



FIRST CALL FOR PAPERS AND WORKSHOPS

2026 ALASA CONFERENCE

Date 07-10 July 2026

Venue: Midlands State University, Gweru Campus, Zimbabwe

PROPOSED THEME:

AI TOOLS, LANGUAGE DOCUMENTATION AND IDENTITIES IN THE DECADE OF INDIGENOUS LANGUAGES

Background

The proclamation of the *UNESCO Decade of Indigenous Languages (2022–2032)* endorses need for urgent commitment to safeguard linguistic diversity and promote the rights of Indigenous people at a global scale. In this context, the 27th ALASA Conference invites participants to engage in discussions on the theme AI Tools, Language Documentation, and Identities in the Decade of Indigenous Languages. This Conference provides a platform for delegates to engage in a meaningful dialogue on how AI presents both transformative opportunities and complexities relating to language documentation, policy and ethics issues, identity, multilingual applications, literature, applied linguistics and digital heritage. Sub-themes include (but are not confined to) the following areas;

Sub-themes:

1. AI and Language Documentation

- AI technologies and documentation of Indigenous languages
- Culture and machine translation
- Oral heritage and digital archiving
- Terminology development and AI
- AI and the revitalisation of endangered languages
- Ethics and AI in language research
- Language modelling

2. Language, Culture and Identity

- Language technologies and cultural identity
- Language, education and technology
- Language and the media

- Onomastics
- Language and disability
- Language, gender and identity
- Language and spirituality

3. Multimodal and Multilingual AI Applications

- Sign Language and AI integration
- Language editing techniques
- Indigenous languages and animations
- Voice recognition and speech synthesis
- Digital games and indigenous oral literature

4. Language Policy, Rights and Education

- Language policy and planning in Africa
- Deaf-blind and assistive technologies
- Sign language and health
- Linguistic imperialism
- Indigenous Linguistic rights

5. Digital Humanities

- Digital humanities and inclusive pedagogies
- Intersectionality and the digital humanities
- Digital archives, corpora, glossaries, and term banks
- Digital humanities and the preservation of marginalised voices
- Human Language Technology (HLT) and Indigenous language dictionaries
- Indigenous languages and social media
- AI and digital media platforms

6. General Linguistics

- Phonetics and phonology
- Morphology, syntax, and morphosyntax
- Semantics and pragmatics
- Translanguaging and codeswitching

7. Literature

- Literature in African languages
- Colonial and postcolonial literature in Africa
- Conflict and post-conflict narratives
- Literary theories and African literature
- Oral tradition and storytelling
- Literary activism and social justice

SUBMISSION DATES

Abstracts for workshops and papers: **Tuesday, 1 March 2026**

Final notification of acceptance of abstracts: **31 March 2026**

Abstracts for workshops and papers should be sent to: alasa2026@msu.ac.zw.

GUIDELINES TO AUTHORS/PRESENTERS

Abstracts must be between 150 and 200 words, and workshop presentations must be between 250 and 400 words. Full title of the paper, Title, full names and surname, Institutional affiliation, Email address (if paper has multiple authors, please state name of corresponding author) Telephone (cell/mobile or office); Fax Number; Postal address and postal code.

PRESENTATION

Oral presentations will be 20- minutes talk plus 10 minutes for questions/discussions. Workshops will be allocated 60 minutes and must have a minimum of two authors.

REGISTRATION WITH AUTOMATIC MEMBERSHIP

For Students

Early bird registration: \$140 or equivalence in rands at prevailing bank rate (inclusive of a book voucher + R300 ALASA membership fee) - closes on Tuesday, 31 March 2026
Registration after 31 March 2026: \$155 or equivalence in rands at prevailing bank rate (inclusive of book voucher + R300 ALASA membership fee).

For the purposes of the conference, a student is a person who has registered for a Master's or Doctoral degree at a recognised institution of higher learning

For non-students

Early bird registration: \$250 or or equivalence in rands at prevailing bank rate (inclusive of book voucher + R300 ALASA membership fee) - closes on Monday, 31 March 2026.
Registration after 31 March 2026: \$265 or or equivalence in rands at prevailing bank rate (inclusive of book voucher + R300 ALASA membership fee).

NB: No refunds. Substitutes are welcome at no extra cost (if it is a student for a student or a non-student for a nonstudent). If membership for 2025 had already been paid, please send proof of payment to: alasa2026@msu.ac.zw

Travel, accommodation, subsistence, etc. related to delegates' participation in the conference must be covered by the delegates or their institutions, regardless of the abstract acceptance. ALASA and its conference organisers are not liable and hold no responsibility for any of these costs.