

Utrecht, Netherlands

7 August 2021

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to you in a personal capacity to indicate my support for Denise Nicholson to receive the SALI Trust Lifetime Achievement Award.

Denise has been a key figure in the library and copyright world for many years, building up both a wealth of experience and a long list of achievements. She has served as a model for many others, demonstrating what can be achieved in support of libraries.

I know Denise primarily through her strong engagement with IFLA as a member of the Advisory Committee on Copyright and other Legal Matters, and subsequently as an Expert Advisor to this same Committee, where she has been active ensuring that the experience of developing countries is heard and understood.

Through this, she has helped ensure that IFLA as a whole is better able to provide guidance, statements and other materials which support our members in developing countries.

She has also been a regular and effective part of the library delegation at the World Intellectual Property Organization, where she was the first developing country librarian to engage at the Organization's General Assemblies. Her work has been key to ensuring that the governments of South Africa and other African countries have been supportive of libraries' needs and interests.

She has a formidable reputation for her work nationally, playing a central role in efforts to get copyright reform onto the agenda in South Africa, and advancing legislation which would provide a model for countries elsewhere. This work has included avoiding the imposition of new copyright regulations that would have caused serious damage to libraries, both through domestic laws and trade deals.

In the most recent reforms, she has been tireless both in advocating for libraries herself, and in enabling a broader coalition of stakeholders to engage in the process. Often at the cost of personal attacks by those on the other side of the debate, she has been resolute and indefatigable in maintaining the pressure for positive change, drawing on international connections to provide valuable evidence and examples.

Despite having retired, after many years of providing valuable guidance and tools to students and faculty at Wits, she continues to work not only to support reforms, but to inform and animate work on copyright in the wider library community, in South Africa and across the region and the world.

She has regularly been the sole voice of libraries at hearings and workshops, engaging with officials and members of parliament to ensure that the needs of our institutions are known and reflected.

On this basis, I strongly recommend her and very much hope that the jury will see fit to award Denise the SALI Trust Lifetime Achievement award.

Yours faithfully,



Stephen Wyber
Manager, Policy and Advocacy, IFLA