The 17th annual LITASA conference is the premier platform for those working in the literacy sector to connect, share knowledge and learn from each other. Together, we are able to create an empowered and informed literacy community.

CONFERENCE THEME

Recent global events have catapulted education into the digital age, requiring rapid adaptation in order for learning to continue. Teachers, teacher educators, those working in tertiary institutions and community organisations, as well as parents and learners, faced unprecedented challenges, especially in terms of their approaches to learning. Pedagogic agency, which refers to the educator's ability to make informed instructional decisions based on learning needs and reflective considerations, was transformed as conceptions of the classroom shifted. These seismic changes call on those working in the education sector to consider the future of literacy education in a world increasingly located in technology, data and the knowledge economy.

The conference theme raises another issue. A pedagogical agent – a concept borrowed from computer science and artificial intelligence – refers to an avatar that simulates the role of a teacher in a digital learning environment. The adoption of the term foreshadows an area of uncertainty within education circles: what is the future of teaching? Are we adequately prepared for it? And how can those working in literacy instruction be supported to shift from traditional approaches to methods that will meet the needs of the future?

CONFERENCE SUBTHEMES

The conference is seeking submissions related to the following topics
- Literacy instruction in the digital age, new pedagogical approaches, blended learning
- Literacy in the 21st century, information and media literacy, digital literacy, the knowledge economy
- Teacher development, reflective practice, teachers as agents of change, the classroom as a learning laboratory, personalised learning
- Learning analytics, data in education management, artificial intelligence in education, the digital divide
- Open Educational Resources, the development and accessibility of resources, libraries in the 21st century
- Natural language processing, digital resources in African languages
- Early and emergent literacy, adolescent and adult literacy
- Family and community literacy
- Literacy practices in tertiary institutions
- Decolonising literacy instruction
- Innovations in literacy

SUBMISSION CATEGORIES

Presentations can take the form of
- individual papers
- colloquia
- workshops
- snapshots
- poster presentations

For details on these categories, see the final page.

ABSTRACT SUBMISSION

Please submit your abstract by completing the abstract submission form on the conference page on LITASA's website. Note that there is a limit of 250 words for abstracts. The title of your submission should not exceed 15 words.

The closing date for abstract submission is **31 May 2022**. Submissions will be evaluated by the abstract committee and you will be notified about the outcome of your submission on or by 27 June 2022.

REGISTRATION

Register online at www.litasa.org.za or contact us at info@litasa.org.za. Note that the closing date for delegate registration is **26 August 2022**. Delegate fees are as follows:

Full registration	Non–member | R2700	Member | R2400
NGO registration	Non–member | R1500	Member | R1200
Teacher registration	Non–member | R1200	Member | R900
Student registration	R500	
International registration (from Africa)	R2800	
International registration (outside Africa)	$250	

Rethinking literacy and pedagogic agency in the 4IR

30 September - 2 October 2022
Gauteng

Details on the various presentation formats can be found below. Abstracts will be adjudicated according to the described criteria.

Individual papers **20 minutes and 10 minutes for discussion**
One or more presenters demonstrate the link between their specific research and the broader concerns of the conference, indicating the gap that their research fills in the current literature. Clear evidence of the link between the presentation content and the conference theme is required. Furthermore, explicit mention of research design (such as experimental design, conceptual/theoretical design, or literature review) and research methodology is necessary.

Colloquia **60 minutes**
These sessions are high-level conversations, similar to panel discussions, which accommodate three to five speakers. The connection between the conference theme and the colloquium content should be made clear in the abstract. The target audience of the workshop (for example, literacy coaches, researchers, teachers) also should be clearly stated.

Workshops **60 minutes**
Workshops can be facilitated by one or more people. They often are practical in nature, intending to help attendees develop a skill or take an in-depth look at a particular phenomenon. The connection between the presentation content and the conference theme should be clear in the abstract. Outcomes for the workshop also should be included in the abstract. The target audience of the workshop (for example, teachers, ECD practitioners, postgraduate students) should be clearly stated.

Snapshots **20 minutes and 10 minutes for discussion**
These are presentations that depict what is happening in classrooms or community projects, with a clear link to the conference theme. No research is required – these presentations share best practice and/or lessons learned. Snapshots are ideal for teachers, NGO representatives and community organisations to get involved in the conference.

Poster presentation **On display throughout the conference**
In this type of presentation, research information is presented in a visual format. The researcher is available to discuss the content of the poster with conference delegates individually. Clear evidence of the link between the presentation content and the conference theme is required. Research design and methodology should be made explicit.