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Eastern Cape



Grahamstown

South African Library for the Blind

The South African Library for the Blind (SALB) was conceived and born of humble beginnings in the then tiny Eastern Cape town of Grahamstown during the height of the 1918 global influenza pandemic.

While nursing local influenza victims, Josephine (Josie) Wood met Miss Comber, a British nurse who wished to establish religious study groups for the blind. Later, having been recalled to England, Miss Comber, who had developed a personal collection of 100 braille volumes, convinced Josie Wood to develop an accessible library for the visually impaired.

Her acceptance marked the beginning of the library for the visually impaired in South Africa – and led directly to the proudly South African institute today.

THE LIBRARY'S SERVICES FALL INTO NINE DEPARTMENTS:

- Circulation (Audio and Braille) and Cataloguing
- Audio Production
- Braille Production
- Product Support Services
- Braille Consultancy
- Information Technology and Technical Services
- Marketing
- Management Services

Creating tactile picture books for blind and partially sighted children is one of the latest projects from the SALB. Its purpose to contribute to literacy through the development of tactile skills in blind children and through exposure to books, to create a love of reading from an early age

Completed titles of 20 copies in four official languages per title, will be added to the SALB's collection of tactile books, presently standing at 14 titles.





EASTERN PROVINCE MINI LIBRARIES

The implementation of Mini Libraries into communities around the Eastern Cape is as a result of a joint project between the Eastern Cape Province Department of Sports, Recreation, Arts and Culture, and the SALB. This project aims to fulfill three goals:

These Mini Libraries will make use of the latest Daisy technology available, where the audio books can be enjoyed on CD format. The titles on offer will be available in English, Afrikaans and Xhosa, while the reading material will include the magazines and storybooks for all ages as well as the Bible.

2010 SOCCER FEVER

In support of the 2010 FIFA World Cup™, the SALB participates in spirited Soccer Fridays, with all staff dressing in their supporters' best and playing a game of soccer before heading home for the weekend. A six metre long banner which hangs across the SALB Josie Woods building, further demonstrates the SALB's enthusiasm and encouragement for the Bafana Bafana team. While to ensure that our members do not miss a beat of the 2010 FIFA World Cup™ a number of soccer related titles, Braille and Audio, have been added to the Library's growing collection.