

https://dspace.org/

Libraries - Writing the next chapter

Mphuti, Bongi

2023-10
University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg
https://hdl.handle.net/10539/50117
Mphuti, B. (2023). Libraries - Writing the next chapter. [Presentation, University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg]. WIReDSpace. https://hdl.handle.net/10539/50117

Downloaded from a DSpace repository. https://dspace.org/

UNIVERSITY OF THE WITWATERSRAND, JOHANNESBURG

100 1922 2022

LIASA

2023 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

10 – 13 OCTOBER 2023



THEME: LIBRARIES - WRITING THE NEXT CHAPTER

Report by Bongi Mphuti

Conference Theme
Libraries: Writing the Next Chapter



THE CONFERENCE CHALLENGED DELEGATES TO REFLECT ON THE QUESTION:



"WHAT ARE THE STORIES WE WILL TELL ABOUT LIBRARIES IN THE FUTURE?"



THE PRESENTATIONS CONSISTENTLY DEMONSTRATED THAT LIBRARIES ARE EVOLVING FROM TRADITIONAL INFORMATION PROVIDERS INTO STRATEGIC PARTNERS IN TEACHING, LEARNING, RESEARCH, INNOVATION AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT.

Conference Purpose

The conference brought together academic, public, school and special library professionals to explore how libraries can remain relevant and impactful in an era of rapid technological change. Twenty-six speakers shared innovative practices, research findings and future-focused strategies.

Key Focus Areas

- Artificial Intelligence (AI) in Libraries
- Research Support Services
- Information Literacy
- Library Spaces and Digital Transformation
- Open Educational Resources (OER)
- Research Data and Open Science
- Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)
- Community Engagement
- Social Justice
- Wikipedia and Knowledge Creation
- Leadership and Innovation

Conference Messages - What I learned

Change is inevitable.

Libraries must embrace innovation.

AI **will** transform library services.

Librarians must continuously reskill.

Ethical information practices remain fundamental.

Collaboration is the future of librarianship.

Major Emerging Trends Then – Now a Reality

The conference identified several significant trends shaping the future of libraries.

Artificial Intelligence:

- Generative AI and ChatGPT;
- Prompt engineering;
- AI-assisted searching;
- AI-supported reference services;
- AI ethics;
- Academic integrity

Digital Transformation :

- Virtual library tours;
- Online information literacy;
- Asynchronous learning;
- Digital library services;
- Technology-enabled engagement

Research Support:

- Evidence synthesis;
- Research visibility;
- Institutional repositories;
- Research data services;
- Bibliometrics;
- Open scholarship

Open Knowledge:

- Wikipedia editing;
- Wikidata;
- Open Educational Resources;
- Open Access;
- Research discoverability

Community Impact:

- Public library partnerships;
- School library collaboration;
- Student wellbeing;
- Community engagement;
- Social justice



Day 1 Highlights - Leveraging AI and Digital Learning

Artificial Intelligence

The presentations explored the rapid emergence of generative AI tools such as ChatGPT and their implications for libraries.

Key Insights

- AI responds to prompts and learns from human interactions.
- Librarians need prompt engineering skills.
- Students should verify AI-generated information.
- AI should support—not replace—critical thinking.
- Libraries should establish AI support hubs.
- AI can improve service delivery and productivity.
- Ethical use of AI must remain a priority.

Academic Integrity

Key discussions focused on:

- Proper referencing
- Evaluating AI-generated content
- Preventing plagiarism
- Information verification
- Responsible AI use

Digital Learning

Presentations demonstrated innovative approaches including:

- Virtual library tours
- Blackboard-based information literacy
- Online quizzes
- Interactive learning
- Asynchronous learning

Key Lesson

Flexible online learning increases student participation and engagement.

Day 2 Highlights - Innovation, Open Knowledge and Community Impact

Information Literacy

Important discussions included:

- Curriculum integration
- Embedded librarianship
- Student research skills
- Evidence synthesis
- Open Educational Resources
- Institutional repositories

Keynote Address

Professor Arthur G. O. Mutambara discussed:

- AI revolution
- Future jobs
- Continuous reskilling
- Multidisciplinary education
- AI governance
- Higher education transformation

Community Partnerships

Examples included:

- Public library collaboration
- School library partnerships
- Book delivery services
- Youth development
- Reading promotion

Sustainable Development Goals

Presenters highlighted the role of libraries in:

- National Development Plan
- Sustainable Development Goals
- Digital inclusion
- Community development



Wikipedia and Knowledge Creation

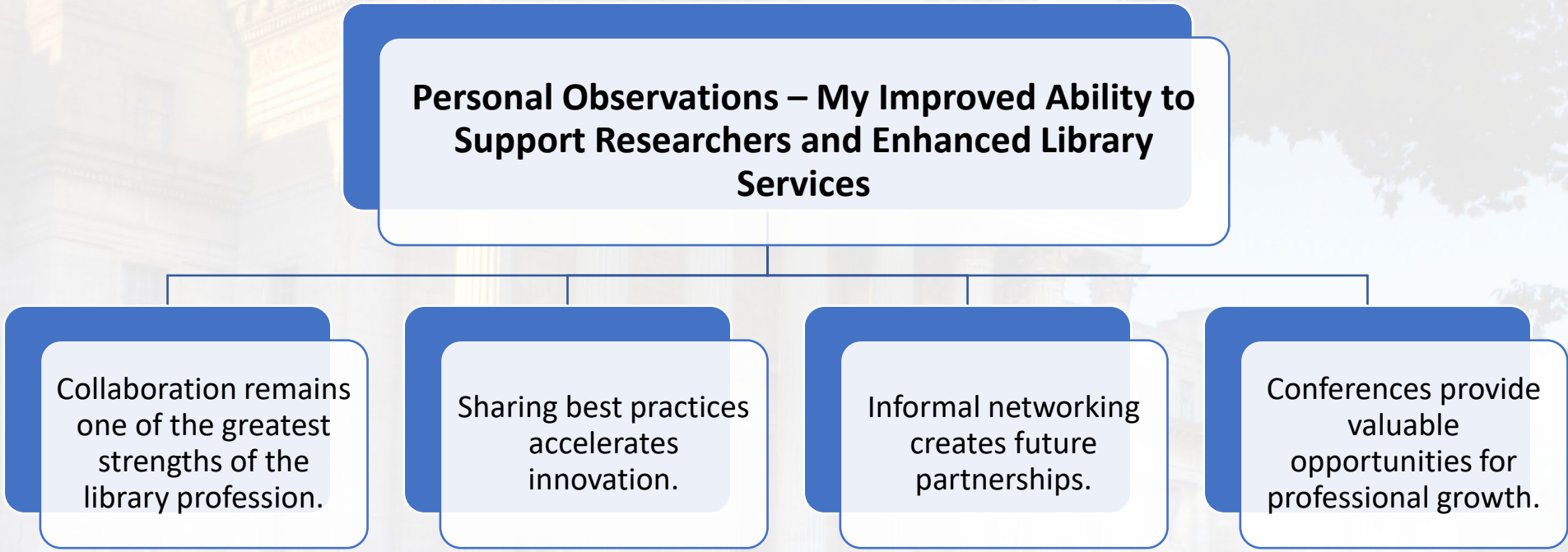
Key discussions included:

- Editing Wikipedia
- Improving South African content
- Referencing and verification
- Wikidata
- Open peer review
- Library participation in open knowledge

Key Message

Libraries should become leaders in responsible AI adoption.

Day 3 Reflections



Although Day 3 focused mainly on networking and meetings, several important reflections emerged

Day 3: Meetings



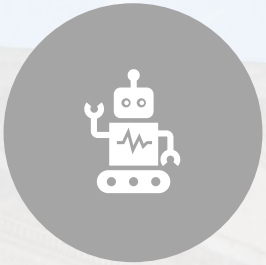




Application of what was learned



POSITION WITS LIBRARIES AS A NATIONAL LEADER IN OPEN SCHOLARSHIP.



ESTABLISH AI-ENABLED RESEARCH SUPPORT SERVICES.



EXPAND RESEARCH IMPACT ASSESSMENT SERVICES.



BUILD STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS ACROSS THE UNIVERSITY.



FOSTER A CULTURE OF CONTINUOUS INNOVATION AND LIFELONG LEARNING.

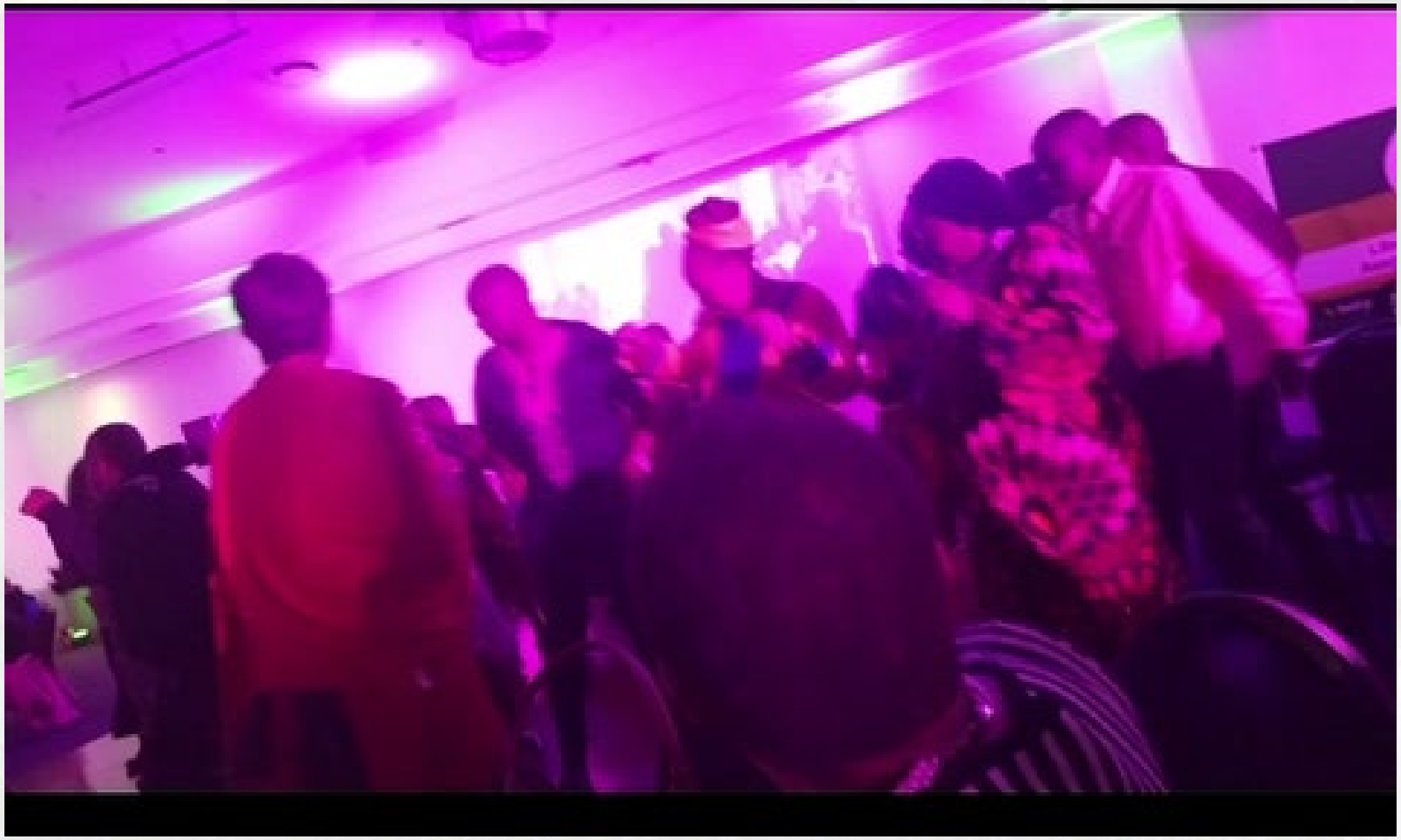
Day 2: The Best Evening Ever





5 course dinner with the courtesy of Dr. Selematsela & Chef Selematsela

Day 3 – The Gala Dinner



Thank you LET who made it possible for us to attend



THANK YOU

www.wits.ac.za

Follow us on:

