

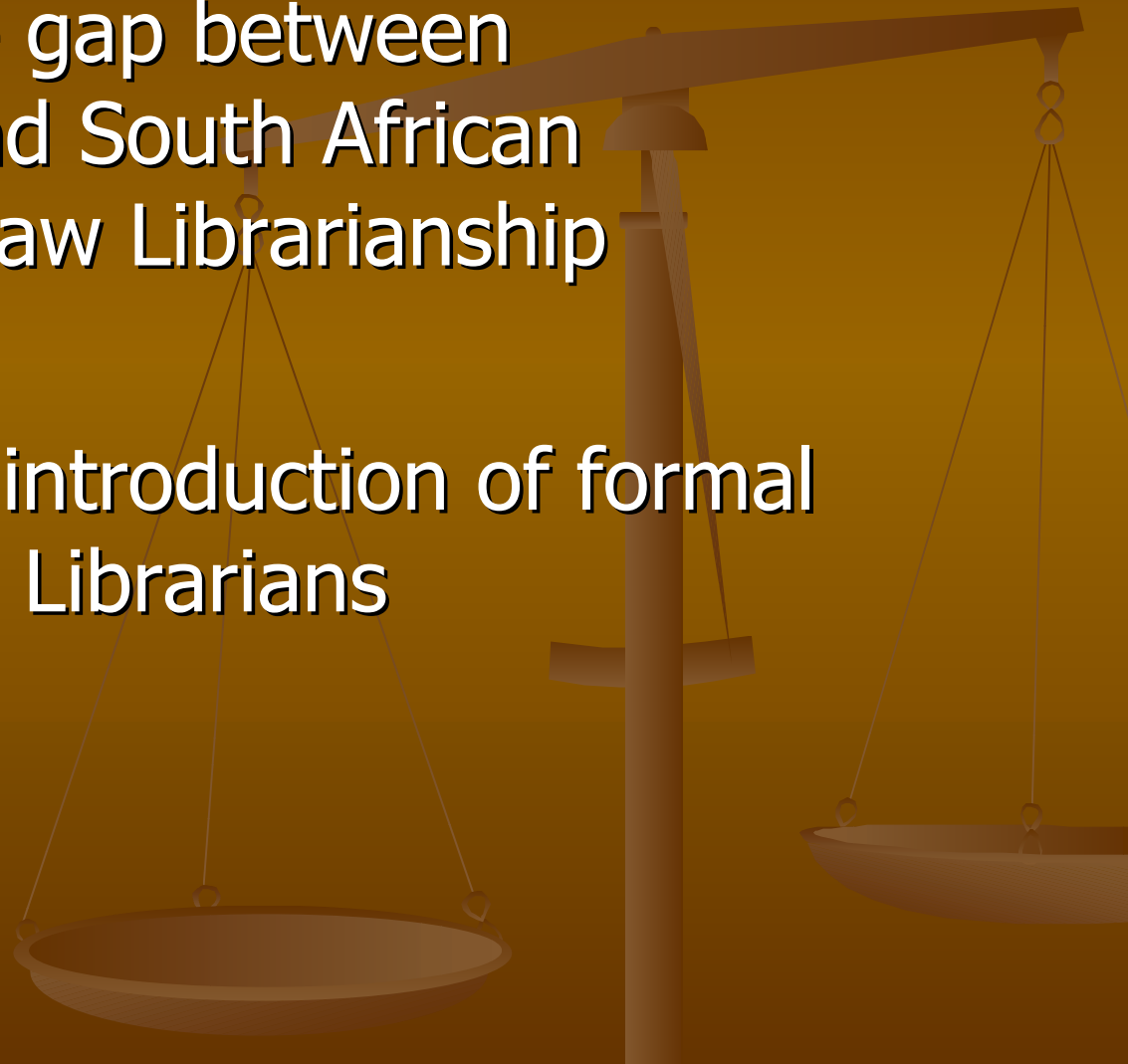
THE IMPORTANCE OF LEGAL
KNOWLEDGE AND EXPERTISE :
WHAT LAW LIBRARIANS SHOULD
KNOW

TSEPO FESTUS CONSTABLE
consttf@unisa.ac.za

SAOUG CONFERENCE
4 JUNE 2003

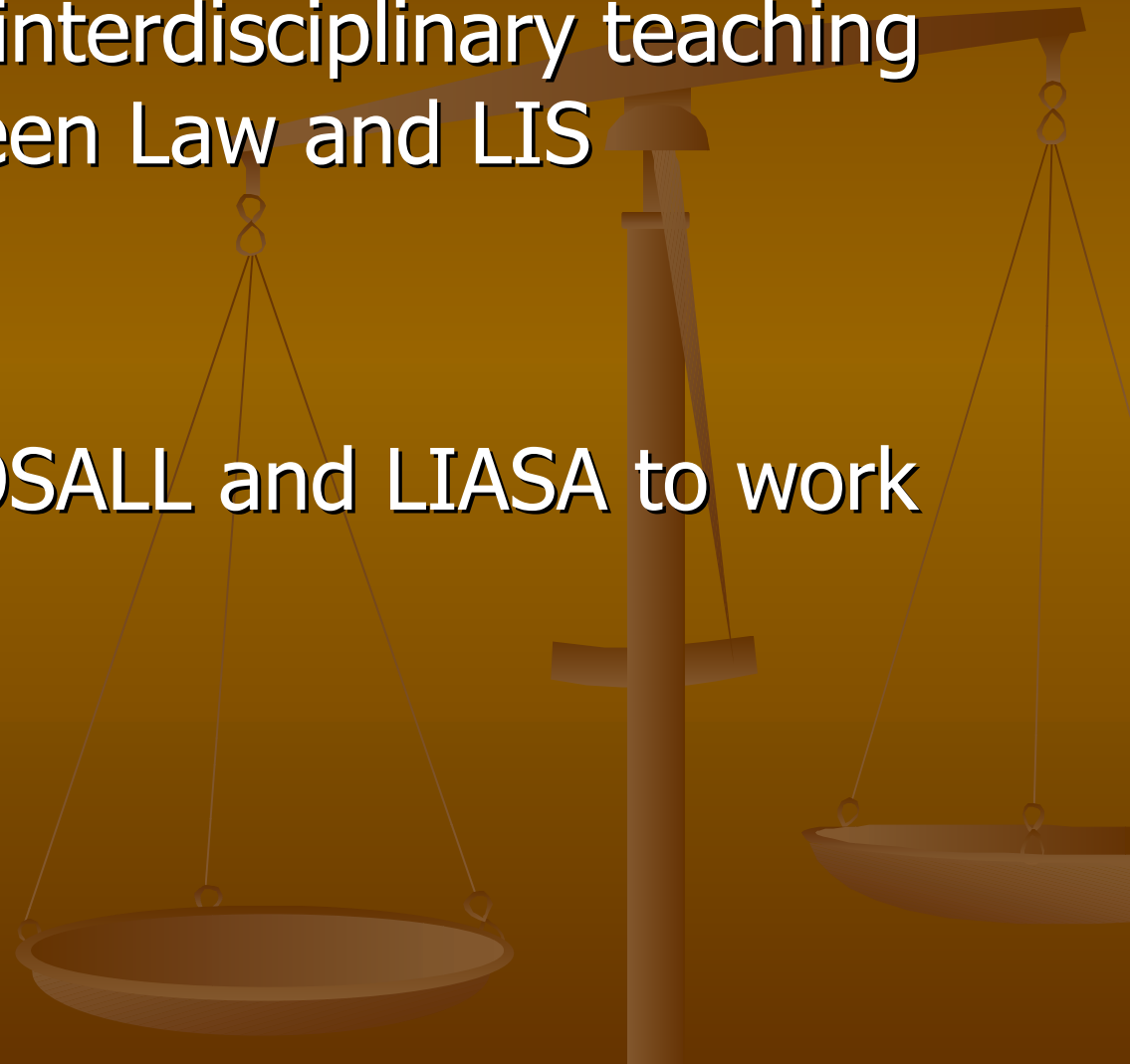
PURPOSE

- To highlight the gap between International and South African perspective in Law Librarianship
- To propose the introduction of formal training for Law Librarians

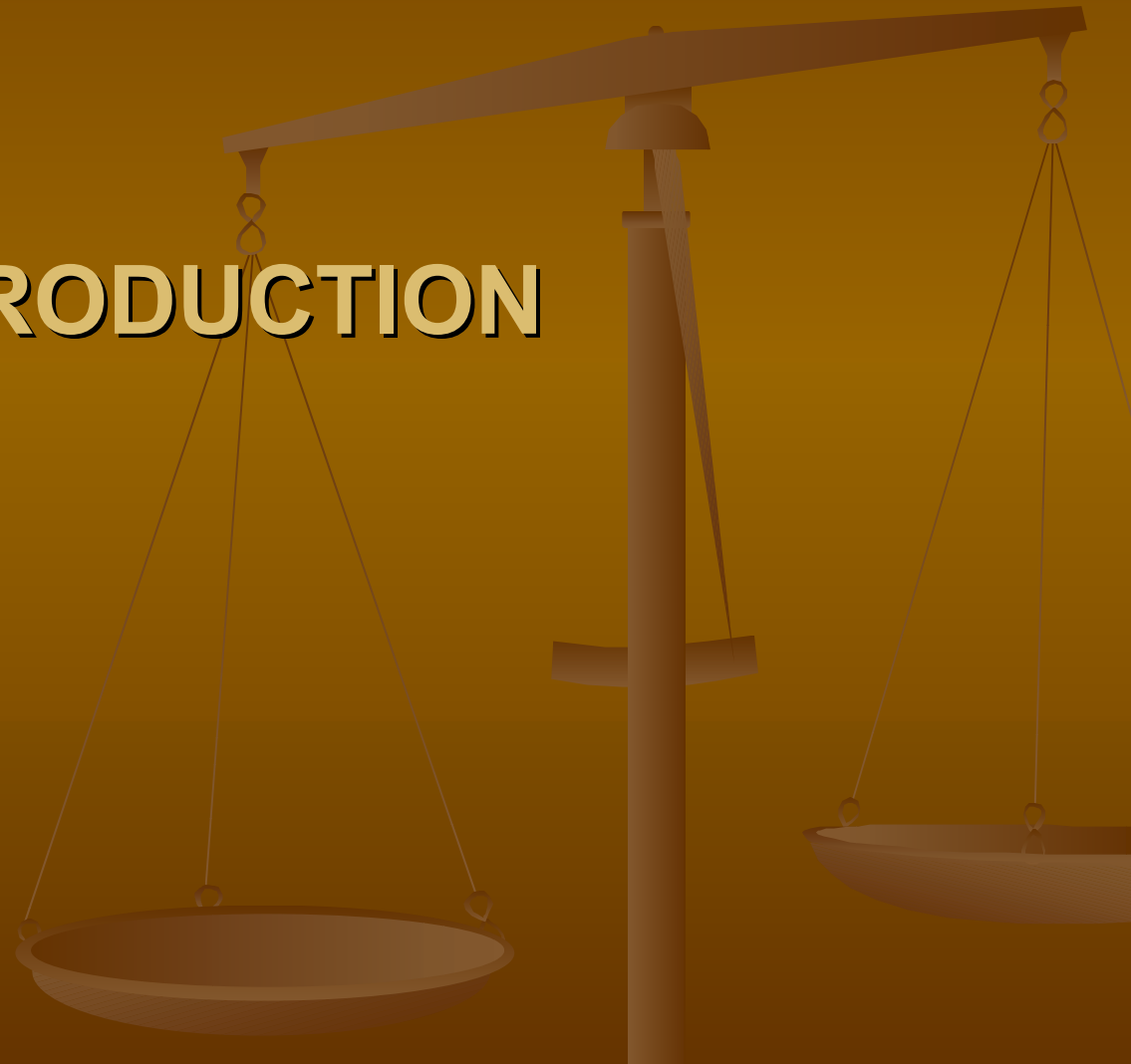


PURPOSE...

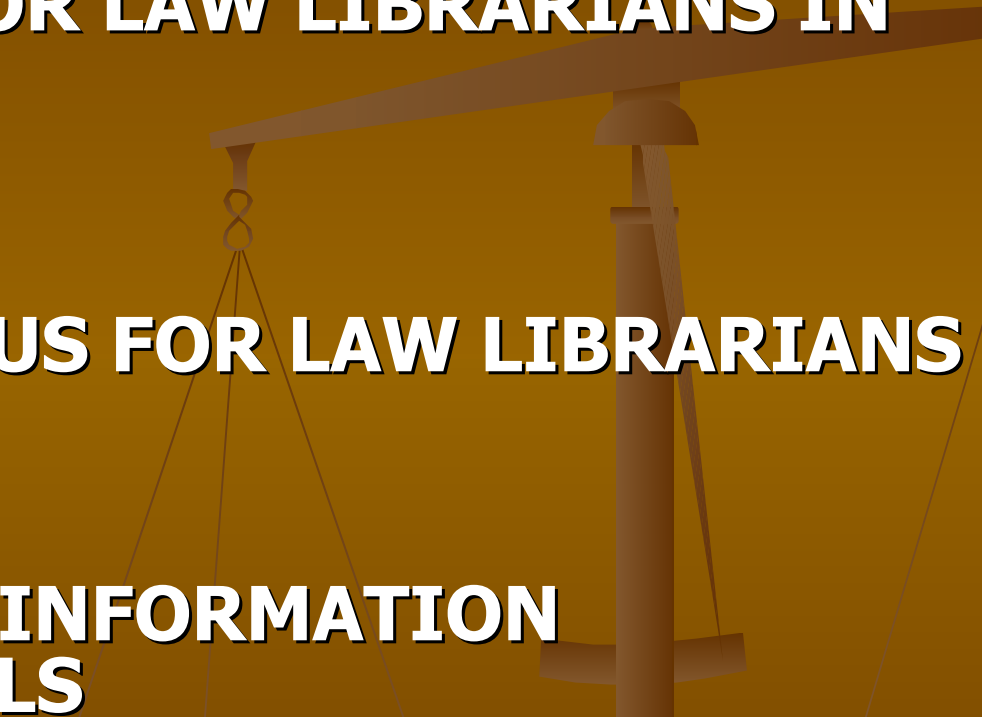
- To promote an interdisciplinary teaching approach between Law and LIS Departments
- To encourage OSALL and LIASA to work together



INTRODUCTION



TOPICS TO BE COVERED

- 1) EDUCATION FOR LAW LIBRARIANS IN SA**
 - 2) IDEAL SYLLABUS FOR LAW LIBRARIANS**
 - 3) LAW AND THE INFORMATION PROFESSIONALS**
- 

CONTINUE...

4) THE IMPORTANCE OF LEGAL KNOWLEDGE

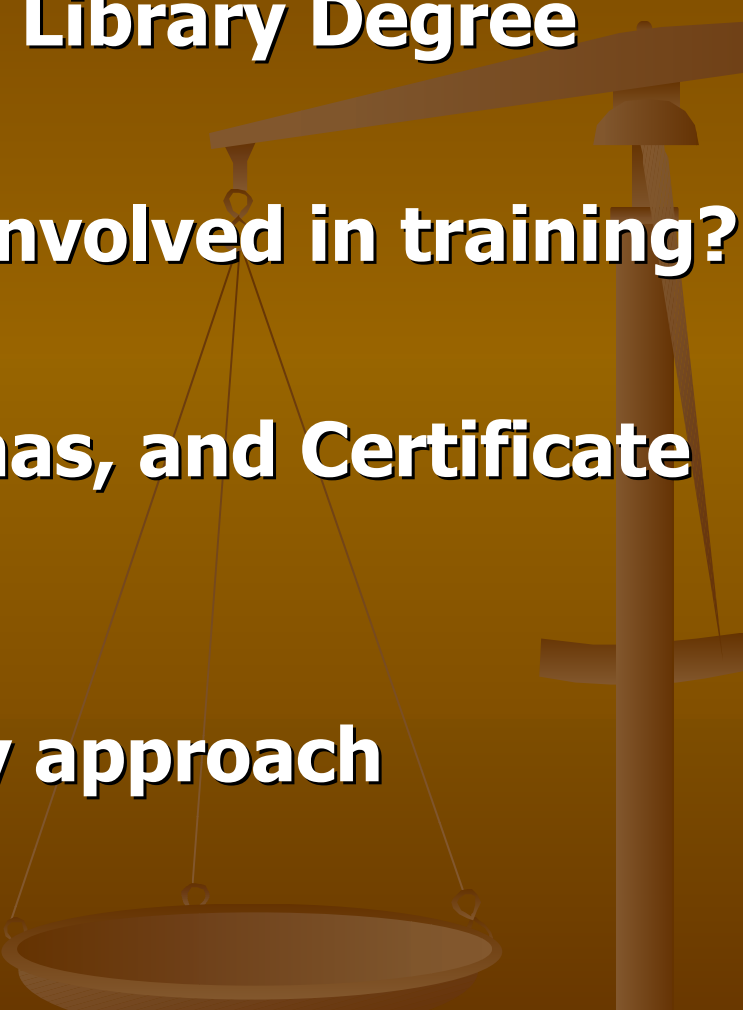
5) COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

6) RECOMMENDATIONS

7) CONCLUSION



EDUCATION FOR LAW LIBRARIANS

- **Training beyond Library Degree**
 - **Who should be involved in training?**
 - **Degrees, Diplomas, and Certificate Courses**
 - **Interdisciplinary approach**
 - **Competence**
- 

IDEAL SYLLABUS FOR LAW LIBRARIANS

- **Knowledge of Legal Terminology**
- **Knowledge of Legal Literature**
- **Ethics for the Legal Profession and Librarianship**

[AALL, 1998]

- **Marketing**
- **Budgeting**
- **Training & Development**

- **Legal Terminology**
 - Understanding
 - Easy Searches
- **Legal Literature**
 - Traditional vs Electronic
 - Parallel usage
- **Ethics**
 - Legal Advice (unethical)
 - Access & use of information (PAIA, Copyright)

LAW AND THE INFORMATION PROFESSIONALS

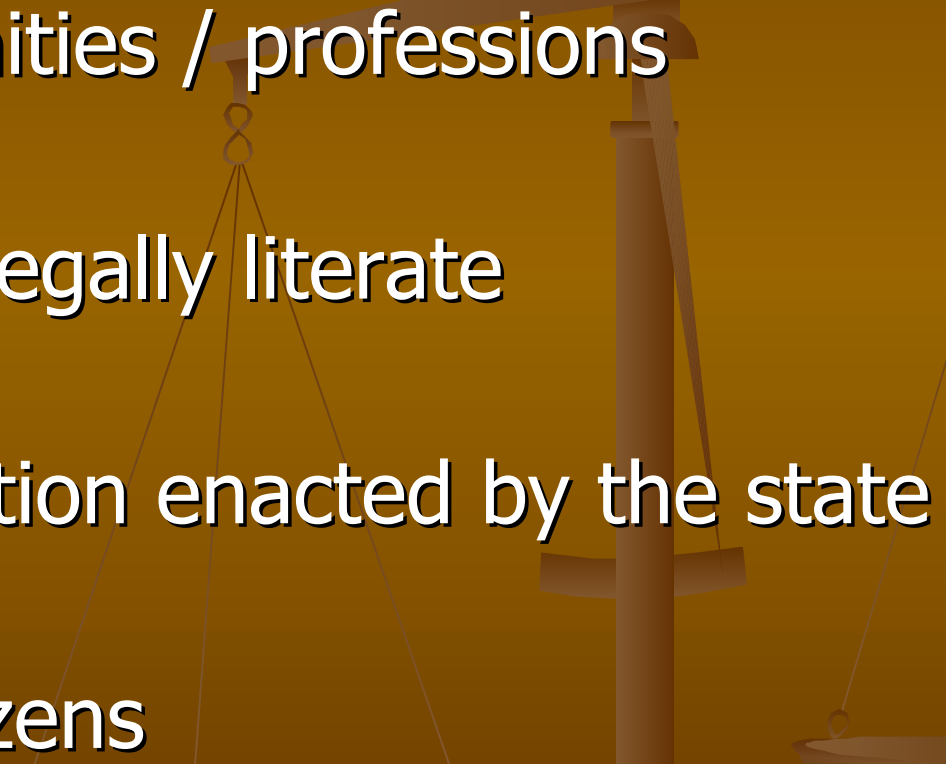
- Legal framework
 - Constitution
 - PAIA
 - Copyright

'Ignorantia juris non excusat'

- Basic legal ideas



IMPORTANCE OF LEGAL KNOWLEDGE

- Benefit communities / professions
 - Every citizen is legally literate
 - Aware of legislation enacted by the state
 - Law abiding citizens
- 

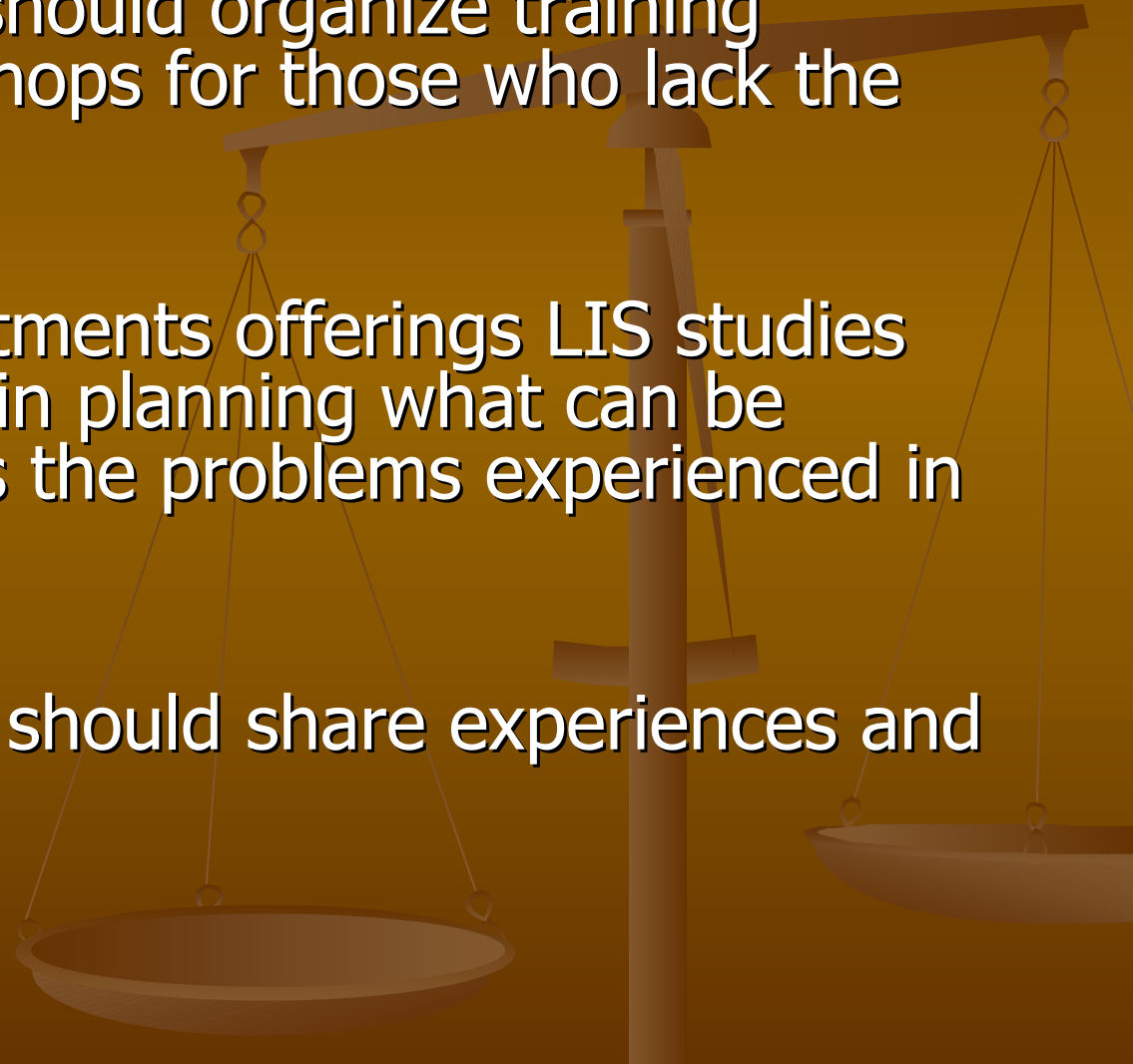
RECOMMENDATIONS



- **Prospective and practicing Law Librarians need a thorough understanding of the law.**
- **Tertiary institutions in South Africa should offer Certificate Courses, Diplomas even Degrees for those intending to be Law Librarians.**
- **Law Faculties should one way or another be involved in the design of these courses.**

RECOMMENDATIONS...

- OSALL members should organize training sessions or workshops for those who lack the expertise
- OSALL and Departments offerings LIS studies should cooperate in planning what can be offered to address the problems experienced in practice
- LIASA and OSALL should share experiences and expertise



CONCLUSION

