

## **Social interaction as a tool for open science communication to create Antarctic awareness**

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The Antarctic Legacy of South Africa project (ALSA) has been funded by the National Research Foundation to preserve and promote South Africa's involvement in the Antarctic region. Until recently, the history of South African involvement in the Antarctic region (here defined to include the African Sector of the Southern Ocean and the Prince Edward and Gough Islands) was poorly documented and as a consequence was little known and studied. "The growth and sustainability of a democracy is dependent upon equitable access to information and knowledge" (Library and Information Association of South Africa).

Since 2009 the main aim of ALSA has been to preserve South Africa's Antarctic heritage by creating a comprehensive database. Since 2015 ALSA has commenced to promote South Africa's Antarctic legacy. This includes outreach programmes to general public and creating a social media platform for all researchers, personnel, government officials involved in the SANAP programme and to the general public. This presentation will give a brief outline of what has been done by ALSA in the past 2 years and outline the importance of social media as a form of open science communication.