



## Join us for vLITASA2020

Saturday 19 September 2020  
9am – 5pm

litasa

LITERACY  
ASSOCIATION  
OF SOUTH AFRICA

In light of the impact of the coronavirus, the 15th annual LITASA conference is moving online. Join us in one of two tracks:



Join our platform where you can enjoy livestreaming, an interactive chat forum during the sessions and opportunities to network.



WhatsApp

We will use a broadcast WhatsApp group to send you recordings of the presentations as they happen. A second WhatsApp group gives you the opportunity to chat during the sessions and ask the presenters questions.

### Conference information

## There is no frigate like a book: Literacy and children's literature in contemporary Africa

*There is no Frigate like a Book  
To take us Lands away  
Nor any Coursers like a Page  
Of prancing Poetry –  
This Traverse may the poorest take  
Without oppress of Toll –  
How frugal is the Chariot  
That bears the Human Soul –  
~ Emily Dickinson (1830-1886)*

Emily Dickinson's poem reminds us that books and literature can open the world to readers, whatever their circumstances.

A rich experience of literature of varying sorts is a springboard for literacy which can lay a foundation for all learning across a person's life. Stories, told and read, can be the fuel that children use to develop language – reading, writing and speaking – and more importantly, thinking, as they respond to what they read or have read to them. Literacy skills developed at an early age through exposure to literature forms the basis of a whole range of literacy skills needed in later life to succeed academically and professionally.

However, in the South African context, access to literature is limited for most people. Almost 60% of South African homes have no books in them. Public and school libraries are under-resourced. Access to affordable books, especially in indigenous languages, is a persistent problem in South Africa and our neighbouring countries.

At the conference, we aim to look at the complexities surrounding the development of literature, especially in indigenous languages, as well as access to reading materials within the African context, spanning from childhood to adulthood. We also aim to celebrate research, initiatives and programmes that promote literature and reading.

In this conference we call for contributions that, amongst other themes:

- recognise the importance of literature in the holistic development of literacy
- acknowledge the importance of literature in the mother tongue
- promote the importance of storytelling and literature at all levels of education
- provide examples of practice which build on and are successfully working with learners' enjoyment of literature

### Conference sub-themes

While the focus of the conference is on literature and the important role it plays in literacy development, we welcome abstracts on a wide range of sub-themes, including:

- Literature and culture
- Literature in indigenous languages
- Literature and the development of cognitive/linguistic skills
- Literature, literacy and academic achievement
- Literature and emotional intelligence and creativity
- Critical thinking
- Literature and vocabulary development
- Oral literature and listening skills
- Translation of literary texts
- Using texts in a literacy intervention
- Literature in a multimedia world
- Young Adult literature
- Analysing literary texts
- Creative writing
- Materials development
- Working with parents and communities to build a culture of reading
- Libraries and accessibility

### Presentations

In addition to the keynote presentations, there will be a limited number of breakaway sessions. These sessions will contain videos submitted by interested presenters, just as presentations would be given at the traditional face-to-face conference. The videos submitted for consideration are the same videos that will be used during the conference.

*Please note that a link to the finalised video must be uploaded to our website for consideration.*

If you wish to submit a presentation for consideration, please follow these guidelines:

- Presentations may not be longer than 10 minutes.
- All presentations must be prerecorded in video format.
- The video file format must be mp4. A resolution of 480p is required.
- Video size should not exceed 50MB.
- Audio and video quality will be assessed, as well as the content of the video.
- A link to the video needs to be uploaded via the form on the website. The link can be to a YouTube or Vimeo video, a cloud storage platform such as Google Drive, iCloud or OneDrive (make sure the file sharing settings allow us to access the video), Dropbox or a file transfer platform like WeTransfer.

#### **We welcome multilingual presentations!**

We encourage submissions of presentations in languages other than English. If you would like to submit a multilingual video, please add subtitles to your video. [Here are guidelines](#) on creating subtitles.

## Video submissions

### **CLOSING DATE: 24 JULY 2020**

Please complete the presentation submission form on [our website](#). You will be notified about the success of your submission on or by 14 August 2020.

As the number of presentation slots is limited on the day, submissions which have merit but can't be accommodated will be available for viewing after the conference on our [YouTube channel](#).

## Registration

### **CLOSING DATE: 21 AUGUST 2020**

[Register online](#) or contact us at [info@litasa.org.za](mailto:info@litasa.org.za).

*NB:* While participation in the conference is free, you need to register in order to receive the links to the programme and instructions on how to participate.

**FREE  
REGISTRATION**

