

Southern African Online User Group  
Chair's Report: 2003 / 2004  
Maureen Brassel

**COMMITTEE:**

Chair	Maureen Brassel
Ex Officio	Glenda Myers
Honorary Secretary	Ingrid de Bont
Minutes Secretary	Devind Peter
Honorary Treasurer	Chris Cromhout
Meetings Organiser	Hannalie Knoetze
Newsletter Editor	Di Kruger
Webmaster	Cornel Muller
Committee Member	Fiona Bester
Co-opted Member	Christa Fourie
Co-opted Member	Corne Willemse

**ACTIVITIES:**

Four meetings were held during the period under review, all of which were well attended:

- **22<sup>nd</sup> August 2003:** The AGM meeting was held at the Anglo American Head Office, Marshall Street, Johannesburg. A workshop was presented by Louise Mitchell, Christa Fourie and Norma Roberts on "Training End Users to do Internet Searching".
- **12<sup>th</sup> November 2003:** The end-of-the-year function was held at Deloitte & Touche Place, Woodmead, Sandton where Neil Burnett, from TomorrowToday presented a very lively talk on "The Generations: Understanding Why We Don't Understand"
- **12<sup>th</sup> February 2004:** Dialog (now SA Online Information Services) presented a Dialog Quantum 2 Leadership Workshop at the Wits Medical School, Len Miller Lecture Theatre. The two subjects covered were: "Achieving results through relationships : the Power of Influence"; and "Marketing Information Services".
- **20<sup>th</sup> May 2004:** Talk by Peter Tobin, GIBS on "Knowledge Sharing and the Use of Storytelling" which was held at Deloitte & Touche Place, Woodmead, Sandton.

**NEWSLETTER:**

We only managed to produce one newsletter during this year. Due to unforeseen circumstances Di requested to resign from this portfolio and we were unable to replace her as none of the committee members were in a position to take over this portfolio. We wish to thank Di Kruger for her willingness to carry out this arduous task for the last 6-7 years. This she did with her normal enthusiasm and it is very much appreciated.

**WEBSITE:** (<http://www.saoug.org.za>)

The website was created and kept up-to-date by Cornel Muller who resigned from the committee at the end of July as she has started out in a new career. She managed the website very efficiently providing information on all our meetings, conferences,

presentations, newsletters back to 1996, contact details of committee members, membership, archives, etc. Thank you Cornel.

#### **GENERAL:**

- The committee has already started organising the 8<sup>th</sup> Southern African Online User Group Meeting which is to be held at the CSIR Conference Centre, Pretoria from Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> June to Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2005. Three overseas speakers have agreed to attend and present papers and workshops. We shall be sending out the "Call for Papers" by the end of October 2004.
- Regarding our general meetings during the year, the Committee is finding it difficult to find speakers to talk on the latest online trends in technologies. The interests of SLIS and SAOUG are very similar and many of our members belong to both groups. We shall therefore be discussing some options regarding the future of SAOUG with the members attending the AGM.

#### **THANKS:**

Once again I would like to thank SABINET for hosting our listserv. I would also like to thank Honeywell for the provision of their premises as a meeting venue for the Executive Committee.

As this is my final term of office as Chair, I would like to thank **all** the members of the Executive Committee for their hard work, dedication and continued enthusiasm and loyalty, with special mention of the following members who have served on the committee for 6 years or longer: Hannalie for organising venues, refreshments and liaising with the speakers; Chris for handling our finances in a most efficient manner; Devind for the minutes of our committee meetings; Ingrid for attending to membership queries; and Glenda for her valuable experience, support and advice.

Finally I would like to thank all the SAOUG members for your participation and support of the Group's activities.

Maureen Brassel  
Chair  
16 August 2004

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