

## **ZIMBABWE**, Africa

Compiled by Jerry Mathema; updated June 2016

Population and literacy levels	Population 14,229,541 (July 2015 est.) Literacy rate: 96.5% Male 88.5%; Female 84.6% Definition: age 15 and over can read and write Languages: Shona (official; most widely spoken), Ndebele (official, second most widely spoken), English (official; for official business), 13 minority languages (official; includes Chewa, Chibarwe, Kalanga, Koisan, Nambya, Ndau, Shangani, sign language, Sotho, Tonga, Tswana, Venda, and Xhosa) Source: <u>CIA World Factbook</u>
Overview of	Classbase: Education system in Zimbabwe

education and school	
education and school library situation	School libraries have had a long tradition in Zimbabwe dating back to the colonial era. Government and mission schools had functional libraries and the new Zimbabwean government inherited them from the colonialists. In 1985 the Harare Polytechnic started training librarians at National Certificate level followed by Bulawayo Polytechnic. There is no specialised training in school librarianship and students are trained in general librarianship with school librarianship being taught as a subject. In 2000 the National University of Science and Technology started offering a Bachelor of Science Honours degree and Zimbabwe Open University followed suit through distance learning. In the mid 2000s a Master of Science degree was introduced and later in 2012 a Post-Graduate Diploma in Library and Information Science was also introduced to cater for librarians with first degrees in other disciplines such as Education, Media & Information Technology. The post of Schools librarian was abolished sometime in the late 1980s most probably due to few library professionals that were being churned out by the two colleges at the time. The Ministry of Primary and Secondary Education no longer has the position of a School librarian in its structures. However, it has recently become optional for principals to decide whether to employ a qualified librarian or not. Some private schools, mission schools and government schools do employ qualified librarians. No dual qualification (teaching & librarianship) is required. Prospective librarians are not keen on taking up school librarianship as a profession. They prefer academic, special and medical librarianship. A number of workshops and conferences on School Libraries have been held the most notable being the ZimLA School librarians' seminars for teachers running school libraries, the 2012 IASL Regional School Library Seminar & the 2014 ZimLA/United States Public Affairs Section. The reports for the proceedings and recommendations made during these meetings have been sent to the ministry fo

Links to important	Zimbabwe Library Association (ZimLA)
associations/contacts	National Library and Documentation Services (NLDS) - a parastatal/quasi-government entity in the Ministry of Primary and Secondary Education
	Rural Libraries Resources Development Programme (RLRDP)
	Library Linkages Foundation (LLF)
	Zimbabwe Rural Schools Library Trust (ZRSLT)
	The Heritage School
Particular issues and needs of the country	Illegal emigration to neighbouring countries, refugees, sanctions, economic meltdown, agrarian land reform, corruption, political turmoil (period between 2000 & 2013), high unemployment-JM.
	Internally displaced persons, human trafficking, transit point for illicit drugs, deforestation, soil erosion, wildlife poaching, air and water pollution, potable drinking water in rural areas, sanitation, infectious diseases, HIV/AIDS, Source: <u>CIA World Factbook</u>
Famous authors	Phathisa Nyathi (Historian), Isaac Mpofu, Barbara Makhalisa (Ndebele writers), Tsitsi Dangarembwa, Yvonne Vera (late), Charles Mungoshi, Shimmer Chinodya, Dambudzo Marechera (late), Sibongile Mnkandla (HIV & AIDS Issues), Styx Mhlanga (English writers), Aaron Chiwundura Moyo (Shona writers)
Links to literature of the country	There is no national bibliography List of Zimbabwean writers

	Literature in Zimbabwe Mazwi: A Zimbabwean journal Woyingi Blog: Zimbabwean literature International Children's Digital Library - Zimbabwe
Links to SL programs or advocacy tools	EdX online courses
News/Reports	<ul> <li>*Zimbabwe Broadcasting Corporation (ZBC) 2010 ZimLA Conference in Masvingo and ISLM 2012 live interviews with Secretary General and Mashonaland branch chairperson respectively.</li> <li>*Chronicle Newspapers and the Bulawayo Agenda bulletin carried an article on the 2010 ISLM Celebrations in Bulawayo.</li> <li>*Chronicle Newspaper covered the IASL Regional School library seminar that was held in Bulawayo</li> <li>*Herald Newspapers carried an article on the High Level Stakeholders Sensitization Dialogue on Libraries: Current and Future Perceptions in Zimbabwe: Celebration Centre, Harare – 27 February 2013 attended by Education Minister Senator David Coltart.</li> <li>UNESCO International Bureau of Education – Africa links including world data on the education in each country and contacts</li> <li>Book Aid: Zimbabwe</li> <li>Donkeys help provide multimedia library services, Nkayi District, Zimbabwe. The donkeys also carry a solar power unit so that email, phone, internet and other services can be provided.</li> </ul>

	Schools urged to invest in libraries, 2 June 2016
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