1793, when the Company’s rule was collapsing owing to bankruptcy, a loan bank was set up by the Dutch commissioners Nederburgh and Frykenius. With the dismal economic situation bookending the Company dynasty, the bank’s existence proved short-lived. It was only after the Second British occupation of the Cape in 1806, that the foundations were laid for the establishment of banking institutions, local private banks and insurance companies cast in the British mold of banking — in its colonial territories.

Within the realm of British colonial expansion, its banking expertise at the Cape was still on an elementary level and would only develop rapidly during the mid-19th century. Between 1836 and 1861, almost 30 banks were opened in the Cape Colony.⁴ The driving force behind the early banking development could be ascribed to the enterprising pioneer, John Paterson, who played an instrumental role in the establishment of companies in the Cape Colony. One such institution was to be the first Standard Bank in Gqeberha (formerly Port Elizabeth). The bank prospered so remarkably that arrangements were made for a more geographically centralised location in Cape Town, for it became the hub of trade, market and strategic importance to the British Empire on the seaways between East and West.

An imposing neo-classical building

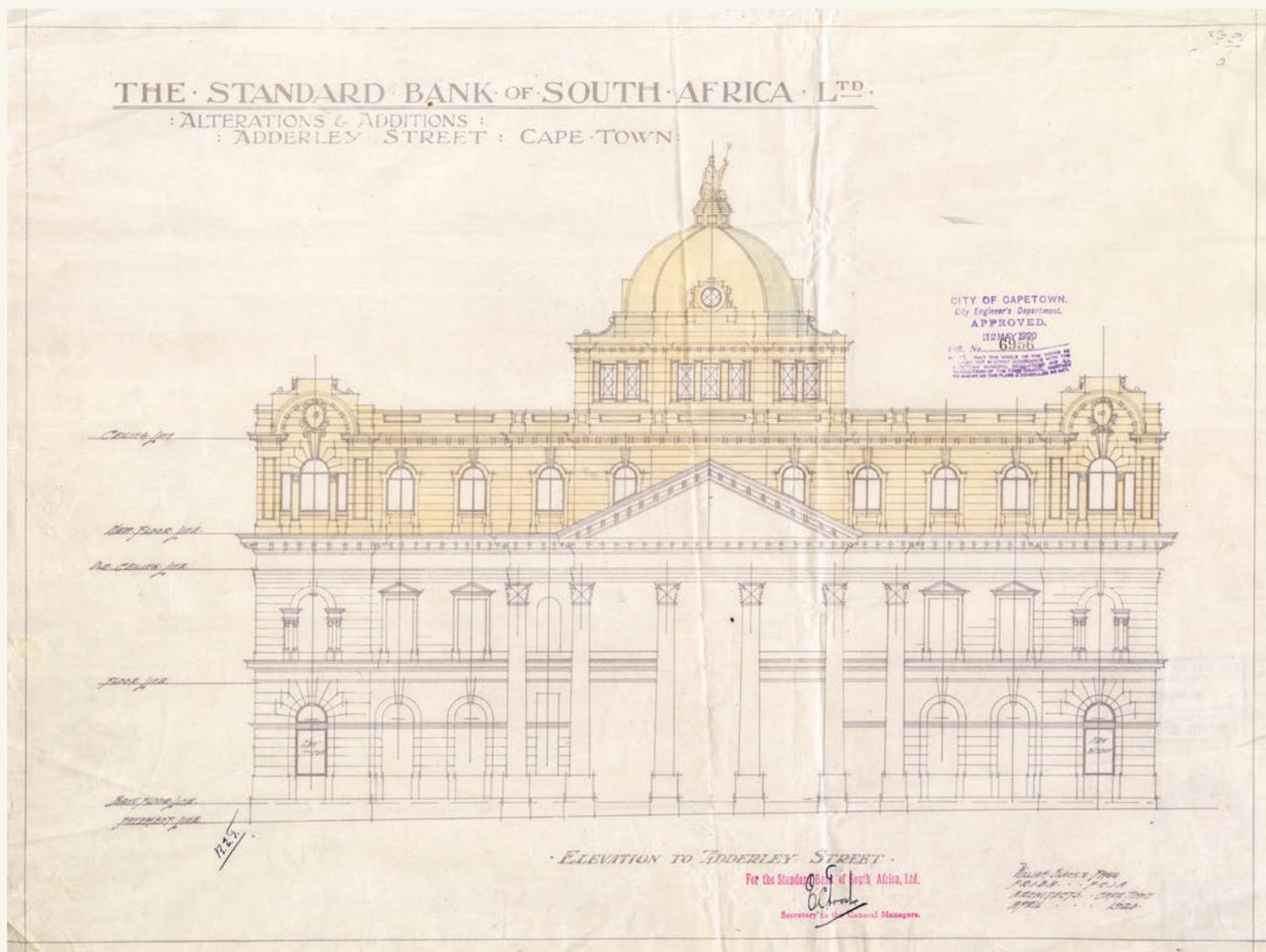
At first, the Standard Bank in Cape Town was accommodated in the pastry cook's house named Cairncross, opening its doors to the public on 4 January 1864. With Paterson being admired as the founding father of the first two European banks in South Africa, namely the Standard Bank of British South Africa (the term 'British' was later omitted) and the London and South African Bank, the former became such a premier establishment that it succeeded in attracting the account of the Cape Colonial Government.⁵ Whilst Paterson was also an ardent politician in the Cape Parliament, the actual success of the 'Standard', as its name was locally abbreviated, could be ascribed to its first General Manager Robert Stewart.

The skilled Stewart, who at the time became a household name, was able to lead the bank through often tough financial times, severe depression and a decline in share value. Despite the lack of early regulatory legislation for banking at the Cape, the Standard Bank under Paterson and Stewart nonetheless strove to introduce a new system of banking; one which was based on large capital and first-class independent management.⁶

From inception the Standard proved it could weather the storm of financial calamities as it settled itself firmly in the South African framework. By comparison, several local banks quickly collapsed as a result of weak administration, improper bookkeeping or inexperience. By the 1870's the Standard had taken over many local banks — as well as its principal



AG 12977 Adderley Street, Cape Town, showing the Standard Bank building



CT Plans. 1/1/325, no. 6956. The Standard Bank of SA, Ltd

competitor, the London and South African Bank in 1877 — with the result that its banking practices had virtually outgrown their accommodation. The Standard's prestige made it the foremost bank in both the governments of the Cape Colony and the South African Republic (the former Transvaal). Essentially, it contributed to laying the cornerstone of the unification of South Africa financially. According to the author G Amphlett, the Standard managed to hold more than half of the Coin in the country with its capital being fully employed, and coupled with this — was appointed in 1873 as the sole banker of the Cape Colonial Government.⁷

However, since the Standard's building at Cairncross was still being rented since 1864, complaints of the confectioner's store forming part of the bank and the lack of ventilation — the bank's functionality became so strained that a new location was sought. Thus, in 1879 the City Council offered a site on a prime business area for a 99-year lease at £150 per annum. The bank management agreed upon the offer and summoned a most renowned architect, Charles Freeman, who became acclaimed for his drawings of the Houses of Parliament, to draw up the plans for the new Standard Bank building. Its builder, Thomas Ingleby, tendered for its construction for £27,000.⁸

Work started in earnest and after nearly two years of toil, the building was officially opened on 19 March 1883. Inevitably, the headquarters of the Standard Bank in South Africa would subsequently relocate from Gqeberha to Cape Town. Built in the neo-classicist architecture of the late-Victorian era with its silver-painted embroidered fences and hoarding on the building, the structure epitomised British imperialism in Southern Africa. The interior was similarly impressive. It contained a grandiose banking hall, classic checkerboard floor, wooden counters and various departments such as branch audit, inspection, correspondence and strongrooms for records.

Yet, apart from its picturesque appearance, Amphlett mentioned there was the occasional criticism from the public, that besides 'the handsome and commodious character of the new premises attracting general attention... some of the despondent characters were disposed to criticise the proportions of the building as unnecessarily pretentious and extravagant'.⁹ During the bank's opening, the mayor, however, remarked about its prosperity and unifying role by stating that it was indeed the 'national bank of South Africa'.¹⁰

Memorandum of the Standard Bank

Because the Standard Bank was established in England in 1862, an official Memorandum and Articles of Association was published and

circulated to all banking branches in Southern Africa. Bankers had to adhere to the regulations, instructions and terminologies of the banking services. The first memorandum, signed by Robert Stewart in 1866, stipulated that where 'British supremacy has been proclaimed... every kind of banking business, the receiving of deposits of money, either in the United Kingdom or elsewhere' shall be enacted. It stated that the nominal capital of the company stood at £1,000,000, divided into 10,000 shares of £100 each, to be increased if needed to an amount not exceeding £2,000,000.¹¹

The banking structure would consist of directors and bankers with clear-cut directions on the dealings and practices on shares, capital and other miscellaneous banking matters. According to the pivotal archival group, the Limited Companies (LC), the

records on the bank's proprietors and shareholders reflect their full names in alphabetical order; as well as containing subsequently revised editions of the Memorandum. From his Standard Bank branch in Port Elizabeth, Lewis Michell, the joint general manager, corresponded with the Cape Colonial Secretary and provided a handwritten list of shareholders.

By 1881 the enormity of the Standard Bank became apparent, with its value increasing to a staggering £4,000,000, divided into 40,000 shares.¹² To ensure proper functioning, bankers could resort to the Memorandum for guidance, after which they could liaise with the head banking authorities in London for unforeseeable uncertainties. The Memorandum remained unchanged throughout, creating uniformity in their everyday dealings and provided stability to the bank.



J1780 Another angle of the Standard Bank building in Adderley Street

Through the boom and war years

The discovery of diamonds, gold and minerals in the interior, together with the enormous innovations brought about by the Industrial Revolution, created a greater drive towards the attainment of wealth and its financial management — of which banking served as the pillars. The Diamond Rush to Kimberley and the major share booms following from mining on the Witwatersrand in 1886, led to incalculable prosperity being generated.

Conversely, it also created grossly inflated market prices. By 1890 the unregulated stock market collapsed so catastrophically that even two presumably infallible banks, the Union Bank and the Cape of Good Hope Bank, had to close their doors. To save other banks from similar fates, the Cape Banking Act of 1891 was implemented, though merely seemed to further strengthen the already affluent, established banks at the Cape.¹³ The Standard Bank offered immediate assistance and eventually

had to amalgamate the liquidated banks, thereby further consolidating its increasingly dominant role. The bank attracted famed personalities such as the British magnate Cecil John Rhodes, who became a valued client.

With the advent of the South African War of 1899 to 1902 and the failure of the Jameson Raid in 1896 in Johannesburg, there was an influx of people and foreigners to the Cape. Despite war clouds gathering, this brought additional clientele for the Standard Bank headquarters in Cape Town; and the Standard Bank stood steadfast to continue rendering sound banking services. However, as a result of the tens of thousands of British and colonial forces, refugees and reinforcements docking at the Cape ports, the Standard in Adderley Street was facing tremendous administrative pressure.¹⁴ It was reported that soldiers, militiamen and magnates from the interior conducted so many transactions between Cape Town and Johannesburg that the bank was necessitated to function day and night.

After the war in 1902, the Standard Bank remained an influential institution. Despite the reluctance to exchange Transvaal Mint Coins and the inconvenience of their handling, the Standard eventually complied with governmental regulations.¹⁵ According to records in the Government House archival group, the distribution of British Silver Coin in the territories of South Africa with the promotion of inland transactions was agreed upon, yet disillusionment over the Kruger Coins from the Transvaal persisted in banking quarters. As a result of the inconvenience and expense of transacting Minted Coins from the Transvaal, described as 'an irritation to those who tender such coins in Colonies where it is not legal tender', bank authorities pushed the government for the withdrawal of Transvaal coinage.¹⁶

However, ongoing negotiations to continue its circulation were to be ascertained by the Cape Parliament. The Standard Bank accepted the proposal to continue circulating, and by 1910



AG 16088 Although the Standard Bank building was sold in 2015, it remains a landmark building in Cape Town

with the unification of South Africa, the trading in British silver and gold coinage was to be implemented throughout the Union. Thus, it attested to the effective voice of the Standard Bank on important politico-economic decisions.

Legacy of a bank

Despite the financial difficulties during the years of the Great Depression from 1929 to 1933 and the two world wars, the Standard Bank remained a renowned institution. With Cape Town evolving into a cosmopolitan city though, the bank's practical facilities became ever more limited by a lack of space, especially at its headquarters in Adderley Street. Its management was compelled to increase the building's capacity by adding two floors. A most outstanding addition was the bank's purchasing of a freehold situated at the corner of Adderley and Darling Streets in 1958 from the Municipality of Cape Town for the equivalent of R2 million.¹⁷

Apart from its ideal location in the central business district, bank patrons were often inconvenienced by noise from vehicles or crowds gathering and irregularities close to its entrance. In 1961 the bank made objections to the City Council on the grounds of the Red Cross Society's intention to hold

a street market outside its premises, but because of traffic congestion, the consequent ruling was made that no street markets be allowed which could lead to the detriment and disturbance of the bank.¹⁸

Throughout the ensuing years building additions, including alterations in 1920, were made which are depicted in a foldout plan housed at the WCARS repository.¹⁹ Administrative-related matters are predominantly contained in the archives of the Provincial Administration, Local Authorities (PAA), the Municipality of Cape Town (3/CT) and various archival groups.

Although no single archival group is available on the Standard Bank in Adderley Street specifically, records are for the most part dispersed in the various abovementioned archival groups with its references to be traced on the National Archives of South Africa (NAAIRS) database. The letters of Sir Lewis L Michell, the general manager in 1883, are contained in the Lewis Michell Collection in the Accessions, who was hailed for 'his sound knowledge of finance (that) gave the Standard Bank an outstanding reputation.'²⁰ These paper-based records are of irreplaceable value for information on the existence of the bank. Above all, records on banking are accessible for research

purposes to future generations of scholars. Also noteworthy is the availability of unique photographic depictions of the Standard Bank building mainly housed in the AG, Jeffrey's and Elliott's collections.

Citizens and tourists alike are still amazed in contemporary Cape Town by the architectural beauty of the building nicknamed the 'Queen of Adderley Street'. Although its practical status as headquarters of the Standard Bank shifted in 1953 to Pretoria, and its functionality dwindled to a mere 100 staff members by 2015 with the building being auctioned and indefinitely closed to the public, the building nonetheless adds to the nostalgia of the Adderley Street scenery. As for banking, following in the footsteps of its grandiose headquarters the Standard Bank was to expand to 43 branches across the Cape.

John R Shorten acknowledged the bank's legacy in his conclusive remarks that '...it is with a sense of pride and achievement that... the development of the city has been paralleled by the growth of the local business of Standard Bank'.²¹

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Motor and sensory behaviour: the case for continuing to write by hand

by Javier Marín Serrano, Miguel Ángel Pérez-Sánchez and Olena Vasylets

Eugene Chystiakov/*unsplash.com*



His friend, the composer Heinrich Köselitz, noted a certain stylistic change in his texts from that time onwards, as his prose became more terse and succinct. It appears that the content of some of his philosophy was also affected.

Embodied cognition

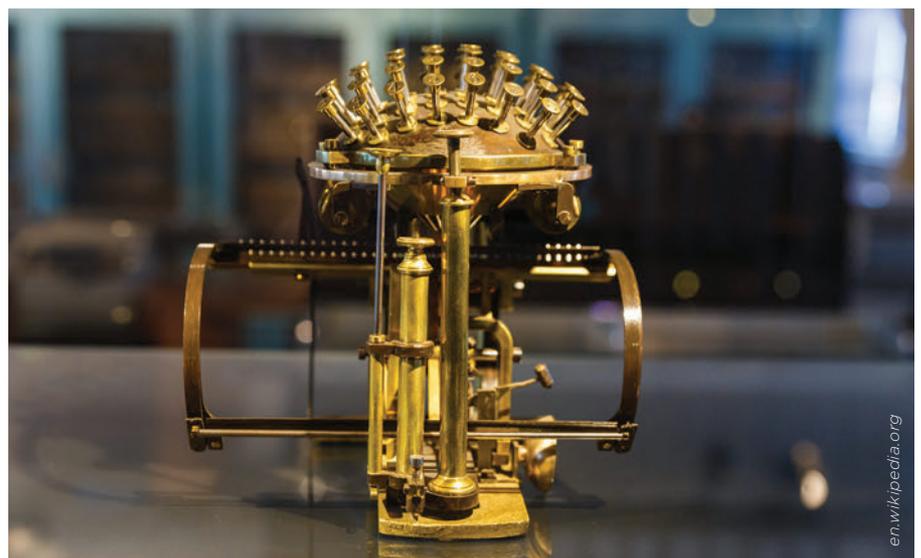
This change — a reminder that ‘the medium is the message’ — might be explained by new theories of embodied cognition. Modern cognitive science indicates that motor and sensory aspects of our behaviour have consequences that reach further than we may, at first, suspect.

Our minds are not filled with disembodied ideas. We need to take our bodies and senses into account to explain phenomena that are otherwise inexplicable.

In a study carried out almost two decades ago, subjects were presented with words carrying a positive connotation (such as ‘sweet’) or negative (such as ‘rubbish’). Subjects had to indicate whether a word was ‘good’ or ‘bad’ by moving a joystick. Half of the subjects were told to indicate that a word was ‘good’ by pulling the joystick towards their bodies, and the other half were told to indicate ‘good’ by pushing it away.

How does typing affect the way we process what we write, and what are the consequences of giving up handwriting at school age?

At the beginning of 1882, the philosopher Friedrich Nietzsche received a machine called the ‘Malling-Hansen Writing Ball’, a nifty little gadget covered with keys. The thinker’s eyesight had been getting worse, to the point where he could no longer write by hand. In March of the same year, he was able to continue writing thanks to this new instrument.



Malling-Hansen Writing Ball

To indicate that a word was 'bad', the subjects made the opposite movement to 'good'. A consistent correlation was observed between meaning and movement: the quickest responses were produced by the subjects who were told to indicate 'good' by pulling the joystick towards themselves and to indicate 'bad' by pushing it away.

This direct involvement of the body and senses in mental processes can explain how writing by hand (as opposed to other types of writing) helps us to learn letters and words. This is backed up by the results of various studies, which we will now present.

Memory ability

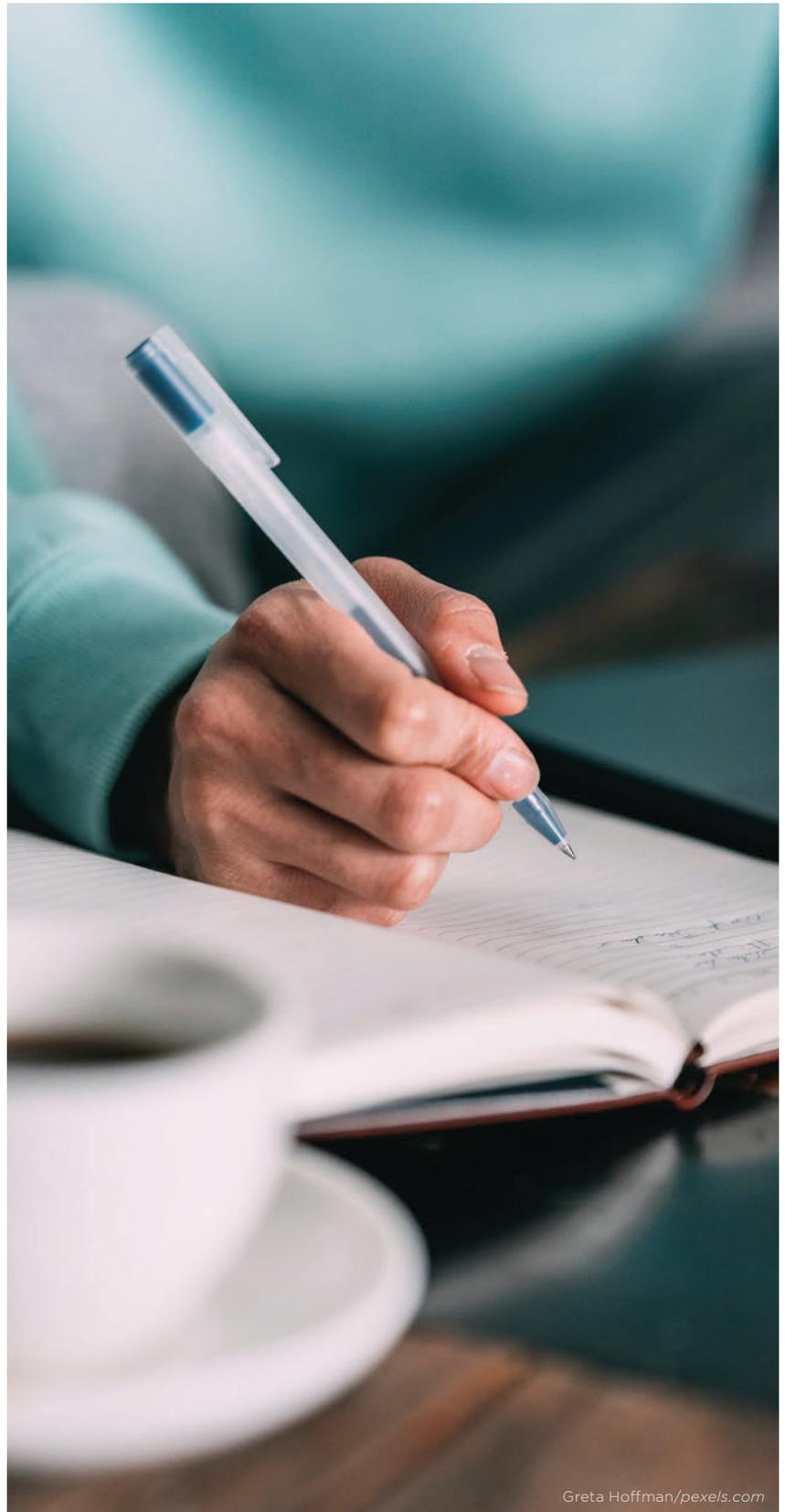
As an example, a 2021 study compared short and mid-term recall of words learned either by typing or writing by hand. Recall was better when words had been learned with a pencil and paper.

In another study, a small group of adults learned new symbols (from a language of Asian origin) that they then had to reproduce with a pencil or a keyboard. When they had finished learning the symbols, there were no differences in recall between the two methods, but the keyboard users forgot a significant amount of what they had learned as time passed by.

Some experts suggest that learning by pen and paper is better because it is more 'embodied'. This means that it involves a set of more complex sensory-motor processes particular to each letter. This complexity leaves a more distinctive footprint in our memories and, as a result, makes things easier to memorise and recall, much like how a two-metre-tall supermodel might be more memorable than someone with average features.

Mental resources

Another benefit to writing by hand is that it puts less strain on our brains. Typing puts more demand on our mental resources, causing difficulties when it comes to word memorisation tasks. The increased mental load is due to the greater speed at which words are typed. This, in turn, means there are more individual elements to process over a certain period.



Greta Hoffman/pexels.com



The idea of complexity appears in other studies to explain similar differences when writing in a second language. Other authors have also suggested that more mental resources are used because writing is more complex when performed on the keyboard.

Planning and composition

The way we write can also affect higher levels of word processing in our brains. It is thought that the type of writing sets the pace of cognitive processing — if the writing process is slow and cumbersome it can interfere with the higher processes on which it depends, causing ideas and relevant information to be forgotten.

In several experiments, an improvement has been noted in overall written composition (quality, length and fluidity of text) after subjects completed handwriting exercises. In the same vein, a study has shown that students plan their texts more carefully when using pen and paper than they do when using a keyboard.

Longer and better quality texts

Nevertheless, it must be recognised that keyboards have also brought us many advantages. For example, some meta-analyses comparing handwritten texts with those written on a computer found the latter to often be longer and better composed.

In addition, people with literacy problems are those who feel these benefits most acutely. However, some of these studies lack experimental rigour, which raises doubts about their clarity and general usefulness.

A disembodied mind

The Matrix film tetralogy presents the idea of a mind without a body. But a disembodied mind that exists only in the virtual world is much like Plato's cave. The torches that cast shadows on the wall are replaced by computer simulations. In real life, however, the mind performs its operations alongside the functioning of our entire body.

We are closer to a purely symbolic, disembodied mind when we type on the keyboard (a device that works

with minimal sensory involvement) than when we put pen to paper, as our cognitive system reacts differently depending on the motor and sensory inputs that we experience.

Implications for education

The results of these studies all indicate that eliminating handwriting from school — as has reportedly been done in Finland — is not a good idea. This does not mean that we should stop using keyboards, not even in infancy. However, we must be on the lookout for future studies on this topic, and act on their repercussions in the education sector as promptly as possible.

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The Research Section: an information hub for all

by the Research Section



What we do

Don't know the history of your library?

The Research Section can assist by revisiting previously published annual reports, annual reviews and every issue of the **Cape Librarian** (which dates back to 1957); and every other historical resource on hand to find out more about your library. This handy reference service is freely available to all librarians and municipalities in the Western Cape.

DCAS facilities web map

The facilities web map provides the locations of all the facilities of the Department of Cultural Affairs and Sport (DCAS), that include libraries, museums, cultural facilities, regional sports centres, provincial archives and the MOD Centres. The main purpose of the user-friendly map is to provide citizens of the Western Cape with updated and current information on all DCAS facilities. The Research Section is the custodian of all library facilities displayed on the interactive web map,

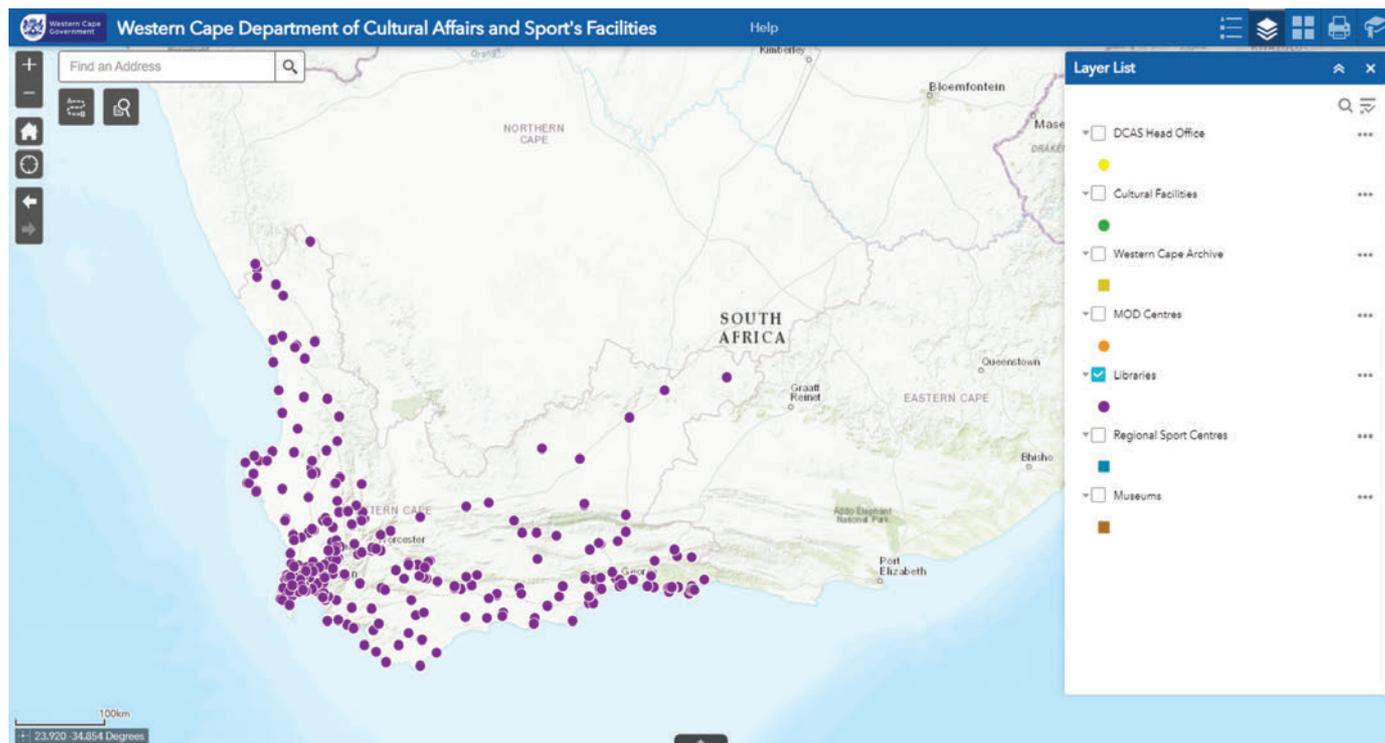
which enables users to locate detailed information about their closest library service point in the province via their mobile smart device or computer. This online resource also gives users the capability to search for a library, its contact details and operating hours.

To view all public libraries on the DCAS facilities web map, please visit: <https://westerncapegov.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=de857cf9ae344f58b8f8114a9b108161>

National days calendar

This calendar highlights the various days, weeks and months – locally and internationally – that are of interest to libraries. These include events like Africa Month, South African Library Week, and World Storytelling Day. The calendar is an invaluable tool that informs

The Research Section is a component within the Information Services Unit of the Western Cape Library Service (WCLS). Its primary functions include Information Management, conducting research on concepts applicable to public libraries and other role players in the LIS sector, as well as compiling statistical reports and information of public libraries in the Western Cape.



DCAS facilities web map

library users and assists library staff with themed displays. It is distributed both electronically and in hard copy in English, Afrikaans and isiXhosa to all the public libraries in the province.

WCLS Annual Review
The section also produces and

distributes the Annual Review to all public libraries in the Province. It contains statistical data and information summarised in charts, graphs and spreadsheets, that are vital to the functions and operational outputs of the WCLS and serves as a key research/informational tool for public libraries and management.

Feel free to contact us for electronic copies of all WCLS Annual Reviews produced between 1955 and 2022/23.

NATIONAL DAYS 2024

Western Cape Government FOR YOU

Month	Day	Event	
JANUARY	1	New Year's Day	
	2	Matrimonial and Engagement Day	
	3	International Day of the African Woman Day	
	FEBRUARY	1	World Agribusiness Day
		2	World Water Day
		3	World Cancer Day
		4	World Day of the Girl
		5	World Day of the Girl Scout
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MARCH	1	Zero Discrimination Day	
	2	World Water Month	
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APRIL	1	World Autism Awareness Day	
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MAY	1	International Mother Language Day	
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	12	International Day of the Girl	

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Western Cape Government FOR YOU

Department of Culture, Arts and Sport

Annual Review/Jaarorsig/Uhlalutyo loNyaka luka-2022/23

Western Cape Library Service

WCLS Annual Review

Western Cape Government FOR YOU

Community Profiles 2021
Profiling public libraries in the Western Cape

Community Profiles

Annual National Days calendar



The main functions of the Research Section include Information Management, conducting research on concepts applicable to public libraries and other role players in the LIS sector, as well as compiling statistical reports and information of all public libraries in the Western Cape

Establishment dates of public libraries in the Western Cape

Research into each library's establishment date and overall history is an ongoing project. To date, the section has discovered and verified the establishment dates of 86% of all public libraries in the Western Cape. This list of establishment dates of affiliated libraries of the WCLS, as well as the references for each date and library listed, is also available for public viewing.

Cape Librarian articles: profiling public libraries

The Research Section regularly compiles articles for the **Cape Librarian** magazine that celebrates and markets all new and refurbished public libraries and highlight milestone birthdays. These contain the history of each profiled library, photographs, floor plans, size, operating hours, contact

details, staff complement, special features, interesting facts and activities offered by each library.

WCLS policy database

The WCLS policy database, which comprises more than 150 policy and legislation documents, is managed, stored and maintained by the Research Section. The database includes all policy, legislative and procedural documents applicable to the WCLS. It is freely available and accessible in both electronic and hard copy format to all interested LIS staff and stakeholders.

Contact details of public libraries

Compiling and maintaining all contact lists containing the information of all public library service points in the Western Cape is one of the main functions and the sole responsibility

of the Research Section. This task ensures that the operating hours, contact details, contact persons, GPS coordinates, email and physical addresses, total number of all public libraries, municipal LIS offices and regional libraries are accurate.

How can you assist us?

As a librarian, you can help the Research Section of the Western Cape Library Service to update your public library's details by emailing any new or additional information, corrections and requests to Researchsection@westerncape.gov.za. This will improve the quality of our information, contribute to good data governance and promote citizen-centricity.



Research studies/resources available

	Title	Conducted	Abstract
1	School libraries in the Western Cape: a situational analysis	March 2012	The literature research explored the current situation of school libraries in South Africa, with a special interest in the situation in the Western Cape. This study aimed to seek areas of collaboration between school libraries and public libraries in the Western Cape. A full survey was not possible owing to time constraints; therefore, a literature study was conducted.
2	Dual Purpose school/ community libraries in the Western Cape	June 2012	This study aimed to investigate schools in the Western Cape with and without infrastructure for libraries and schools. Costing of various models of dual-purpose school/community libraries are explored in this study, which also includes a profile of Nieuwe Drift School/Community Library, a dual-purpose library located in Drakenstein.
3	Library and information science training in South Africa	November 2012	This study explored the status of Library and Information Science Training in South Africa. A survey was undertaken of all tertiary institutions in the country, and it was found that the number of library schools in the country was dwindling and that there were only ten library schools in South Africa with even fewer offering traditional librarianship training.
4	Community profiles 2014	2014	An extensive survey was conducted to gather data of all 354 public library service points in the Western Cape to profile individual libraries and the communities they serve. This was done by means of a structured questionnaire sent out to 24 municipal library managers in the rural areas of the Western Cape as well as the six district managers in the City of Cape Town metropolitan area, who coordinated the collection of information for all libraries under their control. Additional information was sourced from Stats SA (Census 2011) as well as from different sections within the Western Cape Library Service (WCLS) and the City of Cape Town Library and Information Services (CoCTLIS). Other contributors include the Western Cape Education Department (WCED) and selected literary sources.
5	Reader survey: Cape Librarian	2016/17	This reader survey was conducted to establish whether the Cape Librarian magazine continues to fulfil its mandate towards its target market and to gather input into possible improvements, or additions to the content of the magazine.
6	Community profiles 2017	2017	The study seeks to profile all Western Cape library service points and the relevant aspects of the communities they serve. The information in the document was compiled from databases available in e-format, which were constantly updated, as well as additional information obtained using a questionnaire sent out to each library service point where librarians were allowed to update existing data that were collected during the Community Profile Survey of 2014.
7	Fines and tariffs charged in public libraries in the Western Cape: a comparative study	2017	This study investigated the variance of fines and tariffs charged by different public libraries in the Western Cape. A comprehensive template including all possible categories for which users are charged fees in Western Cape libraries was designed to capture the data. Municipal library managers of all 25 municipalities of the Western Cape were asked to submit their latest fines and tariff sheets for libraries under their jurisdiction and were asked to provide additional information where these schedules were not very detailed.
8	Profiling public library staff in the Western Cape: a survey	2017	This study profiled the staff complements in all Western Cape libraries by looking at the different post designations for staff in libraries, the employment status of the workforce, hours worked, demographic profile of all employees, their educational levels, the proportion of qualified versus unqualified staff, working experience in a library environment, remuneration. Lastly, it analysed the differences — if any — of the staff profile working in rural libraries versus that of staff working in the metropole City of Cape Town. The study is a quantitative survey and information was gathered using a detailed questionnaire sent out to all municipal library managers.

Research studies/resources available (continued)

	Title	Conducted	Abstract
9	ICT guidelines for public libraries in the Western Cape	March 2018	This document set the framework for terms and conditions of use of the ICT services, equipment and infrastructure in public libraries by the public. These guidelines inform municipalities to create their own ICT policies regarding public access.
10	ICT patron guidelines	March 2018	Procedure for linking the ICT computers for public use on SLIMS in public libraries.
11	Norms and standards for public libraries in the Western Cape	July 2019	Norms and standards can be defined as criteria to implement and assess effective public library services. The main purpose of library standards is to permit objective measurement and assessment and to provide professional guidelines. Standards entail a pattern for model procedures, a benchmark for assigning values and an instrument to facilitate decisions and actions for current and future needs and equitable service delivery. This document addresses library functions, staff, facilities, Internet access, library collections and library hours.
12	Provincial library services in South Africa: a comparative study	November 2019	This study intended to obtain data about the staff complement of all nine centralised provincial library services in South Africa; and to compare library service staffing in the provinces using the demographic indicators of gender, age, population group, further remuneration, highest educational level and employment status. In addition, the study gathered data on the number of public libraries, library membership, annual circulation and stock totals for each province. The nine provincial library services in South Africa are situated in the Western Cape, Gauteng, Free State, Mpumalanga, North West, Northern Cape, Eastern Cape, KwaZulu-Natal and Limpopo.
13	Insider's view	2019	This publication seeks to deliver a better understanding of the functions and responsibilities of the different units within the WCLS. It describes the functions behind the scenes to provide a clear understanding and appreciation of the work provided by this directorate. In short, it tells the story of what we do and how we do it.
14	Community profiles 2021	2021	This study profiled the staff complement in all Western Cape libraries by looking at various indicators namely job titles of library staff; employment status, gender, age group, population group, highest educational level achieved, staff levels, floor size (m ²) and the establishment dates of public libraries in the province.
15	National Days calendars	2022/3/4	A calendar list of national, international and special days, weeks and months in 2022-2024, compiled by the Research Section of the WCLS. Libraries may use this list to identify themes for creating promotional events and creating displays.
16	WCLS Policy Database	2022	An electronic database/folder that lists and contains all acts, bills, policies, legislation, strategies, directives, procedures, and guidelines applicable to the WCLS and the wider LIS community.
17	WCLS Annual Reviews	1955-2022/23	The Annual Review is a valuable research and information tool for public libraries, library managers and stakeholders in the Library and Information Service environment. It provides statistical data, graphs, spreadsheets and information analysis of the operational outputs of the public library sector in the Western Cape.

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Genadendal Public Library turns 200

by the Research Section



The historic village of Genadendal, situated in the Overberg between Caledon and Greyton, was established by George Schmidt in 1737 and is the oldest mission station in the country. Today it boasts the oldest public library in the Western Cape and second oldest public library in South Africa.

The South African Public Library, today known as the National Library of South Africa, situated in central Cape Town, was the first library to be established in South Africa. It was officialised by a government proclamation on 20 March 1818. The year 1822 also saw the establishment

of a public library — presumably a subscription library — in Graaff-Reinet. As the National Library of South Africa is no longer a public library, Graaff-Reinet Public Library became the oldest public library in South Africa; and the one at Genadendal the second oldest. It turns 200 years old in 2024.

In planning for the then-future library, the missionary Hans Hallbeck wrote: 'I am contriving to fit a room for a library, which I consider a necessary appendage to our school and church here at Genadendal. I know it would be a gratification to many a traveller and make no doubt but what we should obtain contributions in books, et cetera,

towards it. If you therefore, or any of your friends, could spare us any old or new books fit for our library, I should feel much obliged to you.'

Many responded and hundreds of books were sent from Holland, England and Germany. As a result, the *Genadendallers* became keen library users — as the report from Periodical Accounts (1838) stated: 'Our library is in a brisk circulation, so that we have not one volume on hand, for as soon as one is brought in, it is immediately issued to fresh applicants.'

Dated back to 1824, the first library books and archival material of the church were packed in cupboards and housed in the Blougrotte building, before they were moved to the Middle House, where the first book collection was held in a room that served as a library.

It was only in 1964 that a provincial public library under the CPA (Cape Provincial Administration) was established in the old wheat barn behind the water mill in Genadendal.

A new building was constructed in 1992 and is currently the public library in Genadendal, residing under the Theewaterskloof Municipality.



The first book collection was housed in the Middle House



The old wheat barn preceded the current library building

Statistics

1966

Stock total	6 400
Circulation	21 039

2024

Membership	757
Annual circulation	9 045
Stock total	12 109
ICT Computer circulation	388

Afrikaans fiction is the most popular category where the circulation is the highest.

References

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'n Skatkis van Afrikaanse avontuurverhale vir jong lesers: 'n kuur teen verveeldheid

deur Anél Taljaard



Wanneer 'n mens ledig is en onseker is waarvoor jy volgende lus is, is avontuur net die regte doepa.

Jong aksieliefhebbertjies wat kookwater-storielyne geniet en uitsien na daardie asemophou-oomblik, word saam met die karakters weggevoer — net om weer asem te skep wanneer die ontknoping die held uiteindelik tot rus laat kom na 'n verhaal se klimaks.

(Dis nou as jy nie self 'n plan hoef te maak om die wrede draak te oorwin nie.)

Behalwe as daar 'n opvolgboek is — want dan begin die aksie wéér van voor af. Soms maak die leser saam 'n epiese reis met die hoofkarakter mee, of 'n sending waar allerlei magiese karakters ontmoet en gevare getrotseer word.

As 'n ouer, versorger of onderwyser dié stories kan voorlees, is dit 'n bonus. Kom reis saam deur die skatkis van jong Afrikaanse avontuurverhale en herontdek die vreugde van verbeeldingsvlugte.

Suidooster-draak (LAPA, 2021) deur Dianne Hofmeyr is 'n inspirerende Afrikaanse vertaling van die Engelse titel, **Storm Dragon** deur Nandi Lessing-Venter. Dit handel oor 'n oupa, sy kleinkind en hul hond. Terwyl die wilde Kaapse Suidooster ruk oor die turkooisblou see, trotseer oupa en kleinkind die strand. Gewapen met 'n

teleskoop en skild maak hulle allerlei avontuurlike ontdekkings — soos die draak se juwele, sy spore, 'n babadrakie en 'n seerowerskip.

Dis 'n storie wat aanklank sal vind by jong lesertjies, want die ryk beeldskepping word verder versterk deur die swiepende bewegings in die besonderse illustrasies deur Carol Thompson. Plofwoorde soos 'Doef! Daf! Wip! Spring!' verleen trefkrag aan onverwagse oomblikke in die verhaal. As prentboek is dit 'n viering van speel en verbeelding wat maklik by jong lesers sal aanklank vind.

Nog 'n prentboek en versamelbundel met treffende kleur-illustrasies is **Goue lint stories: Die mooiste avontuurverhale** (Human & Rousseau, 2020) oorvertel deur Stefania Leonardi Hartley en vertaal deur Kobus Geldenhuys. Die sponsgevoerde buiteblad is 'n uitnodiging vir klein handjies om die boek te ontdek. Jong lesers tussen ses en nege jaar word bekendgestel aan verskeie klassieke avontuurverhale soos *Om die wêreld in 80 dae*, *Robinson Crusoe*, *Lancelot se avonture*, *Gulliver en die Lulliputers*, *White Fang*, *Die drie musketiers*, *Tarzan*, *Skateiland*, *Reis na die middel van die aarde*, *Tom Sawyer* en *Huckleberry Finn* en *Sandokan, die tier van Maleisië*.

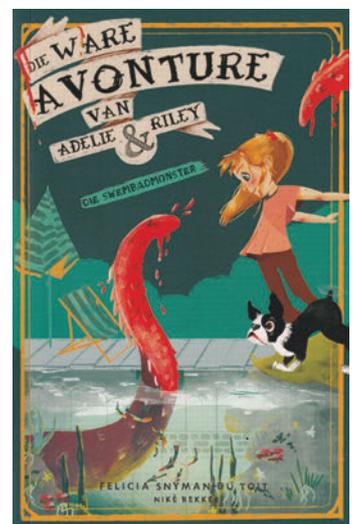
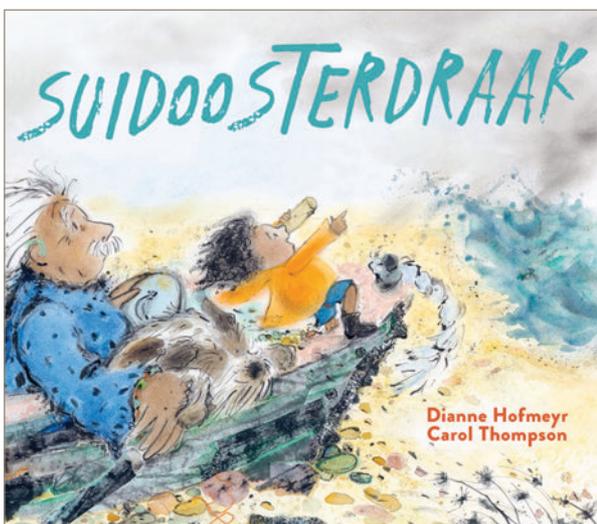
Die verhale is prettig en geskik vir voorlees, aangesien die stories verkort is en op 'n eenvoudige wyse aangebied word om kinders op fantastiese ontdekkingsreise te neem wat

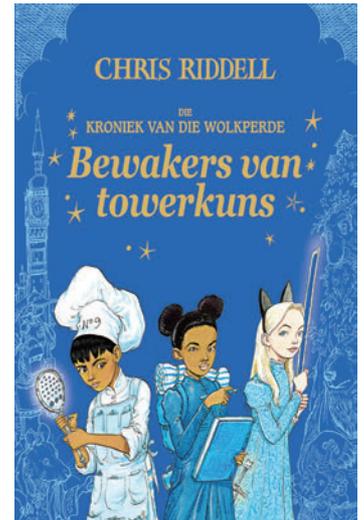
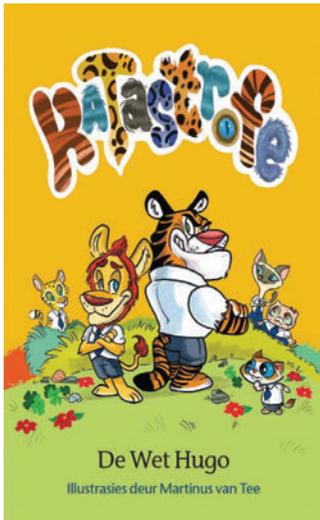
avontuurlustigheid sal aanwakker. Dit is veral geskik as leesboek vir beginners.

In die reeks **Die ware avonture van Adelie en Riley** vertel Felicia Snyman-Du Toit verhale oor 'n dogtertjie en haar hond. In Boek Een, **Die swembadmonster** (LAPA, 2023), baljaar Adelie en haar geliefde Boston-terrier, Riley, in die swembad. In 'n droomoomblik word hulle verplaas na Pegasus, die Eiland van die Eenhorings waar 'n monster met slymerige tentakels haar (opblaasbare) Eenhorings verwurg. Adelie neem wraak. Sy en Riley gaan in die nag terug om die monster te verslaan. Die volgende oggend sien haar pa daar is iets vreemds aan die gang by die swembad! 'n Verbeeldingryke storie met fantasie- en verrassende elemente.

In Boek Twee, **Die Amadidas** (LAPA, 2023), speel Adelie en Riley op die klimraam in die agterplaas wanneer hulle na 'n denkbeeldige Amasone verplaas word. In die bosse en bome van die woud is groot, vyandige voëls. Die twee moet spook om dié gevleuelde bedreigings se aanvalle af te weer. By die huis is Ma en Pa onbewus van die gevare en dink die twee speel bloot net lekker saam. Kinders sal self moet lees om uit te vind of dit net fantasie is, want wat beteken die groot blertse op die klimraam dan?

De Wet Hugo se **Katastrofe** (Human & Rousseau, 2022) is 'n humoristiese avontuurverhaal. Die oulike foto-muur van die verskillende kat-karakters met





hul insiggewende name is reeds 'n aanduiding van die fyn humor en aksie wat wag. So is daar Juffrou Katarina Katoliek, die skoolhoof van Laerskool Katedraal en Leo, die leeuwepie, seun van Burgemeester Katz.

In Katjiesfontein is Mevrou Mynie Koen se geld, wat sy vir die talentkompetisie geskenk het — van haar lessenaar afgesteel. Leo vermoed dat Spiertier, die boelie, iets daarmee te doen het, want Leo wéét tiere beteken net moeilikheid. Maar hy wonder ook oor Gato, die nuwe, vreemde leerling van Katalonië. Wanneer die aanvanklike bewyse daarop dui dat Leo die dief is, moet hy vinnig daarvan werk maak om sy onskuld te bewys. Hy wil Spiertier uitvang. Intussen hou almal hulle asem op oor wat verder by die talentkompetisie gaan gebeur.

Leo leer 'n les oor aanvaarding en om nie ander te oordeel sonder al die feite nie. Samewerking en vriendskap is ook 'n belangrike tema. **Katastrofe** is 'n genotvolle leesboekie, veral geskik vir lesers tussen 6 en 9 jaar wat reeds onafhanklik kan lees. Dit kan ook as voorleesboek gebruik word deur ouers, grootouders of onderwysers. Die teks is lekker groot gedruk met swart-en-wit illustrasies deur Martinus van Tee wat die aksie, humor en karakters beklemtoon. Dit is ook in Engels beskikbaar as **Catfield!**

Daniëlla van Heerden se jong tienerverhaal, **As jy droom** (Pan MacMillan, 2021) is gebaseer op 'n ware

verhaal oor 'n jong Suid-Afrikaanse tienermeisie se droom om 'n vliegtuig saam met ander tieners te bou en daarmee vanaf Kaapstad na Kaïro te vlieg. Megan Werner wou ander tieners in Afrika inspireer om ook hul drome na te volg — veral omdat sy op skool geterg is oor haar droom. Haar liefde vir vliegtuie is van jongs af gevorm.

As deel van die *U-Dream Global Project Cape To Cairo* het die groepie tieners die vliegtuig oor 'n tydperk van 'n jaar, onder toesig van ingenieurs, gebou. Daarna moes hulle dit na en van Kaïro vlieg. Die avontuurlike tog is vol spanning en allerlei gebeurlikhede; en vertel van dapperheid, deurstellingsvermoë, maar ook hartseer: Megan se pa is oorlede in 'n vliegongeluk in Tanzanië tydens die terugvlug.

As jy droom is 'n impakvolle verhaal wat sy gehoor inspireer om te reik na die sterre. Dis geskik vir lesers tussen 8 en 13 jaar oud.

'n Debuutverhaal vol historiese avonture is **Die geheim van die bloedsteen** (Protea, 2021) deur Antoinette Venter en is ook die eerste boek in die *Kinders van die gode*-reeks wat handel oor antieke gode.

Hierdie verhaal speel af in die antieke Roomeinse tyd. Zeno is 'n doodgewone jong seun van Benoni — of so dink hy. Eendag is hy in sy professor-oom se kantoor wanneer daar iets onverklaarbaar gebeur. Hy word skielik na 'n ander tydperk weggevoer na Pompeii in antieke

Rome waar die Alveoli-draak, wat in die Vesuvius-vulkaan bly, dreig om die stad te verwoes. Zeno vind uit dat hy 'n afstammeling is van Vulcanus, die Romeinse god van vuur — en moet hy saam met die kinders van ander Romeinse gode soos Minerva (godin van wysheid), Mars (god van oorlog) en Venus (godin van liefde) 'n plan beraam om die draak te verslaan voordat die stad verwoes word.

Pragtige illustrasies in swart en wit sketse geskep deur Theodore Key verleen afronding aan dié avontuurverhaal vol intrige geskik vir die ouderdomsgroep ses tot nege jaar.

Chris Riddell se **Bewakers van towerkuns** (Protea, 2021) is vertaal deur Kobus Geldenhuys. Dit is die eerste van 'n nuwe tweeledige avontuurreeks genaamd *Die kroniek van die wolkeperde*. Die skrywer is in Kaapstad gebore en 'n bekroonde Britse illustreerder- en skrywer. Hy is in 2015 aangewys as Brittanje se *Children's Laureate*.

Riddell verweef 'n unieke fantasieverhaal in die Koninkryk van Thrynne waar die sprokies buite beheer raak en towerkrag op onverwagse plekke voorkom. Laasgenoemde is verbode en bring gevaar, want daar is diegene wat dit vir eie gewin wil misbruik; teenoor dié wat dit vrees en wil vernietig.

In die dorpie en stede is daar dreigemente van geweld wanneer Koning Rot en sy volgelinge inwoners afpers en die Klokmaker se bliksoldate tirannie afdwing. Diep in die woud

is die towerbome en reuse wat daar wegkruip, ook nie veilig nie. In hierdie fantasieverhaal staan net drie gewone kinders met drie unieke toorvoorwerpe tussen die behoud van toorkuns en die uitwissing daarvan: Zam, Febe en Batseba onderneem 'n tog om die vyande van die misterieuse wolkeperde op te spoor en te verslaan. Hulle moet leer om saam te werk ten einde te kan terugveg. Elke nuwe hoofstuk stel 'n nuwe karakter bekend totdat die storielyn uitloop op 'n spannende slot. Die boek is veral geskik vir lesers tussen die ouderdomme van nege en 14 jaar.

Die *Aksieheld Austin*-reeks is welbekend onder jong avontuur lesers en is geskryf deur die bekroonde en gewilde outeur Fanie Viljoen. Ewald is nog in die laerskool, maar is reeds bekend as die ster van die gewilde *Austin*-aksieprente. In die films is hy die dapper held wat teen die skelms moet veg met sy blitsvinnige vuiste. In Boek Vier, **Doodskreet van die Dino's** (LAPA, 2021), bevind Ewald en sy vriend Cardo hulle diep in 'n Afrika-woud waar die nuutste *Austin*-rolprent verfilm word.

Die twee maats is beïndruk deur die drie groot lewensgetroue T-rex-robotte wat ook in die film optree. Dan loop dinge skeef wanneer die robot-dino's uithaak en deur die woud begin jaag. Die oerwoud is dig en hulle verloor koers.

Die swart-en-wit tekening is raakvat om die aksie uit te beeld. Lesers rondom die ouderdom van 9 jaar sal die

beloofde avontuur en spanning geniet. Ander boeke in die reeks is **Operasie sabotasie** (2017), **Nag van grille** (2018) en **Onheil op Skedelbaai** (2019).

'n Historiese tienerreeks in twee dele met die Middeleeue as agtergrond, is **Die brief vir die koning** (Protea, 2021) met die opvolg **Geheime van die Wilde Woud** (Protea, 2021) wat uit Nederlands vertaal is deur Daniel Hugo.

'Antonia "Tonke" Johanna Willemina Dragt (gebore 12 November 1930) is 'n Nederlandse kinderboekskrywer en -illustreerder. **De brief voor de Koning** is in 1963 bekroon met die *Nederlandse Prijs voor het Beste Kinderboek* en met die *Griffel der Griffels 1955-2004*. In 1976 is die *Staatsprijs voor Jeugliteratuur* aan Tonke Dragt toegeken. Die Nederlandse film **De brief voor de Koning** verskyn in 2008, en die sesdelige Netflix-reeks, *The letter for the king*, in 2020.' (Uitgewersprikkel)

Die titel is in 16 tale vertaal en was uiters gewild in Europa in die sestigerjare.

In die eerste boek, **Die brief vir die koning**, ontmoet die leser die 16-jarige Tiuri wat sy nagwaak en eed van stilsweye saam met vier ander jongmanne uitvoer op die vooraand van hul ridderskap. Ná 'n klop aan die deur van die kapel waar hulle saamwag, bring 'n ou man met 'n brief 'n dringende versoek om dit na die Swart-Ridder-met-die-Wit-Skild te neem.

Tiuri besluit om gehoor te gee, hoewel hy besef dit kan hom die

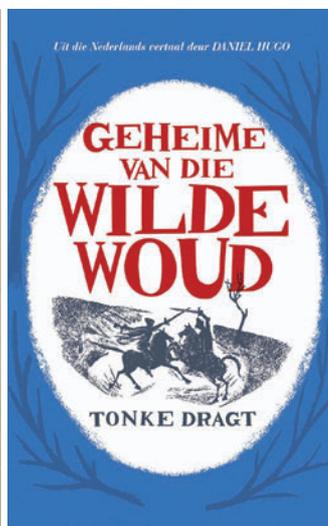
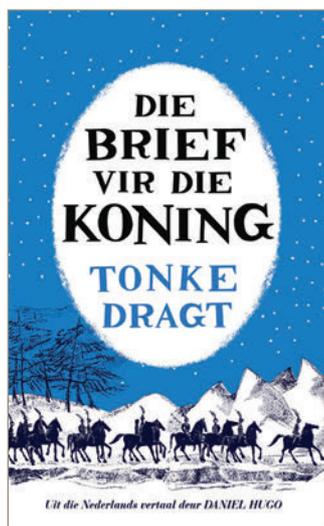
ridderskap kos, want hy verlaat sy nagwaak en verbreek sy eed van stilsweye. In die woud vind hy die Swart Ridder met noodlottige wonde. Met die uitblaas van sy laaste asem versoek die Swart Ridder vir Tiuri om die brief te neem na Koning Unauwen. Met die koning se vyande op sy spoor, raak Tiuri se taak al meer gevaarlik en word hy deur gewelddadige Rooi Ruiters agtervolg wat hom wil doodmaak.

Hy bly in 'n stryd gewikkel om sy sending te voltooi, terwyl dit onseker is of die mense wat hom help het ten volle vertrou kan word. Die verhaal begin aanvanklik stadig om die verhaallyn te vestig, maar kom daarna op dreef met verskeie naelby-intriges.

In Boek Twee, **Geheime van die Wilde Woud**, kry Tiuri opdrag om die vermiste ridder van die koning te gaan soek. Hy en sy vriend Piak pak die lewensgevaarlike tog aan na die betowerde woud. Daar word allerlei uiteenlopende stories oor die Wilde Woud rondvertel — van woeste rowers en bosgeeste, ruïnes en kronkelpaaie wat doodloop, tot die geheimsinnige Manne met Groen Klere.

Dis 'n avontuurverhaal propvol aksie; maar ook van 'n vreeslose held, dapperheid, vriendskap, lojaliteit, liefde en ridderlikheid — maar daar is ook skurke waarmee rekening gehou moet word.

In die jong tiener-trilogie, die *Jungu Josh*-reeks, is **Die goue kalbas** (Tafelberg, 2020) die debuuttitel en die eerste in die reeks — geskryf deur



Constant van Graan. Dit handel oor die 13-jarige Josh wat by sy tante op 'n plaas in Oos-Afrika woon nadat sy ma, Sylvia, skielik spoorloos verdwyn.

Wanneer Josh amper deur 'n vreemdeling ontvoer word, red die huishoudster, Doris, hom. Hy verkeer in gevaar en Doris raai hom aan om die wyse ou man, Ngandu, in sy grot te gaan soek. Sy stuur hom na die Kalimbula-Vallei om in 'n stat te gaan wegkruip. Daar ontmoet Josh die 15-jarige jongmeisie, Njeri, wat die vallei goed ken. Saam bereik hulle Ngandu wat hom opdrag gee om na die goue kalbas te gaan soek — maar Josh moet alleen gaan.

Hy vind die goue Kalbas, maar toe dit oopgemaak word, kry hy die verrassing van sy lewe. 'n Verhaal vol fantasie, avontuur, toorkuns en kits-aksie. Ideaal vir seuns tussen 8 en 13 jaar oud.

In Boek Twee, **Die kryger van Aboemondia** (Tafelberg, 2020), sukkel Josh om sy heerskappy te vestig as die koning van Kalimbula. Die teenwoordigheid van 'n misterieuse kryger met 'n donker verlede en donkerder motiewe, toets Josh se leierskap tot die uiterste. Sy oproep om hulp van die mistieke sifashama met hul rooi mantels en selfs sy aartsvyand, die heks Masjeba, loop op niks uit nie. Intussen wonder hy oor Sylvia, sy moeder, en hy weet nog nie dat sy daarin geslaag het om van die plaas te ontsnap nie. Sy is oppad om haar seun te red voor alles ontken, maar dis 'n stryd teen tyd en vyande.

Die waters van Wafu (Tafelberg, 2021) is die derde titel en slotverhaal in die *Jungu Josh*-aksiereeks. Josh vlug uit Liba en terwyl hy en Charlie rondwaal, word hulle verwelkom deur die kinders van die misterieuse Geel Woud. Hulle vertoef in Nuwe Jerusalem, die boordorpie waar Josh aanklank vind by hul leier, Jandja, 'n tienerseun soos hy. Wanneer Josh besef daar is probleme in Kalimbula, weet hy dis tyd om terug te gaan, al is daar vrae oor Njeri se verraad en die rede vir sy tante Verona se obsessie met die waters van Wafu.

Mark Huckerby en Nick Ostler skryf TV-reekse en boeke, het al Emmys gewen vir hulle werk en is ook al benoem vir Bafta-toekennings. Die trilogie genaamd *Redder van die ryk* is 'n tienerfantasiereeks wat uit Engels vertaal is deur Kobus Geldenhuys. Die storielyn handhaaf 'n vinnige pas vol aksie, humor en wilde avontuur. Dié spannende kombinasie behoort byval te vind by teësinnige lesers tussen 8 en 16 jaar oud.

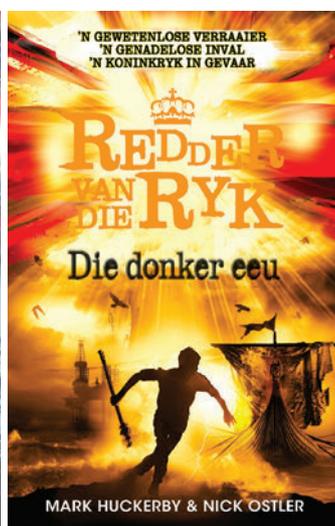
In die eerste boek in die reeks genaamd **Redder van die ryk** (Protea Boekhuis, 2018), ontmoet lesers vir Alfie, 'n tipiese 14-jarige tiener wat net probeer om in die skool te oorleef, maar hy is in werklikheid 'n prins en die troonopvolger van Groot-Brittanje. Hayley is nie so bevoorreg nie en vandat haar ma oorlede is bly sy by haar sieklike ouma. By die Toring van Londen kom sy onverwags 'n vreemde

swart skaal teë wanneer sy 'n mistieke geveg aanskou tussen 'n oeroue vyand, die mitiese Swart Draak- monster; en die legendariese held, Redder van die Ryk.

Die Redder blyk Alfie se pa te wees en sy ontydige dood verhef Alfie tot die volgende koning. Dit bring ook gevaar mee, want hy moet voldoen aan die eeue-oue geheime wat met die koningskap gepaardgaan, naamlik om self die Redder van die Ryk te word. Sombere temas soos Alfie se pa se dood, Hayley se ouma wat ouetehuis toe gaan en sy wat haarself in pleegsorg bevind, word op 'n ligter trant aangebied.

Die donker eeu (Protea Boekhuis, 2020) is Boek Twee in die **Redder van die ryk**-reeks. Na die groot geveg tydens Koning Alfie se inhuldiging, leer hy wat dit beteken om die koning van Groot-Brittanje te wees. Onrus vat pos wanneer 'n groep spookagtige Vikings verskyn. Alfie moet 'n plan bedink om hulp te kry.

Die koning se weermag (Protea boekhuis, 2020) is Boek Drie en die slothoofstuk in die *Redder van die ryk*-trilogie. Na die Redder se verlore stryd teen die Swart Draak bevind die Verenigde Koninkryk homself onder die heerskappy van Professor Lock, met spokerige Vikings en monsters wat die land oorgeneem het. Koning Alfie moet 'n weermag op die been bring om sy land terug te neem, maar dis 'n onbegonne taak. Terwyl Hayley 'n rebellie lei in die agterstrate van





Londen soek Alfie by vriende hulp. Sê nou dis presies wat die bese Lock wil hê hy moet doen?

Justin Fortuin, skattejagter (LAPA, 2020) deur Theresa van Baalen is Boek Een in 'n fantasie- en avontuurreeks waar lesers die jong Justin Fortuin ontmoet. Justin is glad nie lus om saam met sy ma by haar tannie, Mary, in haar stokou klipkasteel by die strand te gaan kuier nie. Hy verander egter gou van deuntjie wanneer Tannie Mary vir hom 'n pratende papegaai present gee. Saam beleef hulle allerlei opwindende avonture met geheimsinnige gebeure. Daar is temas van spoke, diewe, raaisels en skatte wat gevind moet word. Dis geskik vir jong lesers van 11 jaar en ouer en sal meestal deur seuns geniet word.

Justin kuier nog steeds saam met sy ma by Tannie Mary in die geheimsinnige Kasteel Boekanie in die tweede boek **Justin Fortuin, Seerower** (LAPA, 2020). Op 'n reënigerige dag ontdek Justin en sy vriend Liam geheime tunnels onder die kasteel. Wanneer hulle die derde tunnel verken, ontdek hulle 'n ou seilskip wat in 'n geheime baai geanker is. Iemand word op die skip gevange gehou en hulle wonder of die misterieuse kok dalk 'n seerower kan wees.

En dan is daar die kwessie van die erfgenaam van Kaptein Verwoes se skat wat verder 'n kinkel in die storie plaas. Justin besluit om die raaisels te ontfael. Theresa van Baalen is onder

meer bekend vir die *Sanri Steyn*-reeks wat 'n speurreeks vir meisies is. Daarteenoor is die *Justin Fortuin*-reeks op seuns gemik.

Jeff Kinney is 'n skrywer wat geen bekendstelling nodig het nie, want sy reeks oor Rowley Jefferson (*Diary of a Wimpy Kid*) is wêreldwyd bekend. In 'n bykomende reeks is Boek Een **Dagboek van 'n vreeslike vriendelike outjie: Rowley Jefferson se joernaal** (Puffin Books, 2019). Die reeks word vertaal deur Tinus Horn. Dieselfde komiese grafiese styl is teenwoordig in die groter lettertype teks met bypassende swart-en-wit sketse wat lesers ken uit *Dagboek van 'n Wimpy Kid*-faam.

Die reeks is geskik vir die ouderdomsgroep tussen 8 en 12 jaar.

'In **Dagboek van 'n vreeslike vriendelike outjie** skryf Greg se beste vriend, die vrolike Rowley Jefferson, oor sy wedervaringe en stem in om sy vriend se lewensverhaal neer te pen. (Greg gaan immers eendag ryk en beroemd wees, en dan gaan mense alles van hom wil weet). Maar dit wil lyk asof Rowley nie 'n goeie keuse vir die taak is nie, en sy "biografie" van Greg vertel meer van hom as van sy beste vriend. **Dagboek van 'n vreeslike vriendelike outjie: Rowley Jefferson se joernaal** laat lesers uit 'n ander hoek na die *wimpy kid*-wêreld kyk... ' (wordsworth.co.za)

Rowley Jefferson se vreeslike vriendelike avontuur (Puffin Books, 2020) is die tweede boek in dié

avontuur-reeks. Rowley wil 'n boek skryf wat sy ouers met trots saans vir hom sal kan voorlees. Dit moet 'n goeie boek wees en hy vra die hulp van sy beste vriend Greg om te help met die publikasie. Rowley is nie ingestel op beroemdheid of rykdom nie, maar Greg droom van somme geld en filmverwerkings; en die verhaal wissel tussen Rowley se storie en Greg se redigering daarvan. Die avontuur handel oor jong Roland wat saam met Garg die Barbaar vertrek op 'n soek-en-redding-sending om Roland se ma uit die mag van die Hardekwas Heksemeester te gaan red. Allerlei fiktiewe karakters en komiese avonture lei die verhaal telkens na 'n onverwagse wending wat die redigeringsessies in prettige vermaak laat ontfaard.

Boek Drie is **Rowley Jefferson se vreeslike vriendelike spookstories** (Puffin Books, 2021). 'Gryp 'n flitslig, trek die beddegoed oor jou kop en verdiep jou in Rowley Jefferson se verwronge verbeelding, wat onverwags ook skreeusnaaks is. Jy sal jou vasloop in zombies, vampiere, spoke en veel meer in hierdie komies vreesaanjaende verhale. Rowley se spookstories sal jou dalk laat lag, maar pasop dalk sal jy met die lig aan wil slaap.' (penguinrandomhouse.co.za)

Anél Taljaard is 'n boekkeurder by die Wes-Kaapse Biblioteekdiens

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gaan sy 'n nuwe lewe begin as bestuurder van 'n afgeleë gasteplaas. Niemand, nie eens haar ma, weet waarheen sy gaan nie.

Sy arriveer daar met net haar handsak, 'n tas en haar viool. Lukas Delport, die eienaar, is nie wat hy voorgegee het om te wees nie. Maria is onder valse voorwendsels daarheen gelok. In haar wildste drome kon sy nie voorspel sy sou die gevangene van 'n psigopaat word nie. Toegesluit in 'n donker kelder, is haar innerlike krag en vooraf kennis van 'n manipulerende eggenoot die enigste bates wat haar gaan help oorleef. **Katvis** is aangrypend... Alle vroue behoort die verhaal te lees.' (netwerk24.com, Phyllis Green)

ADULT FICTION

BOTES, Annelie

Katvis.- Penguin, 2023.

Die verhaal is 'n emosiebelaaide vertelling van 'n vrou wat ontsnap uit 'n huwelik van geweld, maar net weer in die kloue van 'n ander gewelddenaar beland.

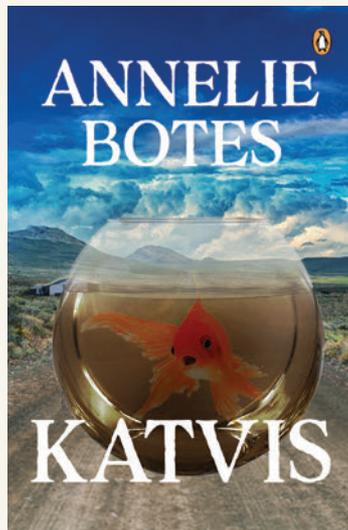
'... In **Katvis**, skryf Botes in haar eerste roman in 12 jaar oor die uiters aktuele onderwerp van 'n vrou wat ge-katvis word. Die hoofkarakter, Maria, breek weg uit haar perverse huwelik waarin sy emosioneel, seksueel en fisiek afgetakel is deur haar magsbehepte man. Ná die egskeiding

FREDERICKS, Brian

Hou jou oë oop: 'n roman.- Human & Rousseau, 2022.

'n Debuutroman deur dieselfde skrywer van die kortverhaalbundel **As die Cape Flats kon praat: Green Eyes en ander stories** (Human & Rousseau, 2020). Ricardo bly in Newtown saam met sy ma, sy oudste broer, Anton, en sy suster Tracy wat deurmekaar is met die bendelid Capone.

Dinge loop skeef en voor Ricardo sy oë uitvee, is sy ma en broer dood en hy bly in 'n wendyhuis in Capone se agterplaas. Hy wonder hoe hy gaan



oorleef as hy nie eens vir sy meisie, Mentha, kan voorsien nie. Dit is 'n diep ontstellende *bildungsroman* deur 'n bekroonde skrywer wat die psige van die jong Ricardo raakvat in sy omgewing uitbeeld. **AT**

KOTZE, Elizabeth

Hulle noem haar Carminda.- Kwêla Boeke, 2023.

Hierdie is 'n romantiese verhaal wat handel oor die spoke van die verlede deur die gang van die tyd. Dit speel af oor 'n aantal dekades en handel oor Skipper Mias Mulder wat hom terughaas vanaf Walvisbaai na die Eiland langs die Weskus, waar hy verneem dat 'n ander man by sy verloofde vlerksleep. Vir dié daelange tog leen hy 'n motorfiets. Oppad ontmoet hy 'n gestrande vrou, Carminda, en hy gee haar 'n geleentheid agterop die motorfiets, maar algaande word haar tragiese verlede geopenbaar. Dis 'n verhaal van liefde wat alles oorwin ten spyte van probleme uit die verlede wat telkens weer opnuut kop uitsteek. **AT**

MDA, Zakes

The Zulus of New York.- Umuzi, 2019.
'Mda tells the story of a group of Zulus who were sent to England and later the United States in the 1880s by William Leonard Hunt, also known as The Great

Farini, to perform as human curiosities or freak shows in his popular circus.

'The novel is centered on the life of one of these Zulu performers, tracing it from Ondini in KwaZulu, where he was one of the two highly-esteemed warriors who ritually bathed King Cetshwayo in his sacred Inkatha hut, to his escape after a botched tryst with one of the harem women, to his sojourn in Cape Town where he is recruited by The Great Farini, to his performances in London, and finally to New York where he falls into unrequited love with a Dinka woman, another caged exhibit, said Mda.

'The historical events are based on an era during the height of Zulu popularity, after their victory over the British at the Battle of Isandlwana (1879). It was during this time that the Zulus performed at some major venues including Madison Square Gardens in New York.' (*thejournalist.org.za*)

STUART, Douglas

Shuggie Bain.- Picador, 2020.

'While Glaswegian Stuart's first novel begins with, ends with, and is titled for young Shuggie Bain, the book, like Shuggie himself, revolves around Shuggie's mother, Agnes. In the 1980s and early 1990s in Glasgow, Agnes can't hide her alcoholism any more than Shuggie can fit in with other kids.

'They and Shuggie's taxi driver father, the original Shug, live in an apartment with Agnes' parents until Shug moves them into a moldy little house on the outskirts of a defunct coal mine and jumps the family ship. Left to her own devices in gloomy, gossipy Pithead, Agnes maintains an elegant appearance and a round-the-clock buzz, while Shuggie becomes an expert in studying their meager government benefits and his mother's many moods. He finds a precarious foothold as Agnes' caretaker and slowly builds his defenses against those who call him "a wee poof" and do him physical harm.

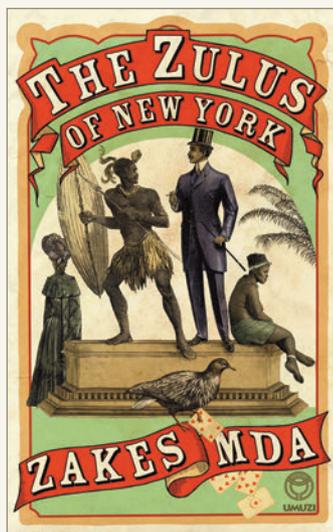
'Perfect for getting lost in, Stuart's richly wrought coming-of-age saga is a trenchant portrayal of poverty and addiction, true to life and steeped in its era, setting, and dialect.'

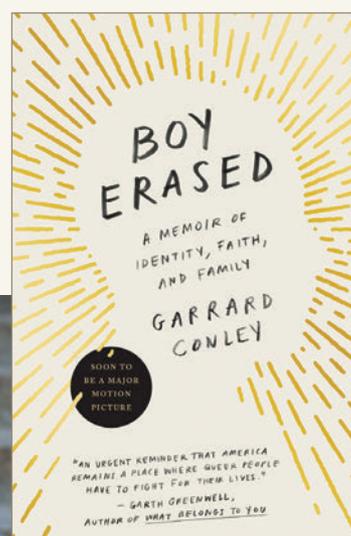
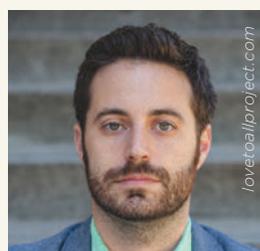
(*booklistonline.com*, Annie Bostrom)

TRIGIANI, Adriana

Kiss Carlo.- Simon, 2018.

'Trigiani's 13th adult novel is set in early 1950s Philadelphia and follows the lives of two families, the Palazzinis and the Borellis. The Palazzini brothers, Dom and Mike, each run a cab company but do not speak to each other owing to a feud. Curmudgeon Dom is tempered by his sweet wife, Jo. Their three sons and their wives, and Dom and Jo's





nephew, Nicky Castone — also live in the family home.

'In the same neighborhood, Sam Borelli and his daughter, Calla, struggle to keep their small theatre running. Nicky moonlights as a stagehand and affectionately spars with Calla. Things get a little crazy when Nicky breaks up with his fiancée and flees to Roseto, Pennsylvania, to avoid her murderous father. A series of events involving both families and a cast of affecting secondary characters drive the narrative.

'While this may sound like a drawing room farce, the humour and heart of the story shine through. Entering the world of the Palazzinis and the Borellis is like taking a trip to a simpler time when families still lived, loved, and fought together, bound by tradition and affection. This truly pleasurable read will strike a chord with fans of *Fannie Flagg*.' (*queenslibrary.org*)

WILLIAMS, Tia

Seven days in June.- Quercus, 2021. 'While her previous book, **The perfect find** (2016), is being adapted for film, Williams proves once again that there is much more to romance novels than meet-cutes and other reliable tropes. As she deepens the genre with multilayered characters living full and interesting lives beyond

their burgeoning romance without skimping on explicitly perfect sex scenes, her characters embody this storytelling duality.

'Eva Mercy is a best-selling erotica author and a single mom. Shane Hall is an award-winning literary novelist known to be reclusive. When they appear together on a book panel, the chemistry between them is obvious to everyone. What no one else knows is that 15 years ago they spent seven drug-infused days together falling desperately in love until Shane abandoned Eva with no explanation, an experience that has secretly shaped their books. Now, in another week in June, history seems fated to repeat itself.

'The well-crafted love story alone would delight readers, but Williams generously provides even more. She explores motherhood and womanhood, the passion to write, and the sometimes fine line between romance and heartache.'

(*booklistonline.com*)

ADULT NON-FICTION

CONLEY, Garrard

Boy erased: a memoir of identity, faith and family.- William Collins, 2018.

'In this exceptionally well-written memoir, Conley recounts his brief but harrowing time attending Love in

Action, an ex-gay ministry. After the man who raped him in college outs him to his Missionary Baptist parents, Conley enters a tailspin that results in seeking conversion therapy to both placate his parents and find his own peace.

'He nicely weaves the account of his two weeks at Love in Action with stories from his earlier life to present a moving picture of the struggle to be gay — or stop being gay — in a conservative, southern Christian community. Particularly effective is the representation of his parents, who sincerely believe this is best for their son, and his recounting of this world slowly losing its grip on him. Other memoirs of ex-gay therapy survivors recount longer and more involved encounters with the process, but Conley offers enough for readers to understand the main concepts and methods of such groups.

'This timely addition to the debate on conversion therapy will build sympathy for both children and parents who avail themselves of it while still showing how damaging it can be.' (*publishersweekly.com*)

HONDA, Michelle

Reverse Alzheimer's disease naturally.- Hatherleigh, 2018.

The book gives a detailed guide

on Alzheimer's disease and natural ways to treat it. It covers healing remedies, dietary suggestions, mental exercises and protocols. The book provides practical advice, alternative solutions to traditional treatments and information on beneficial supplements and home remedies. **NNG**

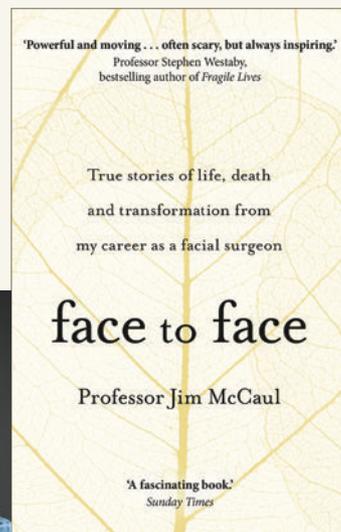
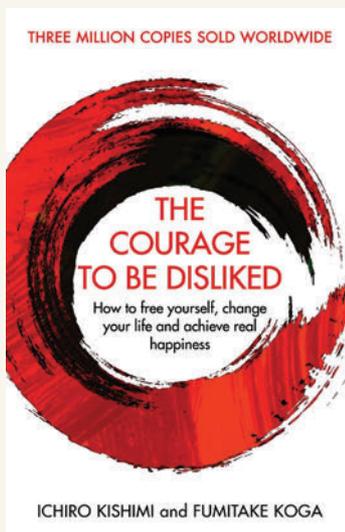
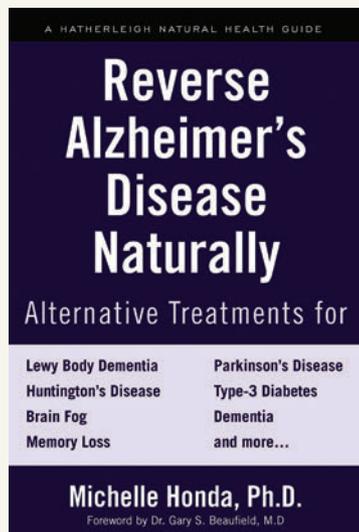
KISHIMI, Ichiro and KOGA, Fumitake
The courage to be disliked: how to free yourself, change your life and achieve real happiness.- Allen & Unwin, 2019.

'[This] guide[s] readers toward achieving happiness and lasting change. In **The courage to be disliked**, Ichiro Kishimi (a consultant for the Japanese Society of Adlerian Psychology) and professional writer Fumitake Koga apply the theories of Austrian psychologist Alfred Adler to a series of dialogues between a philosopher and a young man who is looking for direction in life and freedom from earlier trauma. Readers are challenged to discard their past and embrace the present, as the authors take on questions and arguments about moving forward in an Adlerian style. For those seeking a discourse that helps explain who they are in the world, Kishimi and Koga provide an illuminating conversation ...' (*libraryjournal.com*)

McCAUL, Jim
Face to face: true stories of life, death and transformation from my career as a facial surgeon.- Bantam, 2018.

'Eighty percent of a facial surgeon's work is the removal of face, mouth and neck tumors in surgeries lasting eight hours or more. McCaul also restores patients' appearance as much as possible after disfiguring accidents. Here he pulls back the curtain on the everyday details of his work life: everything from his footwear (white Crocs that soon become stained with blood and other fluids) to his musical choices (pop for the early phases; classical for the more challenging microsurgery stage). Like neurosurgeon Henry Marsh, he describes the awe of the first incision: an almost overwhelming sense of entering into a sanctuary. There's a vicarious thrill to being let into this insider zone, and the book's prose is perfectly clear and conversational, with unexpectedly apt metaphors such as *Sometimes the blood vessels can be of such poor quality that it is like trying to sew together two damp cornflakes*. This is a book that inspires wonder at all that modern medicine can achieve.' (*goodreads.com*, Rebecca Foster)

SEMENYA, Lesego
Dijo: my food, my journey.- Jacana media, 2018.
 The author in his debut chronicles his





personal food experiences; from his upbringing in Soweto to his culinary training at the Prue Leith Academy and his work as a chef at Richard Branson's Sabie Sands luxury safari lodge. The book celebrates South African cuisine and its distinct flavors by blending recipes for traditional township dishes with sophisticated fine-dining gastronomy. An inspiring journey for readers to find themselves through food. **NNG**

YOUNG ADULT FICTION

LEVITHAN, David and NIVEN, Jennifer
Take me with you when you go.- Penguin Books, 2021.

'Teenage sibs desperately search for ways to escape a toxic domestic situation. When his big sister, Bea, disappears just two months before her Indiana high school graduation, leaving him without an ally at home against their passive-aggressive mom and viciously abusive stepfather, 15-year-old Ezra oscillates between rage and terror — even after Bea emails that she's (more or less) OK.

'Fortunately, Ezra can look to his boyfriend, Terrence, and other outside allies for support when the punishments and public scenes get to be too much. Bea has walled

off everyone except her beloved little brother and has, it turns out, quixotically set out on a quest of her own ... only to discover that their mother hasn't been exactly straight about important elements of their family history. The authors frame this heartbreaking outing through emails of frequently monumental length and a relentless focus on either pep talks or event and relationship analysis.

'Perceptive readers who make it through the emotional wringer will encounter certain themes: that people and the reasons for what they do are rarely if ever simple; that adolescence can be scary but exhilarating (the solid, healthy bond between Ezra and Terrence being a case in point); and that seeing oneself clearly is a first step toward real change. Ultimately, Ezra and Bea come to understand that it's better to be running toward the future than from the past ... A wrenching, if logorrheic, epistolary portrait of a dysfunctional family.' (*kirkusreviews.com*)

JUVENILE FICTION

BEZUIDENHOUT, Zelda
Anderkant die blou.- Tafelberg, 2022.
Op Kalkbaai beleef Lienke en Dezi hul droomvakansie met al die verrassings wat dit inhou. Danroy is 'n kelner by

die hotel wat vakansiewerk doen en hy sorg dat die twee meisies al die mooiste plekke in die baai te siene kry — 'n unieke belewenis soos ervaar deur die oë van die plaaslike mense. Hy wys hulle sy 'skwad' en hulle ontmoet sy geliefde Uncle Kaz.

Dan keer 'n tragedie ter see Danroy en sy ma se lewens onderstebo. Hierdie is 'n verhaal van twee vriendinne se avontuurlike somervakansie waar hulle nuwe vriende ontdek, die kompleksiteit van gesinsbande, asook 'n bietjie romanse ervaar. Die skrywer skets 'n omgewing vir die leser op 'n lewendige manier wat die atmosfeer en besienswaardighede tasbaar laat voel. Die verskeidenheid manlike en vroulike karakters sal die verhaal vir seuns sowel as meisies toeganklik maak. Daar word vertel oor drome, liefde en seerkry en tweede kans. Dis geskik vir jong tieners tussen die ouderdomme van 12 en 14 jaar. **AT**

HART, Owen
I'll love you forever/illustrated by Sean Julian.- Little Tiger Press, 2018.
'A polar bear parent speaks poetically of love for a child. A genderless adult and cub travel through the landscapes of an arctic year. Each of the softly rendered double-page paintings has a very different feel and colour palette as the pair go through the seasons,

walking through wintry ice and snow and green summer meadows, cavorting in the blue ocean, watching whales, and playing beside musk oxen.

'The rhymes of the four-line stanzas are not forced, as is the case too often in picture books of this type: "When cold, winter winds / blow the leaves far and wide, / You'll cross the great icebergs / with me by your side." On a dark, snowy night, the loving parent says: "But for now, cuddle close / while the stars softly shine. / I'll always be yours, / and you'll always be mine." As the last illustration shows the pair curled up for sleep, young listeners will be lulled to sweet dreams by the calm tenor of the pictures and the words.

'While far from original, this timeless theme is always in demand, and the combination of delightful illustrations and poetry that scans well make this a good choice for early-childhood classrooms, public libraries, and one-on-one home read-aloud. Parent-child love and affection, appealingly presented, with the added attraction of the seasonal content and lack of gender restrictions.' (*kirkusreviews.com*)

JAMIESON, Victoria and MOHAMED, Omar

When stars are scattered/illustrated by Iman Geddy.- Faber & Faber, 2020.
'A Somali boy living in a refugee camp

in Kenya tries to make a future for himself and his brother in this near memoir interpreted as a graphic novel by collaborator Jamieson. Omar Mohamed lives in Dadaab Refugee Camp in Kenya with his younger brother, Hassan, who has a seizure disorder, and Fatuma, an elderly woman assigned to foster them in their parents' absence. The boys' father was killed in Somalia's civil war, prompting them to flee on foot when they were separated from their mother. They desperately hope she is still alive and looking for them, as they are for her. The book covers six years, during which Omar struggles with decisions about attending school and how much hope to have about opportunities to resettle in a new land, like the United States.

'Through Omar's journey, and those of his friends and family members, readers get a close, powerful view of the trauma and uncertainty that attend life as a refugee as well as the faith, love, and support from unexpected quarters that get people through it. Jamieson's characteristically endearing art, warmly coloured by Geddy, perfectly complements Omar's story, conjuring memorable and sympathetic characters who will stay with readers long after they close the book. Photographs of the brothers and an afterword provide historical

context; Mohamed and Jamieson each contribute an author's note. This engaging, heartwarming story does everything one can ask of a book, and then some.' (*kirkusreviews.com*)

MHLOPHE, Gcina

Hoe leeu sy brul gekry het.- David Philip, c2019 – impr. 2020.

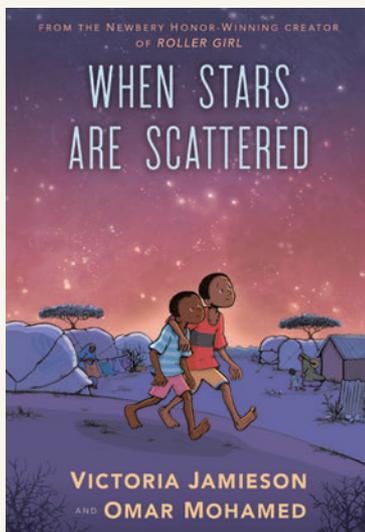
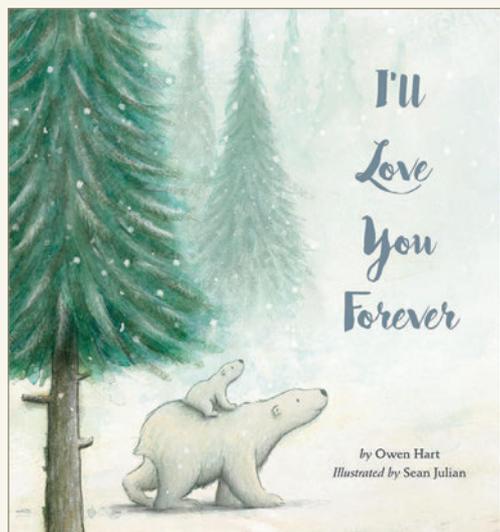
'n Prentboek oor Koning Leeu wat voorheen 'n baie sagte stem gehad het. Hy het allermins soos die magtige koning van die diere geklink en gevolglik het die diere geen waarskuwing van gevaar gehad wanneer hy besig was om te jag nie.

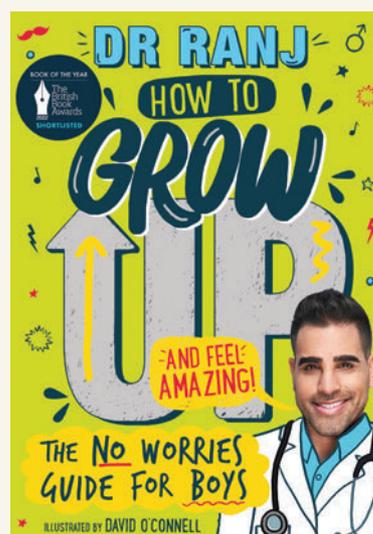
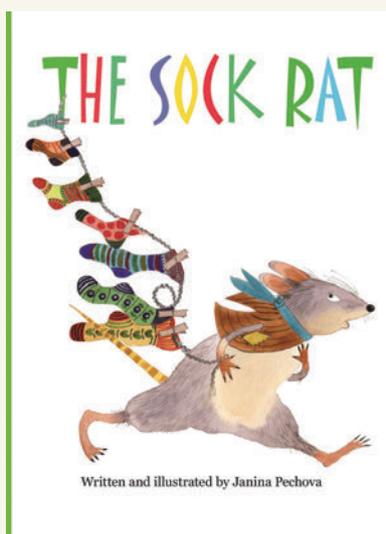
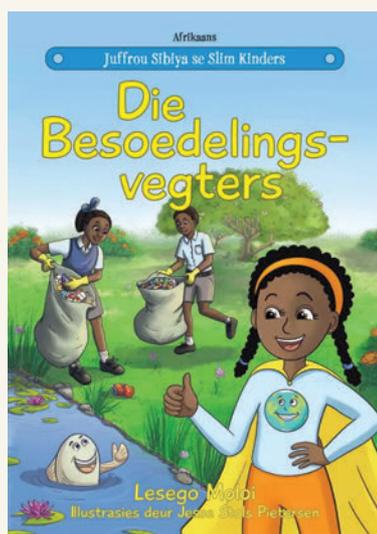
'n Groot vergadering is in die bos gehou om die probleem te bespreek. Verskeie voorstelle is deur die diere gemaak, maar nie een was aanvaarbaar nie. Toe kom Nogwaja, die slim haas, met 'n slim plan. En so het dit gekom dat Leeu vandag oor 'n magtige brul beskik wat gepas is vir die Koning van die diere. Die kleurillustrasies het 'n kinderlike aanslag wat dit heel gepas vir dié genre maak. **AT**

MOLOI, Lesego

Die besoedelingsvegters.- Qualibooks, 2021.

'n Dun boekie van 36 bladsye wat feitelike nie-fiksie in verteltrant aanbied oor die onderwerp van besoedeling.





Dit vorm deel van die *Miss Sibiya's clever kids*-reeks wat ook in ander amptelike tale beskikbaar is. Dié prentboekie handel oor die aarde wat net al hoe vuiler en vuiler word.

Die besoedeling dreig om mense, diere en plantlewe siek te maak. Juffrou Sibiya neem haar klas op 'n uitstappie om meer te leer van lug, water en grondbesoedeling. Elkeen moet leer hoe hulle kan bydra om die aarde te bewaar en deel te word van hierdie allerbelangrike missie! Die teks is lekker groot, lees maklik en is geïllustreer met kleurvolle tekeninge. Kinders tussen 7 en 9 jaar sal aanklank vind by die inhoud. **AT**

PECHOVÁ, Janina

The sock rat.- Bumble Books, 2018.

'If you've ever wondered why one sock is always missing from a pair you can blame it on Rafael the sock rat. Rafael was a smart rat and dreamed of being a famous artist. One day he saw the most beautiful socks and because he saw two of each he decided to take one, sure that no-one would notice.

'Soon every house in Ratsville was full of Rafael's sock art inside and out. Rafael had to go further and further to find more socks and one day a washing line collapsed and he fell into a bucket of water. His friends told him that it wasn't an accident, but a trap to

stop him from stealing the socks, and after they rescued him warned him to be careful.

'A few days later he was trapped in a net. Socks became scarce but Rafael used those he had hidden in his house to create more art and posted his work on Facebook and sent pictures to all the newspapers. So, if you're missing a sock the sock rat most likely used it for his grand masterpiece and you may find it on the magical sock tree. A great bedtime story or your offspring can read it themselves and find out what happened to that missing sock.'

(*thegremlin.co.za*, Brian Joss)

JUVENILE NON-FICTION

SINGH, Ranj

How to grow up and feel amazing: the no worries guide for boys/illustrated by David O'Connell.- Wren & Rook, 2021.

A practical and easy-to-read guide for tween and teen boys on puberty, mental health, relationships and important topics like consent and cyber safety, written by Dr. Ranj Singh Sangha, a British doctor, TV presenter, and columnist known for his appearances on *Strictly come dancing* and as co-creator of the show *Get well soon*. It covers physical changes like pubic hair and voice breaking, as well

as managing emotions, relationships and healthy living. The book provides clear explanations, practical advice and illustrations to help boys navigate the challenges of growing up. **APM**

Most of these titles are also available in e-format on the Western Cape OverDrive webpage and Libby app.

Die meeste van hierdie titels is ook beskikbaar in e-formaat op die Wes-Kaap Biblioteekdiens se OverDrive webblad en Libby-toepassing.

Note: At the time of going to press some of these titles are not yet available at the libraries.

APM Ayanda Majola
AT Anél Taljaard
NNG Nomonde Ngqoba

Online meetings and training: the good, the bad and how to make the best of it

by Ronel Mouton





One of the few positive outcomes of the COVID-19 pandemic is that it forced us to start working online. Certainly, in the following months, some were a bit reticent to the strangeness of only meeting people on a screen. On the other hand, I have since found myself in some physical meetings where I wished it was rather online for various reasons.

But neither time nor technology stand still and since then the software used to meet online has constantly improved, and those who do not use it often enough may still prefer physical meetings.

Remote meetings can be even more effective than in-person meetings.

Advantages of online meetings

1. No transport is needed, which saves costs.
2. No time is spent on getting to a meeting, like walking or driving to a venue.
3. No catering is needed, so it is cost-effective.
4. Meetings are interactive and allow the possibility of smaller or larger work groups, but depend on the commitment to sharing of ideas by all attendees.
5. Attendees can add to a meeting's progress by texting messages or indicating approval with emojis, which would not be possible in physical meetings.

6. Participants can view content closely on a screen and not far away from a PowerPoint presentation of a physical meeting, which tends to create disengagement.
7. The meeting can be recorded and revisited at a later stage; or used as training content or played to staff who could not attend.
8. Speakers can be invited to contribute valuable content from anywhere in the country or the world, which would otherwise not be possible and mostly free of charge, because there is no cost involved except their time.
9. Staff can attend meetings where there is low capacity owing to personnel shortages. Those who would normally not be able to attend meetings can attend cherry-picked parts of forums or Q&A sessions only.
10. It is convenient because meetings can be presented or attended from anywhere.
11. Productivity is enhanced, because more can be done when staff are not taken out of the office. Screen sharing contributes to collaboration, focused discussions and real-time feedback. This is in contrast to physical meetings, where some people are passive listeners and may find it difficult to stay focused and tune out completely because of a lack of engagement or visual cues.
12. Participants with disabilities or limited mobility can easily attend virtual meetings without facing the challenges of accessing physical meeting spaces.
13. Meetings can be arranged and attended at very short notice.
14. Staff can be assisted with equipment and training to collaborate better with online meetings.
15. No presentation aids like a projector or sound equipment are needed.
16. Participants can sit in a comfortable environment with their own notes and tools as needed.
17. Higher attendance is possible due to easy access and convenience of selective arrival and departure.
18. Online meetings tend to be more focused and time-efficient.



19. Online meetings are more environmentally friendly because of less traveling and lower carbon emissions, as well as no need for printed handouts.
20. The meeting can be followed on multiple devices, such as those who are travelling can attend using a cell phone.
21. Online meetings do not limit the size of the meeting, but may be more effective for certain purposes. Small meetings for discussions and workshops are best with less than ten people and larger gatherings work well for webinars or broadcasts.

Disadvantages of online meetings

1. Load shedding could add interruptions or to meetings being cancelled entirely.
2. Poor network connectivity impacts meeting participation.
3. Attendees may be online but tune out. Multi-tasking is distracting.
4. Equipment without audio-visual capacity negatively impacts the meeting experience.
5. Attendees do not always practice online meeting etiquette, which contributes to poor experiences. This includes raising a virtual hand to speak, muting microphones when not speaking and deactivating one's camera when not needed.
6. Virtual meetings lack the full range of non-verbal cues, such as body language, facial expressions and eye contact. These are some of the strongest justifications in favour of physical meetings.
7. The web version of the meeting software used is not always as user-friendly as fully installed versions.
8. Owing to their ease of arranging, poorly timed long or back-to-back meetings can be strenuous, which can cause reduced attentiveness, mental or physical exhaustion because of extended times of concentration. (Screen fatigue)
9. Meetings with audiovisual content may be data-intensive and cause streaming disruptions when network access is not adequate.
10. Staff who are not comfortable with technology or lack digital skills may be uncomfortable to participate in meetings. (Although this will change over time with regular participation or training.)
11. Non-responsiveness of attendees can seem as if no one is participating, which can be bothersome for the speaker.
12. Group work and interactive discussions or brainstorming may possibly not be as effective in a virtual situation; and are determined by levels of attendee confidence.

One of the greatest issues with online meetings is that people are not present in the meeting; and that their attention is elsewhere, which defeats the purpose of the meeting to be informed or for meaningful contributions.

Would you believe that over 98% of the knowledge workers we surveyed admitted to multitasking during virtual meetings? Perhaps more surprising, only 14% claimed they only did so rarely. (*polly.ai*)



Tips for a better online meeting experience

For attendees:

1. **Don't be late.** You may miss something important and meetings follow a set agenda. Being late can disrupt the flow and cause them to run longer than expected.
2. **Avoid multitasking.** Focus on the meeting, participate and take notes if needed.
3. **Mute your microphone when not talking.** While you might not be sharing, background noise can be distracting. Loud conversations of colleagues or other ambient noise might distract co-attendees who are trying to listen to the person speaking.
4. **Take notes.** This is to get the most out of the meeting and preserve for future quick reference.
5. **Notify others if you have to leave before the end of the meeting in the chat box.** This will alert the facilitator when your input is required for certain conversation

content, who will then aim to prioritise your participation or fast-track conversations.

6. **Choose to participate from an environment with the least disturbances.**
7. **Make sure your internet connection and equipment is working.**
8. **Raise your hand to speak and lower it again once done.**
9. **Keep the camera switched off,** except when requested to switch it on or when the meeting protocol requires such action.

For presenters:

1. **Change meeting settings to allow people without the need to be admitted through the lobby and being announced** with a ping, as such arrivals can be very distracting.
2. **Request to see faces initially or later** in a long meeting to make it more personable.
3. **The presenter should have their camera switched on** all the time.
4. Get **background support** from a colleague who can:
 - a. check for raised hands
 - b. field questions or comments on the chat for a less disruptive meeting experience by attendees
 - c. mute someone in the meeting with a noisy microphone
 - d. confirm that all sound levels are correct, files are being shared and visible.
5. **A chairperson or facilitator must indicate the participants to speak** to allow everyone a turn, and without being interrupted.
6. **The room where the chairperson sits should be well-lit,** otherwise the video feed will be unclear.
7. **The facilitator can do a dry run before the actual meeting** to ensure they are comfortable with sharing presentations and that the audio-visual component is working well.
8. **Take a break.** This will assist attendees to focus better.

9. **Clean up your desktop and close other apps** if you'll be screen-sharing.
10. **Indicate the rules of the meeting in the first chat.**
11. **Change setting options of the meeting beforehand** to allow for attendance registers, recording, participation, and so on.
12. **PowerPoint or other shared documents** are power contact points and help attendees to focus.
13. **Stick to the time limit.**
14. **Keep a central knowledge database.**

'Most people doubt online meetings can work but they somehow overlook that most in-person meetings did not work either.'
– Scott Berkun

References

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Regional Organisation at the Western Cape
Library Service



Libby for librarians: What's in it for us?

by Luinda Lilley





Have you ever asked yourself this question, 'What does Libby offer the librarian to help develop their professional skills?' I certainly have! If you have done so, then this article was written with you in mind.

'Now I think it's one of the most useless questions an adult can ask a child — What do you want to be when you grow up? As if growing up is finite. As if at some point you become something and that's the end.'

– Michelle Obama, *Becoming*

A great place to start would be to look at the many ways in which we can make best use of the books that are available on Libby. The ultimate goal for me is to seek ways in which to improve our effectiveness as librarians. It is worth repeating the saying: To work smarter and not harder in our jobs. Our librarianship degrees will only take us so far. What I would like to do is to uncover additional tools that can be used to fine-tune and update our existing knowledge. We have the basic foundation ... so now what?

Let's pause and take a moment for you to reflect on the skills and knowledge that you have acquired thus far in your career. Next, you need to

think of how you might add to and fill missing gaps to advance your careers. To be fully effective in our jobs requires various skills that:

1. Help us to work as a team with our colleagues, and
2. Deliver customer service that our patrons need.

The information landscape is changing at an incredibly fast pace. To survive and thrive as a librarian you will need most of these so-called soft skills:

- customer service skills
- the ability to work well with others
- to be flexible and open to change
- administration skills
- knowledge of English language
- the ability to use your initiative
- sensitivity and understanding
- patience and the ability to remain calm in stressful situations.

A recent Sabinet newsletter mentioned that the Department of Higher Education and Training has released the highly anticipated 2024 National List of Occupations in High Demand. In it they identify 'professions with a critical skills shortage in South Africa'. It's now time for you to sit up and take notice because 'according to the National List, librarians are now considered a profession that is in high demand'. It should not be a surprise to you, but I do hope that you are encouraged by this news.

Our development as professionals means fully utilising both print and online resources. In the same way, our service commitment to our customers means that we must help them to discover all the resources that are available in both print and online. The **Cape Librarian** contains articles exploring the book collections, but now it is time to look to Libby, the new kid on the block. We start this exploratory journey by shining a light on the contributing role that Libby can play in a few critical areas:

1. Lifelong learning and continuing education
2. Technological knowledge and skills
3. Self-improvement and mental health.

Lifelong learning and continuing education

Not everyone has the means or desire to undertake further formal study. In its place we have a free service that is world class. Libby has books available by experts in their field. By tapping into this amazing resource we can ensure that we are supporting our employer and LIASA by doing our part in the overall capacity building for our profession. Included in the building blocks of librarianship are the basic principles of management, good business practices and ethics. Our personal career developments also require us to know about the basics of career information, such as resumé writing and interview preparation.

Technological knowledge and skills

To update your library skills it helps to explore the following areas:

- online resources
- digital tools
- data management
- digital literacy.

The Libby selection team is very aware of the changing demands of library programmes and the IT developments. For this reason we have looked to develop content on, for example, coding basics, Microsoft products, artificial intelligence (AI), and ChatGPT.

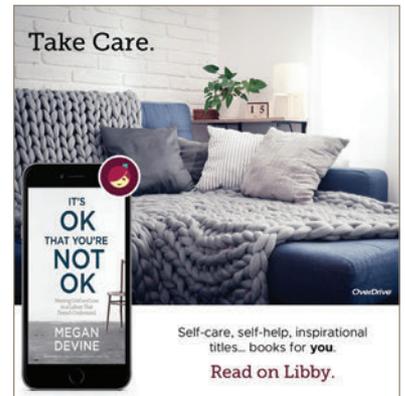
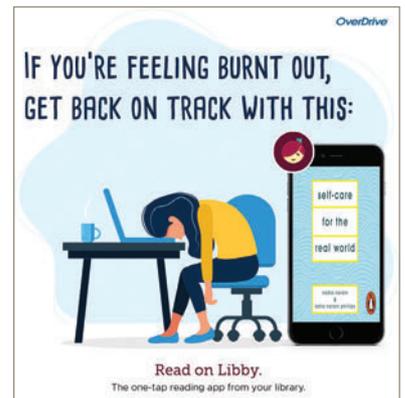
Self-improvement and mental health

We are talking here about the work-life balance that we should all cultivate. We can do this in a number of ways by exploring a wide range of topics, for example, psychology, armchair travel, self-improvement, design thinking, and depression.

Books and more books

I would highly recommend that you make use of the **tags** feature to make up lists for yourself for future reading. Give them a recognisable topic name or use emojis for grouping titles under different subjects.

Next you should share your book discoveries. If you found a useful book that resonated with you in your work situation then tell other librarians about it. Social media is a powerful tool which we can use to share our knowledge and experiences. One such platform is Facebook's Cape Town Public Librarians group.



Did You Know?

You can use tags to make lists of things you want to read, your favorite titles, what you've borrowed, and more.

Armando Lucas Correa
The Night Travelers

Borrow
Read Sample
Tag

Choose a name for your new tag. You can use emoji or words – it's up to you.

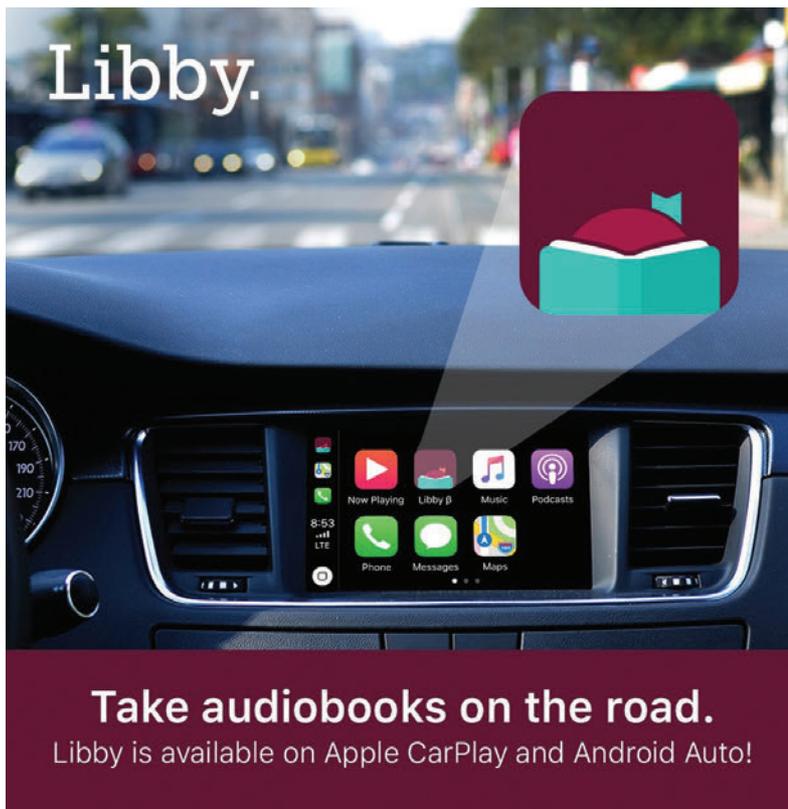
NAME OF TAG...

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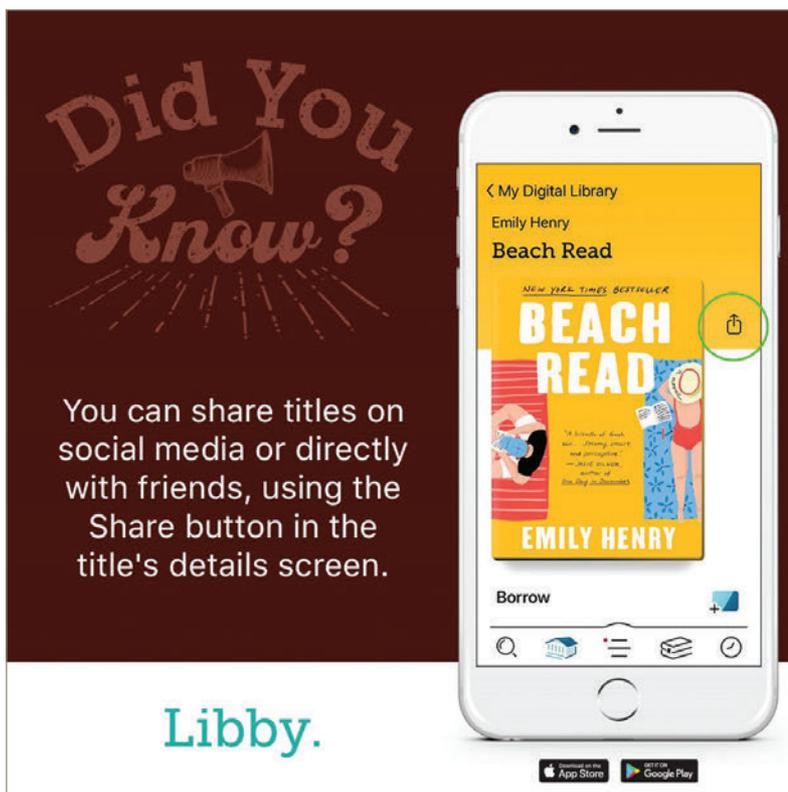
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Libby is available on Apple CarPlay and Android Auto!



You can share titles on social media or directly with friends, using the Share button in the title's details screen.

Libby.

Try to expand your non-fiction reading material to expose related subjects and making it more broad-based. In this way, you will enrich your work life and uncover gems like:

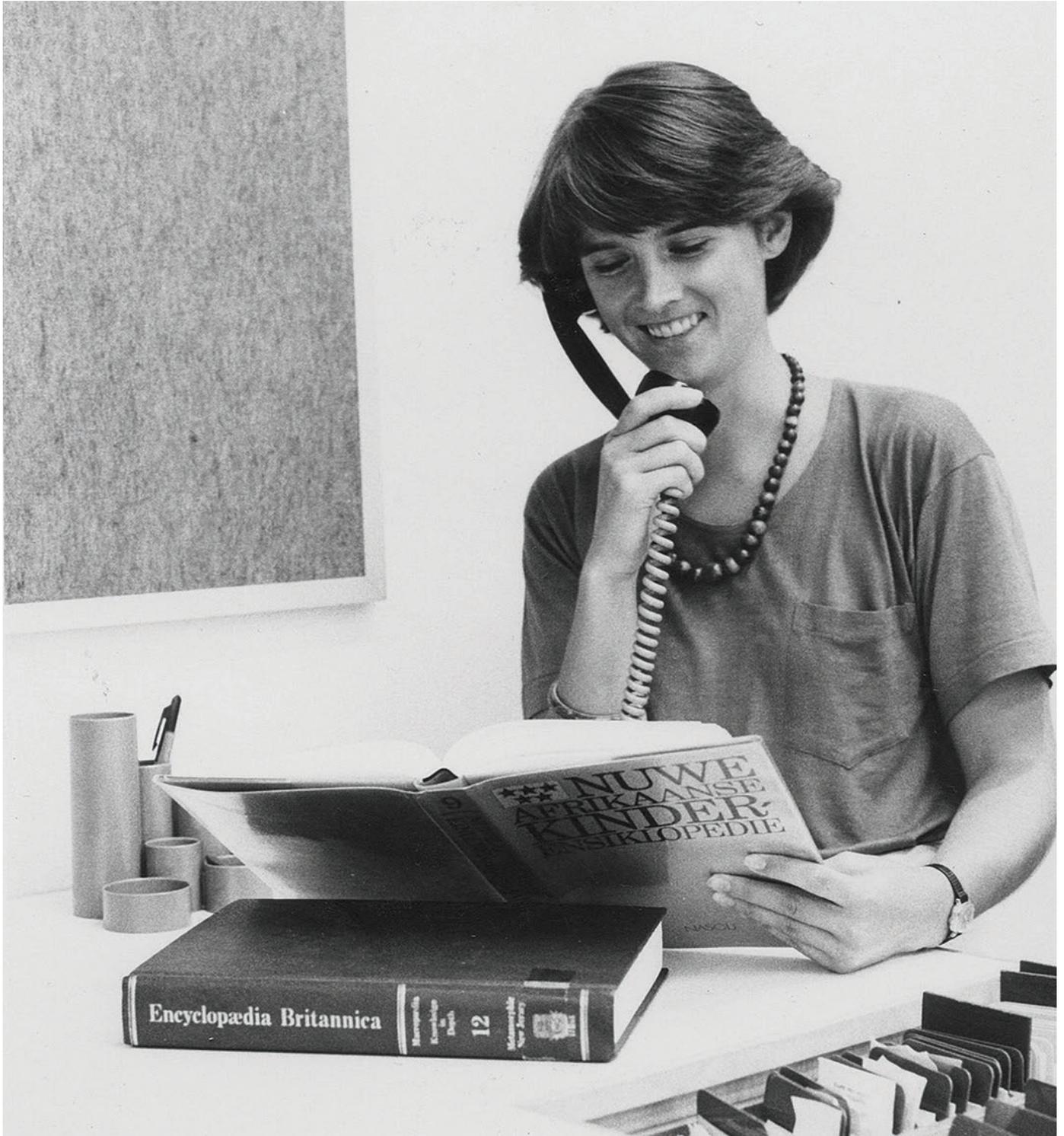
- **12 Rules for life: An antidote to chaos** by Jordan B Peterson
- **Africa is not a country** by Dipo Faloyin
- **Closing the gap** by Tshilidzi Marwala
- **Dare to lead** by Brené Brown
- **Delegation** by Dave Ramsey
- **The hitchhiker's guide to AI** by Arthur Goldstuck
- **Future skills: The 20 skills and competencies everyone needs to succeed in a digital world** by Bernard Marr
- **Information hunters: When librarians, soldiers, and spies banded together in World War II Europe** by Kathy Peiss
- **Knowing what we know: The transmission of knowledge: From ancient wisdom to modern magic** by Simon Winchester
- **Knowledge management: A practical guide for librarians** by Jennifer A Bartlett
- **Leaders eat last** by Simon Sinek
- **Managing people** by Simon Birkenhead
- **Mental health at work** by James Routledge
- **Overdue: Reckoning with the public library** by Amanda Oliver
- **Reading behind bars: A true story of literature, law, and life as a prison librarian** by Jill Grunenwald
- **Stolen focus** by Johann Hari
- **Twelve and a half: Leveraging the emotional ingredients necessary for business success** by Gary Vaynerchuk
- **Ultimate guide to social media marketing** by Eric Butow, Jenn Herman
- **The year in tech, 2024** by *Harvard Business Review*

Please do write and let me know what books you have found on Libby that have boosted your professional self-improvement. I would love to hear from you.

The last word belongs to Lewis Carroll:
 'It's no use going back to yesterday,
 because I was a different person then.'
 - Alice in Wonderland

Luinda Lilley is the Professional Officer: Acquisitions at the Collections Development Unit at the City of Cape Town Library and Information Services. She can be contacted at Luinda.Lilley@capetown.gov.za





Martina Scholtz: Information Library, 1988

www.westerncape.gov.za/library



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FOR YOU