



INTERVIEW WITH AN IAMS LIC LIBRARIAN: Geoffrey Salanje-Malawi

SHARING EXPERIENCES & TRANSFERRING KNOWLEDGE



YOUR STUDIES: Bachelor's degree in Social Science (majoring in Sociology, Statistics and Management) – University of Malawi (1985); Post-Graduate diploma in Library Studies – University of Botswana (1988) and a Masters degree in Library Studies – University of Wales, UK (1991).

YOUR AREA OF EXPERTISE: Knowledge Management, Library management

Why/When did you choose the Librarianship career? I fell in love with the profession in 1984 when I did a three months long vacation in an academic library. That time I was in the third year of my four years bachelor's degree programme. I was first introduced to the profession for the first time.

Tell us an experience related to your profession: It has been a very interesting 29years journey. Over the years I have grown academically and professionally. Academically I have attained a post-graduate diploma and master's degree in library studies having entered the profession with a social science bachelor's degree. Professionally I have rising through the ranks from a mere Assistant Librarian Trainee to a University Librarian. I have worked almost in all departments/section within an academic library like Acquisitions, Cataloguing, Special Collections, Library Automation, and Library management. A particular experience I cherish most in my profession is when I attained a position of a University Librarian in June 2013. I feel I have reached a pinnacle in my profession and am very satisfied.

What do you enjoy doing most in your work place? I enjoy most assisting users satisfy their information needs.

What do you dislike? Having limited resources when discharging my duties

What does it mean for you to belong to an association such as IAMS LIC? It gives me that sense of belonging and pride. It is a very enriching and satisfying experience. I have learnt and I learn a lot by belonging to the association. I am able to network with fellow professionals. In so doing I grow professionally!

How would you describe a "good professional librarian"? Somebody who updates him/herself with new skills and ideas in the profession in order to better serve his/her users.

Your favourite book or author is: *Things Fall Apart* by Chinua Achebe

What is your great passion? Watching comedies and socializing with all over a glass of beer!

Where can we learn more about you and your professional and/or social activities (for example: FB, OceanPortal, ResearchGate, etc)? I used to be on FB but it was recently hacked so I closed it. It had all my details. I will register again after sometime.

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