

Dear SAJLIS Readers,

First, allow me to apologise for the delay of SAJLIS 73 (1), which was due in March. This issue will be released prior to two important events in LIS in South Africa. The 73rd WLIC/ IFLA conference will be held from the 19th – 22nd of August on African soil for the second time (the forerunner was held in Nairobi, Kenya in 1984). The second event is the 10th Anniversary of LIASA, which also coincides with the IFLA Conference. SAJLIS is proud to be part of these two events, and in their honour is publishing a special issue of the journal focusing on LIS research in South Africa. This issue focuses on publishing, public libraries, Informetrics/webometrics, open access, information resource sharing and knowledge management.

Publishing in a scholarly/peer refereed journal significantly determines the visibility and recognition of important and perhaps influential research output of scholars within the scientific community. The first article, entitled “*Common errors and challenges of publishing in a peer refereed Library and Information Journal*”, is by Dennis Ocholla (University of Zululand). In this article, Dennis discusses common errors emanating from authors submitting manuscripts or papers for publication in peer refereed Library and Information journals, with the hope that both established, novice and potential scholarly journal authors will benefit from the information. The second paper is by Genevieve Hart (University of Western Cape), who focuses on public libraries in “*Social capital: a fresh vision for public libraries in South Africa?*”. Genevieve argues that the construct of social capital offers South African public librarianship fresh vision, which is urgently needed if it is to fulfil its potential role in social inclusion. This work, according to Genevieve, offers South African librarians a rich resource in their search for new direction. In the third article, “*A Webometric study of selected academic libraries in Eastern and Southern Africa using a link analysis approach*”, Omwoyo Bosire Onyancha (writing from the University of Zululand but currently based at UNISA) recognises the benefits derived from the Internet by librarians and how weblinks can be used to determine the nature and level of networking and visibility of libraries. Open access is a hot topic for enabling information access on-line. In the article “*South African responses to Open Access publishing: a survey of the research community*”, Allison Fullard (University of Western Cape) recognises that open access publishing offers wide benefits to the scholarly community and may also afford relief to financially trapped academic libraries. Allison sadly concludes that within the prevailing framework, there is little prospect of academics choosing to publish in open access journals. Recommendations for advocacy by the library community are proposed. The fifth article, by J.A Fourie (University of South Africa), focuses on “*Educational and vocational guidance and information services [EVGIS] for the youth in public libraries*”. Fourie reports on an investigation into the public library’s role in the provision of educational and vocational guidance and information to the youth, and its links to the school and other career guidance service providers in South Africa. The results indicate that public libraries continue to provide separate user services for children, but separate provision is only made for teenagers and young adults in the case of large public libraries. The author observes that the lack of cooperation between public libraries, schools, and other career guidance service providers hinders the development of support networks for learners, and recommends that existing general user services for the youth be extended to introduce specialised EVGIS for high school learners. The sixth article, by Daniel Rotich and Evans Munge (Moi University, Kenya) focuses on “*An Overview of Electronic Information Resources Sharing Initiatives in Kenyan Universities*”. The authors acknowledge the need to share information among libraries in Kenya, but raise concern that information resource sharing initiatives have been unsuccessful. The article examines successes and/or failures of such initiatives in Kenyan universities, and concludes that on-line information sharing networks can potentially open new avenues for improving resource sharing. In the seventh article, “*The state of estuarine knowledge of the communities of the Tyolomnqa Estuary in the Eastern Cape, South Africa*”, Pearl Maponya and Patrick Ngulube (University of Kwazulu Natal) report on a knowledge audit study that explored the state of estuarine knowledge sources, gaps and needs of the communities of the Tyolomnqa Estuary in the Eastern Cape (from the perspective of estuary users). The findings revealed that lack of practical skills and expertise could result in irreplaceable natural resources like estuaries being threatened and destroyed, and that knowledge auditing is the first step in developing a knowledge management strategy. The last article (in the General Information section), i.e. “*Averages of impact factors*”, is written by two well known LIS informetric scholars from Belgium. Leo Egghe, based at Hasselt University and Antwerp University, and Ronald Rousseau, also from the two universities, show that the ratio of the harmonic mean of citations over the harmonic mean of publications does not lead to an acceptable impact measure for a meta-journal, and note that this result contrasts markedly with the corresponding cases in which the arithmetic or geometric average is used. This leads to the general observation that if the regression line of y over x has a positive slope, then this is not necessarily true for the regression line of $1/y$ over $1/x$.

There are also four informative book reviews by Caroline Dean, Celia Walter, Emily Krige, and Sally Witbooi. that suggest very exciting reading.

Enjoy your reading!

Dennis N. Ocholla

Editor-in-Chief, SAJLIS