

## Report from SA Region: SAACLALS for the period 2019-2022

**Status of membership:** SAACLALS has been struggling to have an active membership. There has not been any annual registration, payment of subscription fees and engagement in annual conferences/colloquia for a very long time. The Covid conditions from February 2020 to the present worsened the situation for most Academic Associations with institutions introducing financial austerity measures and slowly opening up to hosting virtual platforms much later into the pandemic.

As Chair I have been reduced to simple functions of forwarding emails from the ACLALS Chair and other regional branches using an old email list based on South African academics and students who attended the ACLALS Triennial at Stellenbosch in 2016.

Continued emails requesting membership renewal do not receive follow-ups and while in the past, people would become active- annual renewal of membership and payment of subscriptions- to attend the Triennial, this year I did not receive any enquiry.

**Status of Finances:** There hasn't been any subscriptions this year, and the account has had its balance depleted by bank charges. I realised that it was 'locked' because of inactivity while attempting to check the balance consisting of funds inherited in 2016 and the very limited subscriptions paid by few South African-based attendees at Auckland 2019. The bank gave me 25 working days to deal with the matter and I await their call/email.

### Activities and Accomplishments

A regional conference planned for May this year, which would have seen the appointment of new leadership with a full complement of SAACLALS Committee members could not go through and there are plans still to hold it hopefully this year.

The *Current Writing* Special Issue in honour of Michael Wessels, former Chair of SAACLALS, co-edited with Cheryl Stobie at UKZN was finally published in October 2021.

**Membership Drive:** a regional conference and meeting should usher in new leadership with a full complement of committee members and devise a membership drive strategy.

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