



REFERENCE LETTER

Denise Rosemary Nicholson is currently the Scholarly Communications Librarian at the University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg (Wits). She commenced working at Wits Library on 1 March 1983 and will retire on 31 December 2020. She has served nearly 38 years' in various library posts, including 24 years in copyright, open access and scholarly matters. In 2012, she obtained her Master of Laws (LLM) from Wits. She was responsible for encouraging the University to sign the Berlin Declaration on Open Access to Knowledge in the Sciences and Humanities in 2012 and assisted in drafting the Open Access Policy for Wits. She also promoted open access widely on campus through her regular presentations to staff and students and through her Open Access and OER LibGuides, and organising annual Open Access seminars on campus.

She is well-recognised internationally, regionally and in South Africa, for her advocacy and promotion of access to knowledge, open access and copyright awareness for many years. Since 1998, she has led a steadfast campaign for more balanced national copyright laws. In 1998 and 2000, she was Convenor of two copyright task teams, mandated by SAUVCA and the CTP, predecessors of Universities South Africa (USAf), that challenged and stopped two sets of proposals to amend the copyright law by the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), which were too restrictive and had negative implications for the library and educational sectors. In 2005/6, she liaised with the Department of Trade and Industry's International Trade Office, and with assistance from DFID and USAID, she managed to persuade the Chief Trade Negotiator, Mr. Xavier Carim, not to adopt the TRIPS-Plus Chapter in the US/SACU Free Trade Agreement. SACU countries declined to sign the FTA in 2006.

Since 2014, she has actively contributed to the current copyright amendment process by engaging with the DTI, presenting at workshops, making various submissions on the Copyright Amendment Bill, presenting at the Parliamentary hearings in August 2017 and working with IFLA, ICA, EIFL, AFLIA, LIASA, CHELSA, USAf, NCLIS, ReCreate, SADTU, APC, Creative Commons, and many others to promote and support the Bill.

She has been an active member of various international and local copyright committees and research projects. She served a number of terms on IFLA CLM Advisory Board and Committee, and on its e-Lending Workgroup and Workgroup for a Treaty on Limitations and Exceptions for Libraries and Archives. She was the SA representative for EIFL from 2005 to 2010. She is currently an expert copyright advisor for CLM, LIASA, and USAf. She served three terms on

the Legal Deposit Committee, and has recently been re-appointed for a second term on National Council for Library and Information Services (NCLIS), where she has been appointed as the official copyright spokesperson for NCLIS, an advisory body to the Minister of Sports, Arts and Culture.

She has presented at many conferences around the world, has many publications and has had input into policy documents, research studies, etc. internationally, regionally and locally. Her long-standing online information service had over 8000 subscribers globally before it was closed due to her retirement from Wits in December 2020. She has received a number of prestigious library awards, as well as the Wits Vice-Chancellors' Academic Citizenship Award (2015), for her work and professional contribution in South Africa and further afield. She has always been a dedicated, loyal and efficient worker, and has proved to be a great ambassador for Wits locally and internationally. I recommend her unconditionally and wish her well for the future.



.....
Paiki Muswazi
University Librarian