MALAWI LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

3RD NATIONAL RESEARCH DISSEMINATION CONFERENCE

OFFICIAL PROGRAMME

Official Opening Ceremony

Venue: Blue Waters Lake Resort, Salima
Date: Wednesday, 28th October 2026

Start	End	Duration (min)	Item	Responsible
8:00 AM	8:10 AM	10	Arrival and seating of guests; guest of honour received	Secretariat/Chairperson Protocol
8:10 AM	8:15 AM	5	Introduction and welcoming by Director of Ceremonies	Director of Ceremonies
8:15 AM	8:20 AM	5	Opening prayer	To be appointed
8:20 AM	8:30 AM	10	Welcoming remarks	Dr Austine Phiri, Chair, Organising Committee
8:30 AM	8:40 AM	10	Remarks and introduction of special invited guests	Mr Felix Majawa, President, MALA
8:40 AM	8:55 AM	15	Official opening remarks and declaration of the workshop open	Hon. Minister of Information, Guest of Honour
8:55 AM	9:25 AM	30	Keynote address	Dr Diston Chiweza
9:25 AM	9:30 AM	5	Housekeeping announcements, Interviews by media team	Director of Ceremonies
9:30 AM	9:40 AM	10	Group photo	Photographer/Director of Ceremonies
9:40 AM			Close of opening ceremony; tea break and transition to technical sessions	MC

Day 1: Wednesday, 28th October 2026

Opening Ceremony, Sponsor Presentations and Research Dissemination

Time	Activity	Responsible Person/Chairperson
08:00–08:30	Registration of participants	Registration Committee
08:30–08:40	Arrival of invited guests	Protocol Committee
08:40–08:50	Welcome remarks	Malawi Library Association representative
08:50–09:00	Introduction of the Guest of Honour	Director of Ceremonies- Mr. Fiskani Ngwira
09:00–09:30	Official opening ceremony	Guest of Honour
09:30–09:45	Conference objectives and programme overview	Conference Organising Committee
09:45–10:00	Group photograph	Protocol
10:00–10:10	Sponsor presentation 1:	Old Mutual representative
10:10–10:20	Sponsor presentation 2:	Malawi Liverpool Wellcome Research Programme (MLW) representative
10:20–10:30	Sponsor presentation 3:	LUANAR representative
10:30–10:40	Sponsor presentation 4:	EBSCO representative
10:40–10:50	Sponsor presentation 5:	MAREN representative
10:50–11:00	Sponsor Presentation 6	NCST representative
11:00–11:30	Tea break and networking	All participants
11:30–11:40	Introduction of Session 1 and presentation guidelines	Director of Ceremonies/Session Chairperson
11:40–12:30	Sub-Theme 1: Big Data and Data Analytics — Presentations 1–2	Assoc. Prof. George Chipeta
12:30–13:30	Sub-Theme 2: Digital Libraries and Institutional Repositories — Presentations 3–4	Dr. Dorothy Eneya
13:30–14:30	Lunch break	All participants
14:30–15:30	Sub-Theme 3: Information Access and the Digital Divide — Presentations 5–8	Mr. Kaitano Simwaka
15:50–16:10	Tea break	All participants
16:10–17:10	Sub-Theme 4: Open Access and Scholarly Communication — Presentations 9–11	Dr. Diston Chiweza
17:10–17:25	Plenary discussion, reflections and questions	Session Chairpersons
17:25–17:30	Announcements and closing of Day 1	Conference Organising Committee

Day 1: Research Presentation Schedule

Sub-Theme 1: Big Data and Data Analytics

Chairperson: Assoc. Prof. George Chipeta

No.	Research Paper	Presenter/Author(s)

1	Bibliometric Analysis of Publications at the Malawi Liverpool Wellcome Programme: Demonstrating Expansion and Achieving Milestones in Health Research and Science	Teddie Chima and co-authors
2	Big Data and Data Analytics in Academic Libraries: Assessing Readiness and Prospects for the University of Malawi Library	Brian Sitima-Ndau

Sub-Theme 2: Digital Libraries and Institutional Repositories

Chairperson: Dr. Dorothy Eneya

No.	Research Paper	Presenter/Author(s)
3	Readiness for the Adoption of Radio Frequency Identification Technology at Mzuzu University Library and Learning Resources Centre	Mphatso Kettie Kachiza; Fiskani Ngwira
4	Migrating from a Proprietary Library Management System to Koha at the Kamuzu University of Health Sciences: An Open-Source Implementation Experience under Foreign-Exchange Constraints	Felix Chisoni and co-authors

Sub-Theme 3: Information Access and the Digital Divide

Chairperson: Kaitano Simwaka

No.	Research Paper	Presenter/Author(s)
5	Bridging the Information Access Divide: The Role of Libraries in Promoting Equitable Access to Knowledge in the Digital Era	Wonderful M. Chindungwa and co-authors
6	Utilisation of My Loft App in remote access to journal articles as an academic tool among masters in nursing and midwifery students at Mzuzu University: A descriptive study	Maloto Green Chaura and Tamara Phiri
7	Unmasking Factors that Influence Empowered Telecentre Users to Empower Communities	Sellina Kapondera and Jim Mtambo
8	Malawi Electronic Resources (E-books and E-journals) Usage Compared with African Trends: An EIFL-Based Country-Level Analysis	Patrick Mapulanga
9	Establishment of a Department for Research Evaluation within the National Commission for Science and Technology (NCST)	Patrick Mapulanga

Sub-Theme 4: Open Access and Scholarly Communication

Chairperson: Dr. Diston Chiweza

No.	Research Paper	Presenter/Author(s)
10	Promoting Scholarly Publishing in Malawi's University Libraries	Limbani Chrispin Gama
11	Redressing Global South Inequities: Diamond Open Access as a Barrier- Free Path to Knowledge Equity	Blessings Pitiry-Deliwe Katuma and co-authors

Day 2: Thursday, 29th October 2026

Research Presentations, Records Management, Knowledge Innovation and Conference Resolutions

Time	Activity	Responsible Person/Chairperson
08:30–08:45	Registration and arrival of participants	Registration Committee
08:45–09:00	Recap of Day 1 and introduction of the day's programme	Director of Ceremonies – Thokozani Bodza-Mbewe
09:00–09:20	Sub-Theme 4: Open Access and Scholarly Communication — Presentations 12-14	Mr. Alufeyo Manda
09:40–10:00	Sub-Theme 5: Records and Archives Management — Presentation 15	Mr. Kaitano Simwaka
10:00–10:30	Health break	All participants
10:30–11:30	Sub-Theme 5: Records and Archives Management — Presentations 16–19	Mr. Kaitano Simwaka
11:30–11:50	Sub-Theme 6: Information Literacy and User Education — Presentations 20-21	Dr. Dorothy Eneya
11:50–12:30	Sub-Theme 7: Information Ethics, Privacy and Cybersecurity — Presentations 22-23	Assoc. Prof. George Chipeta
12:30–13:30	Lunch break	All participants
13:30–14:10	Sub-Theme 8: Knowledge Management and Innovation — Presentations 24-28	Assoc. Prof. Aubrey Chaputula
14:10–14:30	Sub-Theme 9: Sustainable Development and Information Services — Presentations 29-30	Assoc. Prof. Aubrey Chaputula
14:30–15:30	Sub-Theme 10: Education and Training in Information Science — Presentations 31-33	Dr. Kondwani Wella
15:30–15:50	Tea break	All participants
15:50–16:20	General discussion: emerging issues, recommendations and future research	All participants; facilitated by the Conference Chair
16:20–16:40	Presentation and adoption of conference resolutions and recommendations	Conference Resolutions Committee
16:40–16:50	Vote of thanks	Designated representative
16:50–17:00	Closing remarks and official closure	Guest of Honour/Association leadership

Day 2: Research Presentation Schedule

Sub-Theme 4: Open Access and Scholarly Communication

Chairperson: Mr Alufeyo Manda

No.	Research Paper	Presenter/Author(s)
	National Librarian's presentation on the National Policy on Library and Information Services	Mr. Amon Kapasule - invited guest
	Library profession in Malawi: Past and present	Dr Augustine Msiska - invited guest
12	Maturity in Research Data Management Practices in Sub-Saharan African Higher Learning Institutions: Systematic Literature Review	Pempho Ashan and Winner Dominic Chawinga

Sub-Theme 5: Records and Archives Management

Chairperson: Kaitano Simwaka

No.	Research Paper	Presenter/Author(s)
13	Medical Records Management Practices at Mlambe Mission Hospital in Blantyre, Malawi	Dennis Kumphanda and Austine Phiri
14	Impact of Hybrid Records Management Practices on Service Delivery in Local Authorities: A Global Systematic Literature Review	Rhodrick Andrew Padoni and co-authors
15	Examining Records and Archives Management Practices and Processes in Support of Service Delivery	Davie Cosmas Chirombo
16	The Cost of Protection: Economics of Records Security and Privacy in Malawi's Public Sector	Clement Mweso
17	Maturity of records and information governance practices at a private university in Malawi: Implications for higher education in developing countries.	Kaitano Simwaka, Donald Flywell Malanga, Blessings Mhango and Glyn Mughogho

Sub-Theme 6: Information Literacy and User Education

Chairperson: Dr. Dorothy Eneya

No.	Research Paper	Presenter/Author(s)
18	Infusing the Knowledge Gap: The Role of Liaison Librarianship in Addressing Faculty Information Needs at Mzuzu University	Allan Kanyundo and Brighton Chunga
19	Effect of teaching information literacy skills on students' information-searching capability at the University of Livingstonia	Francisco Kampepule Chisi George T. Chipeta, Winner Dominic Chawinga

Sub-Theme 7: Information Ethics, Privacy and Cybersecurity

Chairperson: Assoc. Prof. George Chipeta

No.	Research Paper	Presenter/Author(s)
20	Understanding Copyright Law and Digital Licensing Agreements among Librarians in Malawi	Owen Langwani
21	Plagiarism Acts and Practices among Nursing Students at Kamuzu University of Health Sciences, Lilongwe Campus	Jim Mtambo and co-authors

Sub-Theme 8: Knowledge Management and Innovation

Chairperson: Assoc. Prof. Aubrey Chaputula

No.	Research Paper	Presenter/Author(s)

22	Intellectual Capital, Patent Development and Innovation Systems in Africa: A Hermeneutic Literature Review	Blessings Mhango and Kaitano Simwaka
23	The Implications of the Evolving Information Environment on the Need for Information Science Professionals' Innovative Strategy towards Malawi 2063	Diston Store Chiweza
24	Knowledge sharing amongst the Clergy of the CCAP Synod of Livingstonia in Malawi	George T. Chipeta, Austine Phiri, Fiskani Ngwira, Limbani Gama, Gracious Gadama, Allan Kanyundo
25	Institutional Approach to Indigenous Knowledge Preservation. An Exploratory Study of Library and Archival Practices at Lake Malawi Anglican University.	Ezra Kapachika
26	Infopreneurship as a Career Alternative Among Library and Information Science Graduates of Mzuzu University in Malawi	Portiphar Chamgwera, George T. Chipeta, Winner Dominic Chawinga

Sub-Theme 9: Sustainable Development and Information Services

Chairperson: Assoc. Prof. Aubrey Chaputula

No.	Research Paper	Presenter/Author(s)
27	The Role of Mzuzu University Library and Learning Resources Centre in Promoting Sustainable Development Goal 4: Quality Education	Neema Chimimba and Fiskani Ngwira
28	Transforming information access and knowledge systems in the digital Era in Malawi	Allan Kanyundo and Bright Chunga

Sub-Theme 10: Education and Training in Information Science

Chairperson: Dr. Kondwani Wella

No.	Research Paper	Presenter/Author(s)
29	Digital Transformation and the Future of Library and Information Services in Malawi: Changing Roles, Competencies and Challenges for LIS Professionals	Wonderful M. Chindungwa and co-authors
30	Gender Representation and Career Progression Disparities in Selected Public Academic Libraries in Malawi	Teleza Khunga and Maloto Chaura
31	Philosophical and Strategic Arguments for Remodelling the Academic Librarian and the Administrative Librarian Frameworks in Malawi	Diston Store Chiweza

End of Conference Programme