



ITLA Conference 2019

In July, toy librarians from all around the world joined together for the international conference in Johannesburg, South Africa! This year's theme was "Beyond A Toy Library, A Sustainable Approach." Here we are!



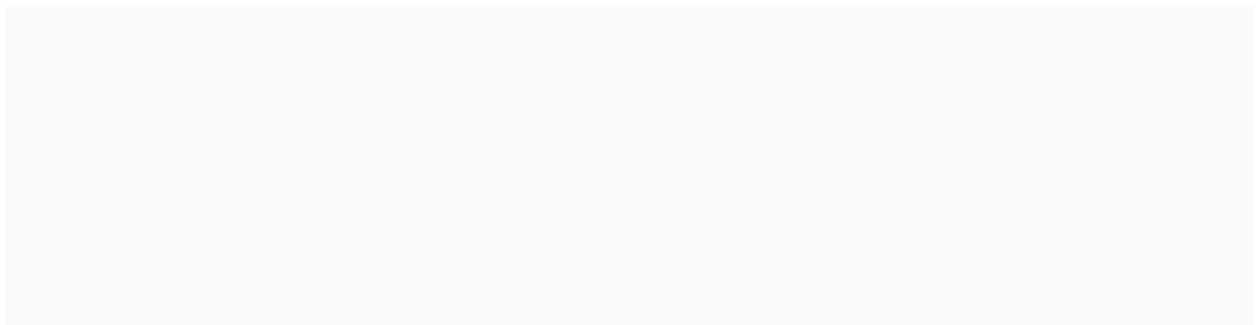
Apart from the many excellent trainings we attended, we also enjoyed the camaraderie, peer support, connections, and just plain fun that we

had together!



Training Sessions

For the first time in ITLA history, there was a workshop to explore international standards for toy libraries as well as qualifications for toy librarians.





**4 HRS EXPLORING INTERNATIONAL
TOY LIBRARY STANDARDS AND
TOY LIBRARIAN QUALIFICATIONS**

08:30 TO 12:30

30 EUROS



@ITLA.Org



@ITLAInfo



ITLA WORKSHOP
TUESDAY 9TH JULY 2019

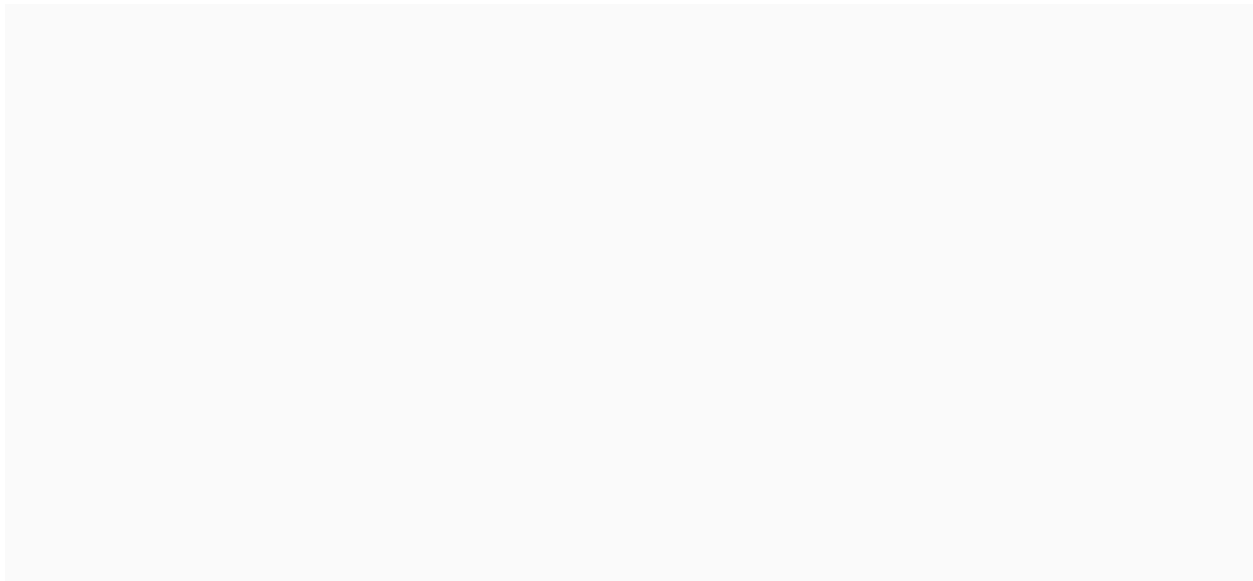
-Other trainings focused on diversity, sustainability, and innovation.





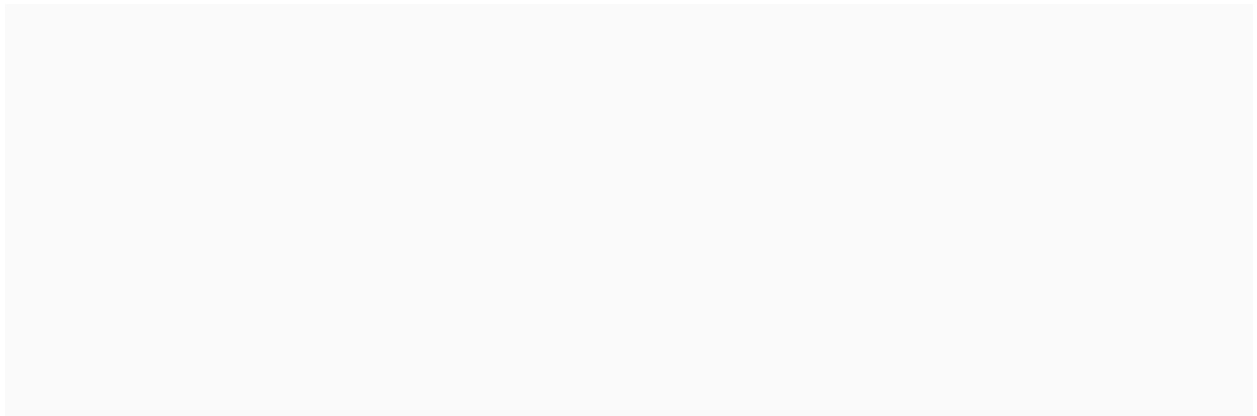


-We were so lucky to be able to visit numerous toy libraries in the area, especially Cotland's!





-We took trips to historic sites in Johannesburg and Soweto, including visits to the Soweto Towers, Constitution Hill, and Mandela's home....





-Social activities included an African braai (barbecue), a tea party, and a musical theater experience.



*To view video highlights of the conference, please click
here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PS37k5WBfyI>*

**Congratulations to the new ITLA board!
The following positions were filled:**

President - Monica Stach

Vice President - Michael Van Langendonck

Secretary - Laura Van Laethem

Treasurer - Dan Mchunu

Conference Coordinator - Debbie Williams

Asian Link - Wong Poai Hoang

African Link - Lilian Atieno Okal

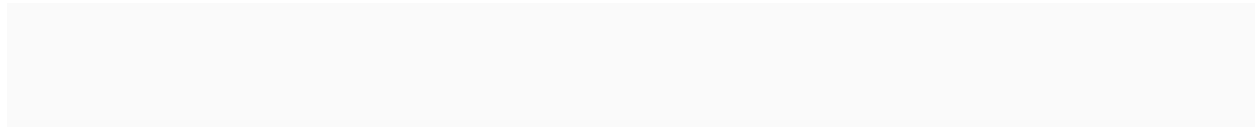
World Play Day Coordinator & European Link - Ana Lourenço

Link Coordinator & American Link - Maria Celia Campos

Board members elected in 2019

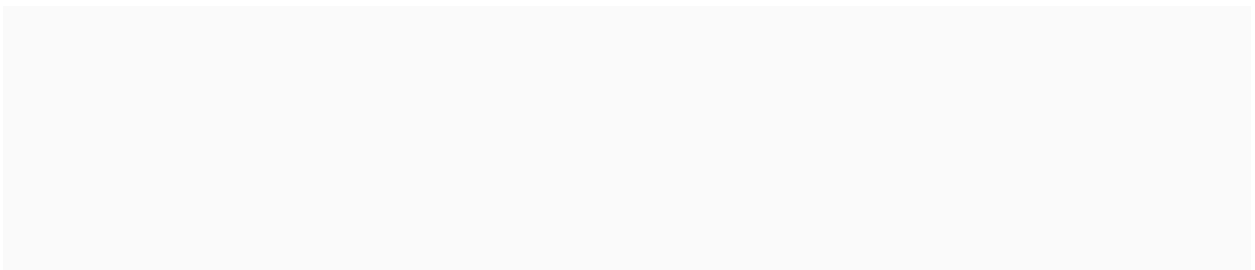


(Board members not pictured above--Debbie Williams and Ana Lourenço)





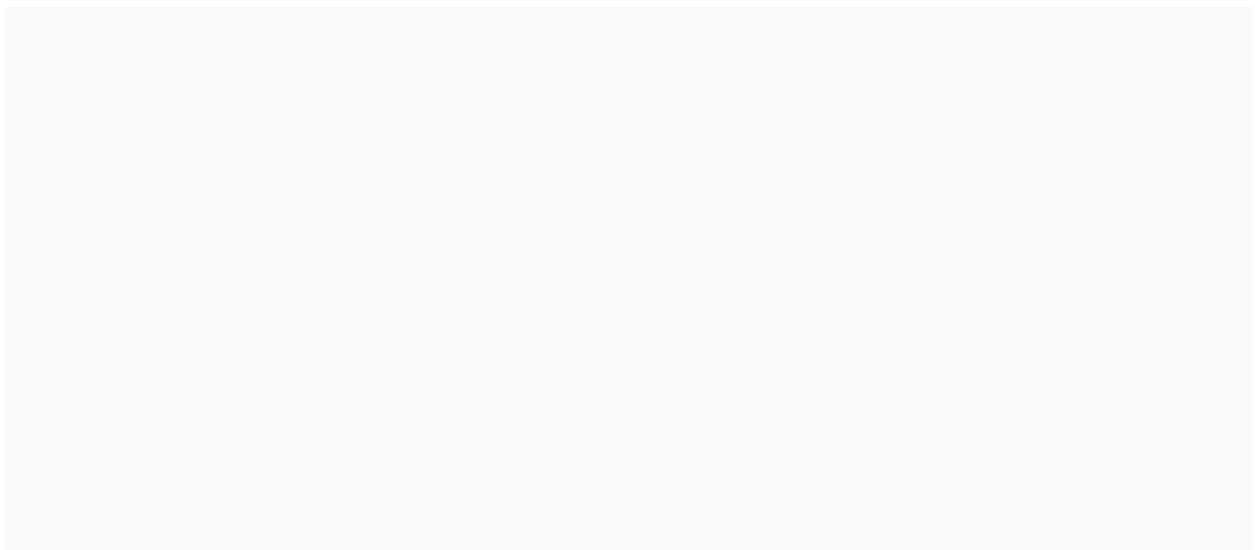
The new board hard at work!





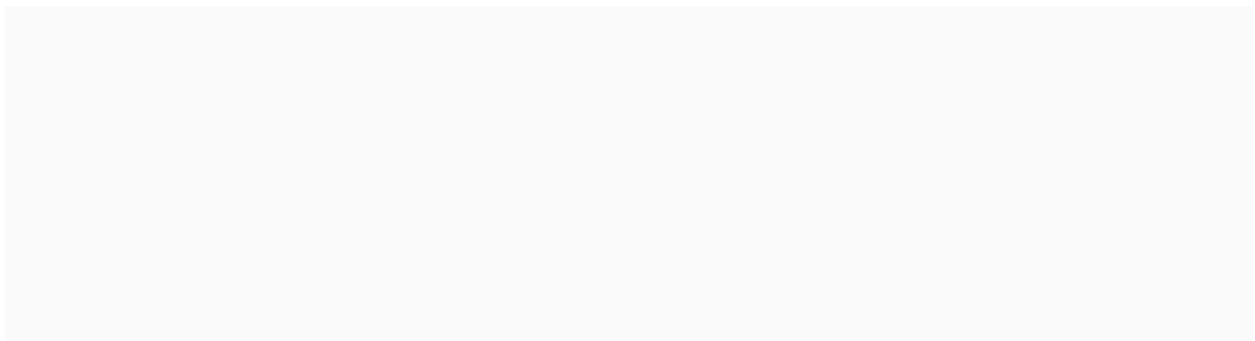
We would especially like to thank Monica Juarez, our fearless leader and president of ITLA for the past 8 years. What a phenomal job she has done, from implementing SO many new ideas, inspiring us, and being a guiding force for moving ITLA forward.

We love and appreciate you so much!





Monica Juarez passes the torch to new ITLA president Monica Stach.





And now...a letter from our new president!

Dear toy librarians,

ITLA's newly elected board is honoured to have been selected to serve the toy library sector. In many parts of the world, toy libraries are established and flourishing, while in others, toy libraries have just started. Toy libraries across each represent and address the unique needs of their countries which results in a variety of models and practices. This rich diversity is what makes the International Toy Library Association a rich repository of knowledge, experience, and passion.

The board members' individual experience and commitment will make it possible to continue disseminating information about toy libraries, toys, games and play. It is our mission to link toy librarians with each other primarily through newsletters and the international conference coming up in 2022.

The board added two new objectives to ITLA's constitution in July 2019, as a result of the first ITLA workshop that was hosted at the conference. ITLA's board will work towards providing international toy library training on toy librarianship and secondly to

provide international certification for ITLA members based on a set of international standards. We are also planning on updating the knowledge section of our website. Please do share articles, research reports, and titles of books that we can recommend to librarians to read as part of their professional development.

Lastly, we want to inspire and educate each other about toys, games, and play. If you have material that explains games and their benefits, templates for making toys from waste, or guidelines on traditional games played in your country, we would love to share these with the rest of the toy library world. Please do email them to me at info@itla-toylibraries.org.

What you do in your toy library on a daily basis is life changing! Never underestimate your value and importance. You are a social change-maker!

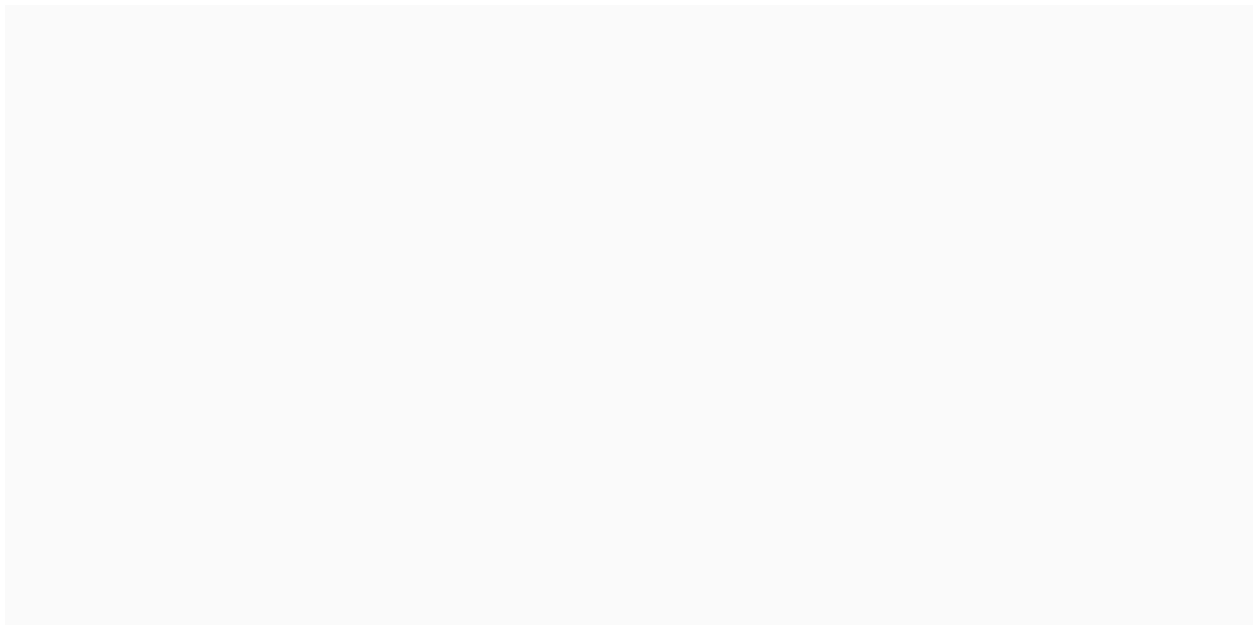
Toy library greetings,

Dr. Monica Stach

What about the next ITLA conference???



Let's hop across the world to Melbourne to meet up again in May, 2022!





International Toy Library Conference 2022

The next ITLA conference will be held in the heart of Melbourne, Australia. With its combination of world-class dining, art galleries, theatre, fashion, and a packed sports calendar, it's no wonder Melbourne is regarded as one of the world's most liveable cities. Melbourne is also home to over 60 toy lending libraries!

The conference will be timed to provide delegates the opportunity to attend the Melbourne Toy Fair, the biggest toy event in the Southern Hemisphere.

CONTINENTAL UPDATES



TLFNZ recently held its Annual Meeting and Training Day in Lower Hutt.

Attended by around 60 people, it was a great opportunity for committee members to gather, share ideas, and learn! Members got to play with (and order) toys at the Toy Expo.

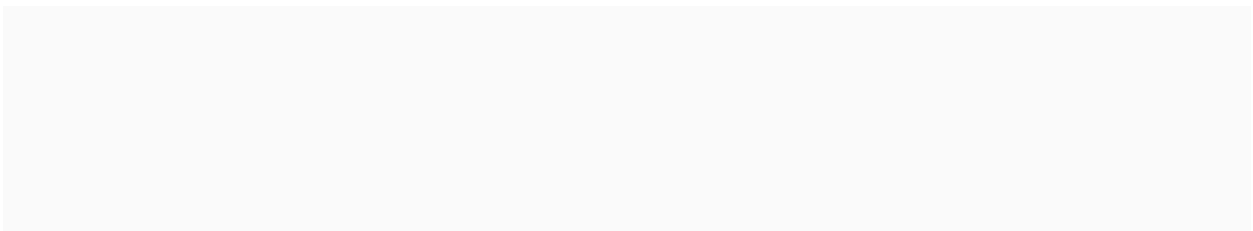
In other news, New Zealand just launched its new logo, seen here!





Recently, Toy Libraries Australia completed their Quality Standards, a self-assessed guide assisting toy libraries with improving their services and providing a scale at which to place themselves. They present Minimum Standards, along with five levels of successive benchmarks that more advanced toy libraries can strive towards. Australia also initiated professional research on the social impact of toy libraries. Professors Julie Ozanne at the University of Melbourne and Lucie Ozanne of the University of Canterbury conducted "A National Toy Library Social Impact Survey," to better understand the power of toy libraries. Results have been compiled into a report which toy libraries can use as a supporting document when applying for external funding or promoting the many benefits provided by toy libraries to stakeholders.

Australia has recently seen three new toy libraries open in Auckland, and one more at the very south of the country on Stewart Island.





The Toy Library Association of Kenya is an umbrella body of toy libraries.
They partner with OMEP Kenya
Toy Library, a community based organization, to run toy library activities
within and beyond the community.

BEYOND THE TOY LIBRARY

TLA-KE focuses on a sustainable future. The three pillars of Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) are taught and practiced early in life.

1. Social

Activities conducted at the toy library are collaborative and interactive, considering those with disabilities and from underprivileged communities. Children come together to solve a particular problem.

They learn to share limited resources as they play, and also encourage and empathize with one another.



2. Economic

Entrepreneurship skills fall under Kenya's new competence based curriculum's environmental activities area. Focusing on these skills helps create a mind shift from employment to job creation.



3. Environmental

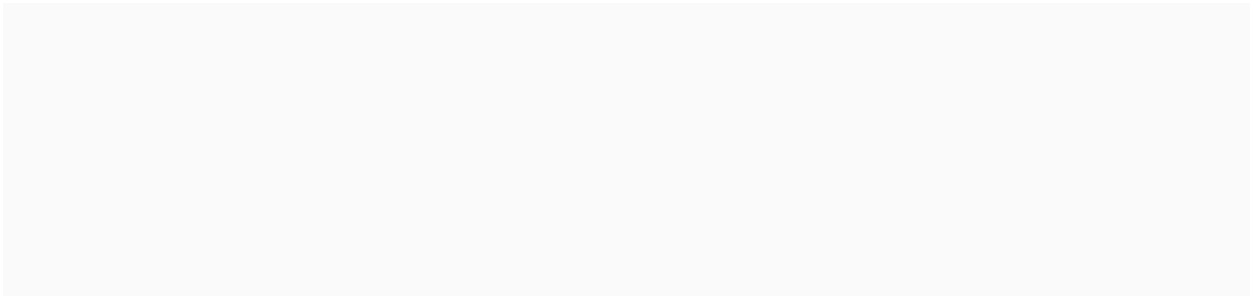
Play materials, including musical instruments, are developed from waste.



Other lessons include...

FOOD SECURITY

What better way to ensure future food security than to empower these little farmers with basic sustainable farming skills? Farming is done in sacks and old tires as children learn all steps in farming through harvesting.





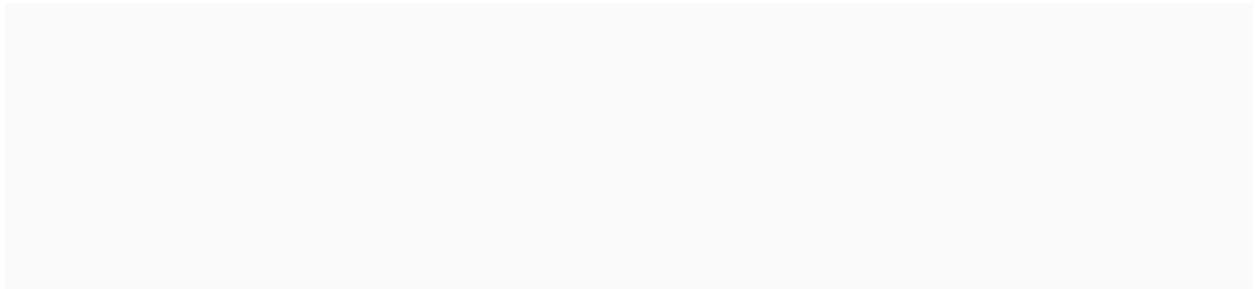
LIFE SKILLS

Basic sewing and knitting are some life-long skills that a child develops. These fun activities also enhance concentration, improve hand-eye coordination, and develop fine motor skills.



Please invite others to join ITLA!

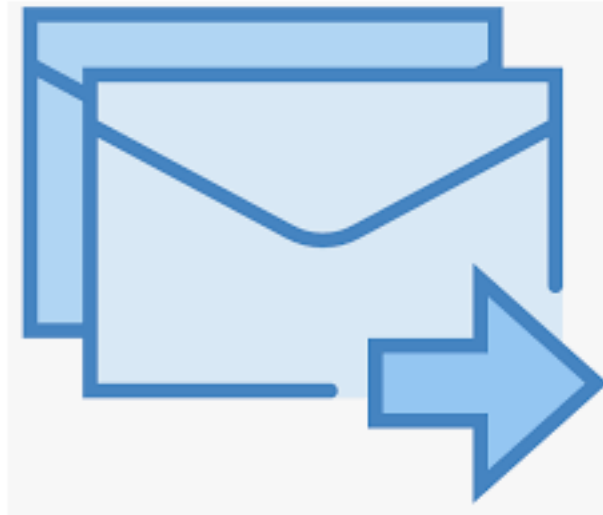
Just send your toy librarian friends this
link: <http://itlatoylibraries.org/home/become-a-member/>





**Please send us updates about your toy libraries! Are you having an event?
Something to celebrate? Pictures to share? We want to feature you!**





email: media.comunication@itla-toylibraries.org



Please "like" us on Facebook: @ITLA.org

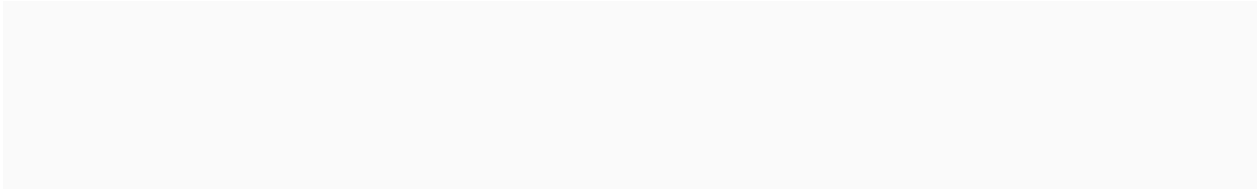


and follow us on Twitter: <https://twitter.com/ITLAINfo>



**International Toy Library Association / Asociación Internacional de Ludotecas / Association
Internationale des Ludothèques**

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