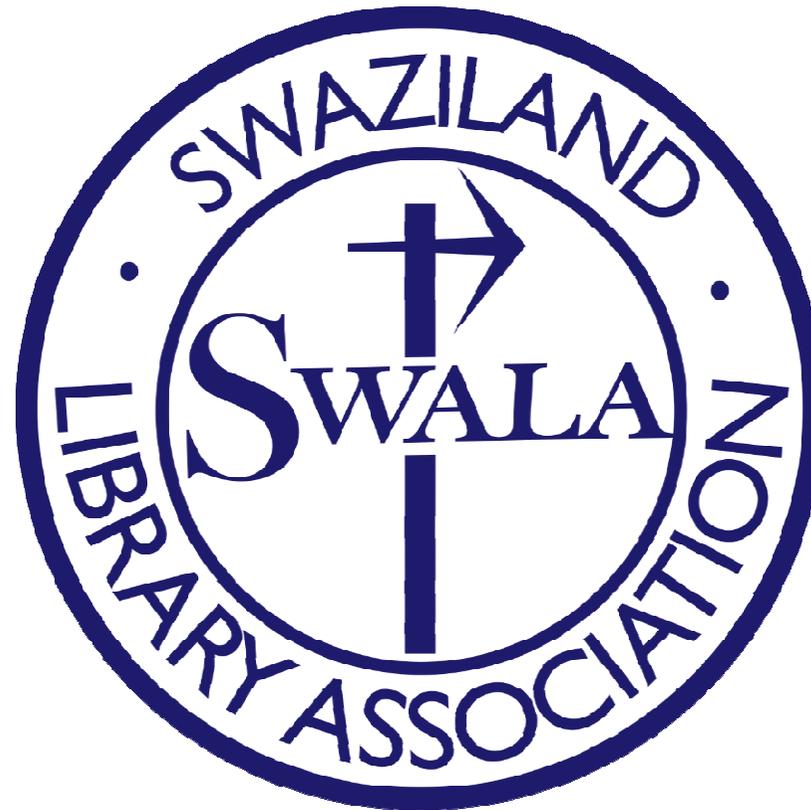




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# Swaziland Library and Information Association





## Country and association profile

- Swaziland is a small landlocked, sovereign Kingdom in Southern Africa
- Landlocked between Mozambique to its east and by South Africa to its north, west and south.
- Its size is about 17 032 KM Sq
- Has a population of about 1.2 million.





## Situation on the ground

There are:

- 15 public libraries scattered throughout the country, administered by the Swaziland National Library Service.
- 10 academic libraries (Universities & Colleges) as well as several school libraries (public & private)
- Several Special libraries in government departments as well as private institutions (even though some of these are not as functional)





## Type of Association & Membership

- SWALA is a national association. It came into existence in 1984.
- In the recent past it has been inert due to financial constraints.
- In 2014 its membership stood at 59
- This current year (2016) its membership stands at 103 (motivation having been the recent SCECSAL that the association hosted).
- Membership is opened to all LIS professionals.





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## SWALA's Objectives and Priorities

- To promote the establishment and development of libraries and other information centres
- To unite all persons engaged or interested in library and other information work, by holding conferences, meetings and seminars for the discussion of bibliographic questions and matters affecting libraries and other information centres of their regulation, management or otherwise.





## Objectives and Priorities continued

- To safeguard and promote the professional interests of librarians and other information personnel.
- To monitor any legislation affecting libraries and other information centres and to assist in the promotion of such legislation as may be considered necessary for the regulation and management or extension of libraries and other information centres.
- To promote and encourage bibliographical study, research and library co-operation through networking.





## Objectives and Priorities continued

- To collect and publish information to its members, for the promotion of the aims and objectives of the association.
- To do all such lawful things as are incidental or conducive to the attainment of the above aims and objectives.
- CPD for members





## BSLA Project Objectives

SWALA's BSLA project objectives included:

- Formulation of the vision, mission and value statements for the association;
- Holding a strategic planning workshop before the SWALA Annual Conference;
- Circulating to all SWALA members the draft strategic plan for inputs;
- Implementing and evaluating the strategic plan and recomposing the constitution of SWALA.





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## BSLA Project Outcomes summary

- SWALA's five year strategy document (2016-2020) was completed. It was presented and adopted at the SWALA Annual General Meeting of 18 September 2015
- SWALA successfully formulated and adopted the Constitution in 2015 after 2 workshops were held under BSLA
- Held two leadership training workshops
- Hosted a successful SCECSAL in April 2016
- Formulation of vision and mission





## Success Stories

- SWALA now has an operational strategic plan for 2016 – 2020 where activities are aligned to the national development agenda;
- constitution of the association is now in place.
- SWALA membership grown from 59 to 103;
- Successfully hosted a regional conference (SCECSAL XXII);
- The association has a functional website.
- Communication has improved [social media used]





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## Forthcoming activities – 2016/2017

- SWALA will hold 2 workshops on advocacy and leadership training of members
- Conference for SWALA members will be held in 2017
- SWALA is embarking on a drive to sensitize people about the association and promote information services around the country
- Decentralization of the association[structure]





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# Challenges: and how we are addressing them

- Lack of formal recognition of the library profession and the association in the country (SWALA was unknown, before SCECSAL)
  - Serious advocacy initiatives need to be undertaken to remedy this challenge
- Lack of enthusiasm and motivation among librarians towards support of the association's activities
  - This can be addressed through working together with the organizations in which the librarians are and promoting the profession for recognition





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# Challenges: and how we are addressing them

- Financial constraints
  - fundraising drives need to be undertaken by the association
- ‘Silos’ within the association
  - Team building
- No code of conduct/ethics.
  - Formulation and benchmarking





# The future of the association

## **Future role to be played by SWALA?**

- To be a significant player in the provision of quality service to members in support of their professional work.
- To promote the library profession in the country
- To promote information services in all the regions of Swaziland
- To conduct leadership trainings of library personnel in the association.
- Establish library schools in the country

## **Vision of local libraries 10 years hence?**

- Extensive digitization of library services and increased capacity to take advantage of the benefits brought by ICT's.

[Photo Gallery](#)





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Thank you

