

## Curriculum vitae: Peter Johan LOR

Peter Johan Lor was born in the Netherlands in 1946, and came to South Africa when his parents emigrated in 1952. He grew up in the Western Cape and studied at the universities of Stellenbosch, Pretoria and Caen (France), where he obtained degrees in languages, linguistics and library science. His M.Bibl.<sup>1</sup> (1978) and D.Phil.<sup>2</sup> (1991) degrees in library and information science are from the University of Pretoria.

From 1968 Lor worked in special and academic libraries, and as a teacher of library science at the University of Stellenbosch and the University of South Africa, where he became a full professor in 1991. In 1992 he was appointed as the Director of the State Library, a national library with responsibilities for the Southern African bibliographical and resource-sharing infrastructure. During the 1990s he participated in a number of initiatives to develop national policies for post-apartheid library and information services. He played a leading role in forming a non-racial library association, the Library and Information Association of South Africa (LIASA), to replace the former racially-based library associations. In 2000 he became South Africa's first National Librarian and Chief Executive Officer of the National Library of South Africa (2000-2003), with the task of merging South Africa's two existing national libraries (the State Library in Pretoria and the South African Library in Cape Town).

He has been actively involved in international librarianship since the 1980s, attending IFLA conferences from 1983 onwards. He served as chairman of the Conference of Directors of National Libraries (1996-2000) and undertook various international consulting activities, including the drafting of *Guidelines for legislation for national library services* for publication by the General Information Programme of UNESCO.

Following his term at the National Library, he served as Secretary General of the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA) in The Hague, the Netherlands (2005-2008), after which he was appointed as a visiting professor in the School of Information Studies at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee (2009-2011), where he developed a course in International and Comparative Librarianship. From 1998 to 2016 he was an Extraordinary Professor<sup>3</sup> in the Department of Information Science, University of Pretoria. From 2017 he serves as a Research Associate in that department. He works online from his home in George, on the South African Garden Route.

Lor is the author of over 200 professional reports and conference papers and around 190 scholarly articles and book chapters, which have appeared in 14 languages in 20 countries. He has served on the editorial boards of a number of South African and overseas journals, currently including *Library management*, *Libri* and the *South African journal of libraries and information science*. His current research focuses on international and comparative librarianship and on the ethical and political economic aspects of international information relations, on which he wrote a comprehensive book, *International and comparative librarianship: concepts and methods for global studies* (Berlin, De Gruyter, 2019). He also makes occasional forays into current library issues such as fake news and conspiracy theories, and has a growing interest in historical topics. He writes a column on international LIS for LIASA's newsletter, *LIASA-in-Touch*, and blogs at <https://peterlor.com/>.

Lor is an honorary member of LIASA and the Italian Library Association. In 2008 he was awarded an honorary doctorate by the University of Pretoria, and he was honoured with the IFLA medal in 2014. In 2020 he was the recipient of the John Ames Humphry/OCLC/Forest

Press Award of the American Library Association, awarded annually presented to a librarian or person who has made significant contributions to international librarianship.

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<sup>1</sup> M.Bibl.: *Magister Bibliothecologiae*, is the master's degree in library science, approximately equivalent to the MLS.

<sup>2</sup> DPhil: *Doctor Philosophiae*, formerly used in South Africa to designate doctorates in the humanities as distinct from those in the natural sciences.

<sup>3</sup> Extraordinary Professor: a recognized expert, usually from industry or professional practice, who is honoured by a university with the title of professor and enlisted to do some graduate teaching for a token honorarium.