



August 13, 2021

**UNISA Chancellor's Calabash Award**

**To Whom It May Concern:**

Denise Nicholson is known throughout the library and intellectual property worlds for her remarkably deep knowledge of national and international copyright laws and regimes, as they affect libraries and their users, and for her articulate, persistent, and effective advocacy on behalf of libraries.

I have worked with Denise for many years in the area of information policy and copyright, in particular, serving with her on the IFLA Copyright and Other Legal Matters Committee. During this time, I observed Denise's dedication and passion for the public interest in copyright as exemplified by limitations and exceptions to copyright for libraries and archives. Her leadership and expertise are widely recognized; she is a sought-after speaker and advocate and has been a leading spokesperson for the amendments to South Africa's copyright laws for the benefit of libraries, archives and people with disabilities, and ultimately, for society at large. She has been a steadfast colleague, generously contributing her expertise to assist with copyright laws in South Africa, in other countries, in one case at the very last minute in a state's legislature, and at the U.N. level, with at the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), making every effort to secure the best outcome for libraries and society.

Denise's widely acclaimed expertise and excellent presentation skills resulted in numerous invitations for her to appear on programmes at the IFLA World Congresses and to represent libraries at professional meetings and WIPO, contributing to the development of limitations and exceptions and advocating for their adoption. Her sustained efforts over many years, on behalf of libraries and society, to revise South Africa's copyright laws, draw on her deep knowledge and on the support of the wide network of international colleagues she has cultivated over the years.

Denise ranks among the handful of the world's librarians who have had notable impacts on information policy for the library profession, globally and nationally.

Denise is very deserving of recognition for her years of dedicated service to library and information services in South Africa, and worldwide, and for her unwavering commitment to improving information access for all South Africans. Denise is the epitome of a worthy recipient of this honour, and I unreservedly recommend her for the UNISA Chancellor's Calabash Awards .

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Victoria Owen". The signature is fluid and cursive.

**Victoria Owen**  
Information Policy Scholar-Practitioner