

Dear SAJLIS Readers,

It is gratifying to present our second issue of SAJLIS 72, with yet another batch of informative research articles and book reviews. As usual, the issue reflects on a variety of themes in information studies that include LIS education and training, bibliometrics, Information and Communication Technology for development, customer care and LIS professional associations. Four book reviews also provide useful awareness on new information materials in the market.

The first article, whose original version was presented at the International Conference on Scientometrics and Informetrics in Stockholm, Sweden, in June 2005, written by Bosire Onyancha and Dennis Ocholla of the University of Zululand, is entitled "HIV/AIDS Research and the Youths: an Informetric Analysis of the Literature". The two authors provide an analytical overview of the HIV/AIDS literature relevant to the youth with a view to determining and comparing the nature, trends, and type of the pandemic's research and other characteristics as indexed in the AIDSEARCH database between 1980 and 2002. It concludes that research on young people seems to be increasing, though the publishing and indexing time lag is still problematic, among other variables provided in the findings and recommendations.

The second article, entitled "Preservation Education in South African Library and Archive Degree Programmes", originates from Kate Murray of Emory University Libraries, USA, who is also an alumnus of UCT. Kate investigates preservation education options for library and archive students at degree granting institutions in South Africa and concludes that LIS schools in South Africa have made progress in preservation education and suggests ways in which improvements can be made.

One of the challenging issues in LIS research is on how to make ICT relevant to development of the information-marginalised communities, such as rural women. The third article, entitled "The feasibility of ICT diffusion and use amongst rural women in South Africa", is co-authored by Alice Kwake, Dennis Ocholla and Mathew Adigun of the University of Zululand. The authors have explored whether ICT use is feasible in the rural areas of South Africa, and observe that access and exclusion are still predominant, as the respondents surveyed face problems ranging from affordability to distance and time, and conclude that singularly, ICTs are insufficient for significant benefits to emerge.

The fourth paper, written by Petros Dlamini both of University of Zululand and Durban University of Technology, focuses on "Customer care services and strategies in academic libraries in KwaZulu-Natal" and notes the satisfactory existence of customer care policy and strategies in the four academic libraries studied, and therefore recommends among other things that academic libraries should have in place a unit/person and committee responsible for customer care. Similarly, library staff should be given regular training on customer care. There is a growing interest among LIS workers that LIASA would be stronger if it acquires a statutory status.

The last research paper, entitled "Investigation into the acquisition of statutory status for the South African LIS sector", by Reggie Raju of the law library, University of Kwazulu-Natal, provides some answers to this question and recommends a referendum be held within the profession to determine a way forward.

There are also valuable book reviews by Amina Adam, UCT; Yvonne Blomkamp, UCT; Stephen Visagie, University of Namibia Library and Kim von Weidts of De Beers Marine, Cape Town.

I wish you pleasant and rewarding reading

Dennis Ocholla

Editor in-Chief

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