

Southern African Online User Group Chair's Report: 2015 – 2016

COMMITTEE:

Chair	Susan Scheepers
Honorary Treasurer	Milford Juniper
Membership	Cindy-Lee Daniels (March 2016 – current) Rejeane van Dyk (resigned as Membership Office Bearer February 2016)
Minutes Secretary	Devind Peter
Events Organiser	Christelle Steyn (March 2015 – current) Petro van der Berg (resigned from committee February 2015)
Website	Pavlinka Kovatcheva
Co-opted Member	Ann McLuckie (resigned August 2016)

Eastern Cape Representative Karlien de Klerk – no longer on the committee

2015 : MEETINGS AND WORKSHOPS

Friday, 13 February 2015: Valentine's breakfast meeting

Mindfulness, attention training for your brain / Helen Nicholson (The Network Company)
Venue: Irene Country Lodge, Centurion

Wednesday, 13 May 2015: Workshop

Makerspace Fun / Isak van der Walt
Venue: Merensky II Library, Auditorium (UP), Pretoria

Friday 30 October 2015: Year-end-function & Special General Meeting

New Frontiers of Librarianship / Ujala Satgoor
Venue: The Royal Elephant Hotel & Conference Centre, Centurion

Regional Chapter:

Only one event was hosted in the Eastern Cape
Karlien de Klerk (Nelson Mandela Metro Library)

2015

Friday, 8 May 2015

“e-Book management using the open source application Calibre” / Simon Goldstone (NMMU)

2016: MEETINGS, WORKSHOPS AND 13TH SAOIM CONFERENCE

Friday, 26 February 2016: Valentine's breakfast & Talk

Live Light Live Large / Kate Emmerson

Venue: Kleinkaap Botique Hotel, Centurion

7 - 10 June 2016: Conference and Workshops

The 13th Biennial Southern African Online Information Meeting (SAOIM) / Different & Relevant / SAOUG & OSALL

Venue: CSIR ICC, Pretoria

Friday 21 November 2016: Biennial General Meeting

"Towards the future we want" / Dr Buhle Mbambo-Thata

Venue: The Promenade, Pretoria

ACTIVITIES:

The period under review was filled with many new endeavours and with much time spent on organising the 13th SAOIM biennial conference. This conference proved to be extremely successful in many ways. The exhibitors were very supportive and a lot of sponsorships for this conference were received.

A new software system for the SAOIM was adopted, Cvent. Cvent on its own was a totally new experience to the SAOIM committee but also contributed a great advantage in the workflow of the conference with reference to speakers, programme, linking presentations etc. Feedback from the conference on the app was in general very positive.

Cvent Management Software

During the second half of 2015 the SAOIM committee decided to invest in an event management system hosted on line by an international company called Cvent.

This event management platform allowed us to set up and host the SAOIM website, as well as market the event, host on line registrations and ultimately provided us with post event analytics.

Whilst the initial set up was rather challenging, requiring many video meetings with ever helpful Cvent staff, we believe the system worked very well. We can obviously now use the templates set up for SAOIM 2018.

Crowd Compass Mobile App by Cvent.

The SAOIM committee also introduced the Cvent mobile app called. "Crowd Compass" This is an extremely versatile and innovative App.

Among other things '*The app*' included all the information from the website and was easily accessible from any smartphone or tablet. It allowed us to stay in direct and instant contact with

attendees and for Activity Feeds, such as individual notifications, photos, comments and many more features.

It also allowed Attendees and Exhibitors to message each other directly.

Feedback from delegates on the two Cvent systems introduced was extremely positive and we believe a positive and enjoyable experience.

The social contributions added to the success of the conference, continues reporting of conference papers, speakers, workshops and events were tweeted through the Twitter stream (#SAOIM2016). The enthusiastic participation of the delegates increased the national and international exposure of the 13th SAOIM.

As in the past, this conference would not have been possible without our generous sponsors and enthusiastic exhibitors, their continued support is much valued. The success also include the attendees and their support, thank you.

NOTE OF THANKS:

I would like to thank the members of the Executive Committee for their commitment, dedication, hard work and support, during the past 2 years. It has been a privilege working with the team and each individual.

I would like to express my appreciation with a special thank you to Charmaine Bertram (OSALL) with regard to her continues support, availability and valued contributions made towards the 2016 SAOIM. Also providing us with great venues at NRF to host our meetings.

Finally, I would like to thank all members for their participation in the Group's activities and contributions to the organisation. A special thank you to the delegates who contributed to a successful conference in 2016.

Best wishes for the new incoming committee!

Susan Scheepers

Chair: SAOUG
21 November 2016