

OSALL AGM 2012 CHAIR REPORT 2011/2012

Fanus Olivier

Once again OSALL had a successful year of meetings and activities.

Committee:

Chair:	Fanus Olivier
Secretary:	Lydia Creamer
Treasurer:	Mari Brightmore
Newsletter editor:	Diana Riley
PR & Liaison:	Keke Maidi
Website administrator:	Danielle Botha
Listserv Administrator:	Mary Bruce

MEMBERSHIP/FINANCES

OSALL is financially stable due to our membership renewals and advertising on the Listserv and Newsletter. Mari Brightmore will have a full financial report to this effect.

Our **paid up** membership numbers for 1 July 2011 till 20 June 2012 are as follows:

- Institutional: 46
- Personal: 41
- Newsletters only: 1
- Honorary: 4
- Retiree: 1

MEETINGS AND ACTIVITIES

AGM: Wednesday, 3 August 2011

The 35th OSALL AGM was held at Norton Rose (incorporated as Deneys Reitz Inc), Sandton. The AGM was sponsored by LexisNexis. Each attendee received a gift, there were also lucky draws sponsored by LexisNexis, Red Pepper, and Juta .

Nicky Campbell: a Legal Expert, was the speaker at the AGM and gave a presentation on the Consumer Protection Act and its impact.

Year end function: Friday, 28 October 2011

OSALL had a wonderful year-end function. The theme was Bingo: 2011 Rugby World Cup is in Full Swing. Each attendee was asked to wear a Springbok Rugby uniform. A prize was given to the best dressed. Bingo was also played. The lunch was held at Doppio Zero, Rosebank. Juta sponsored the function. Each attendee received a gift.

The 1st OSALL Legal Library Products Fair: Thursday, 15 March 2012

OSALL held its first Legal Library Products Fair at the War Museum, Johannesburg. The aim was bring the latest publications, services and products related to legal libraries to the attention of everybody involved in the field. Eleven exhibitors (South African Online Information Services, Sabinet, Academic Marketing Services, LexisNexis, Don Gresswell Library Products, Legal Library Services, Mindex, EBSCO, Juta Law, Coverseal Library Supplies and Red Pepper Books) exhibited their products.

Helen Schutte: Deputy Director of Library Services at the North Gauteng High Court, was the speaker and gave a presentation on the process that goes into making a judgment.

BIALL's 43rd Annual Study Conference & Exhibition, Thursday 14 June – Saturday 16 June 2012

The 43rd Conference was held at Hastings Europa Hotel, Belfast. Due to unforeseen circumstances, OSALL did not send a representative to BIALL Conference this year. Hopefully OSALL can send a representative next year to Glasgow.

11th SAOIM Conference 2012

The eleventh South African Online Information Meeting, organised by the Southern African Online User Group (SAOUG) together with SLIS and OSALL was held on the 5th – 8th June 2012 at the Sandton Convention Centre. The theme was: Innovation in an age of limits.

Two workshops were held on Tuesday 5 June. Workshop 1: Taming technolust: technology planning in a hyperlinked world by Michael Stephens from San Jose State University, Workshop 2: Personalisation of search: take back control by Karen Blakeman, RBA Information Services.

The two conference days were on the Wednesday 6 June and Thursday 7 June. Another three workshops were held on Friday 8 June. Workshop 3: Frankenbooks: understanding the e-book opportunity by Stephen Abram, Past-President of SLA and the Ontario and Canadian Library Associations, Workshop 4: Self publishing by Kosie Eloff, from the Department of Information Science, University of Pretoria and Workshop 5: Mobile technologies for service delivery and marketing by iBala.

All conference and workshop presentations received to date are now available on the 11th SAOIM conference website (<http://saoug.org.za/11th-saoim-workshops-and-conference-presentations>)

Twenty-nine exhibitors exhibited at this year's conference.

New Blog called: On Firmer Ground (<http://www.firmerground.com>)

The mission of On Firmer Ground is to promote the value that law firm librarians bring to the business and practice of law by providing an online forum for law librarians to share how they are providing innovative practice support, leveraging technology to provide process efficiencies that allow lawyers and support staff to work smarter and to contribute to the bottom line by being effective business managers of the firm's information resources and know-how.

On Firmer Ground aspires to foster creativity and collaboration in the problem-solving process by placing its focus on actual and interactive discussions among those within and connected to the law firm information industry. We believe in the positive power of collaboration between professionals as a means to better understand and appreciate the contributions we make collectively to the effective operation of law firms.

To further our emphasis on collaboration, On Firmer Ground will endeavour to bring together some of the leading national and international organizations for law firm librarians in a single platform to benefit our global industry.

OSALL has joined this year to be part of the Blog and blogging initiative.

The other organizations are:

1. Special Libraries Association Legal Division (SLA Legal Division)
2. Private Law Libraries Special Interest Section of the American Association of Law Libraries (PLL-SIS of AALL)
3. Canadian Association of Law Libraries (CALL)
4. British and Irish Association of Law Librarians (BIALL)
5. Scottish Law Librarians Group (SLLG)
6. Australian Law Libraries Association (ALLA)
7. New Zealand Law Librarians Association (NZLLA)
8. Organisation of South African Law Libraries (OSALL)

In their first 6 months, they garnered almost 27 000 hits. Since January 2012, they have had almost 6000 visits. On the 1st of March, they relaunched On Firmer Ground with more regular schedules and a more inclusive goal structure. They want to ensure that every organization that joins the blog is featured in turn by rotating them each week. The more organizations that take part, the fewer blog posts each will need to provide.

Diana Riley is OSALL's representative for the editorial board.

WEBSITE AND LISTSERV

OSALL's Website and Listserv are going strong. Danielle Botha and Mary Bruce will give a full report. MACC is still hosting the webpage for 2012.

OSALL wants to thank all the sponsors for all the sponsorships and we hope you will continue to be "friends" of us in the years to come. Thank you to the committee members for your dedication and hard work this past year.

Fanus Olivier
Chair
August 2012