

## Letter from the editor

This issue signifies the end of an era in the history of the *South African journal of library and information science (SAJLIS)*.

This is the last issue that former SAILIS members will receive free of charge on the basis of their membership of the association, because, as we all know, SAILIS disbanded in June. However the journal will still be published under the patronage of the newly formed South African Library and Information Trust. In order to remain financially sound *SAJLIS* needs the support of all those 87% respondents who agreed in the June reader survey that the journal should continue.

A subscription form was recently posted to all former members of SAJLIS, and I hope that the majority of these have been filled in and returned to SA Scientific Publications (formerly the Bureau for Scientific Publications) which will administer subscriptions in future. On this subscription form a return date of 15 December 1998 was given. However, this date is not a deadline, merely a guideline to aid planning. All subscriptions after this date are most welcome.

My editorship of eight years also comes to an end with this edition. It has been a very interesting and enriching experience, one which brought me into contact with researchers from across the country. In the process I made many new friends. My duties were eased throughout my term by a network of colleagues who were willing to serve on the editorial board, to act as referees for articles or as book reviewers. My sincere thanks to all of them for their support.

This last edition of 1998 is dedicated to Piet Westra, former Director of the South African Library in Cape Town. Piet is a well known and esteemed colleague and it was a privilege to conclude my editorship with this commemorative edition. I acknowledge with gratitude the indispensable contribution of Prof Reuben Musiker who acted as editorial advisor.

I hope that *SAJLIS* will continue to play an important role in the coming years in the advancement of library and information science research in this country. I feel very strongly that information workers have a fundamental responsibility to contribute to professional communication. We may have increasing means of communicating with one another, but it is what we publish that really matters. It is only through the existence and publication of scholarly literature that our field can express and claim its professional status. *SAJLIS* provides a forum for the issues that we need to share and debate.

The editorship will be taken over by Dr Liz van Aswegen, Head of the Cape Technikon Department of Library and Information Studies. I wish her great success.

MAGDALEEN BESTER  
Scientific editor



'... it is what we publish  
that really matters.'

## Brief van die redakteur

Met hierdie uitgawe word 'n era in die geskiedenis van die *Suid-Afrikaanse tydskrif vir biblioteek- en inligtingkunde (SATBI)* afgesluit.

Hierdie is die laaste uitgawe wat oud SAIBI-lede gratis op grond van hul lidmaatskap van die vereniging ontvang, want soos almal weet, het SAIBI in Junie ontbind. Die tydskrif gaan egter voort en sal onder beskerming van die nuut gestigte Suid-Afrikaanse Biblioteek- en Inligtingstrust gepubliseer word. Om finansiële selfsteuning te kan voortbestaan, het *SATBI* egter nou die ondersteuning nodig van al daardie 87% respondente wat met die leseropname in Junie gestem het dat die tydskrif moet voortbestaan.

'n Intekeningsvorm is onlangs aan oud SAIBI-lede gegee, en ek hoop die meeste van hierdie inskrywingsvorms is reeds voltooi en op pad terug na die SA Scientific Publications (voorheen Buro vir Wetenskaplike Publikasies) wat voortaan die intekeninge sal administreer. Die keurdatum van 15 Desember 1998 wat op hierdie intekeningvorm aangedui is, was slegs 'n riglyn om te help met beplanning. Alle verdere intekeninge word verwelkom.

My redakteurskap van agt jaar word met hierdie uitgawe beëindig. Dit was 'n baie interessante en verrykende ervaring. Dit het my in aanraking gebring met navorsers van dwarsoor die land en in die proses het ek baie nuwe vriende gemaak. My werksaamhede is deurgaans vergemaklik deur 'n netwerk van kollegas wat gewillig was om op die redaksie te dien, om op te tree as referente vir artikels en om resensies van boeke te skryf. My hartlike dank aan almal vir hulle ondersteuning.

Hierdie laaste uitgawe van 1998 word opgedra aan Piet Westra, voormalige Direkteur van die Suid-Afrikaanse Biblioteek in Kaapstad. Piet is 'n bekende en gewaardeerde kollega en dit is 'n voorreg om my redakteurskap met hierdie huldigungsuitgawe te kon afsluit. Ek erken met dank die onmisbare bydrae van prof Reuben Musiker wat opgetree het as redaksionele adviseur.

Ek hoop dat *SATBI* in die volgende jare sal voortgaan om 'n belangrike rol te speel in die verspreiding van biblioteek- en inligtingkundige navorsing. Dit is my oortuiging dat inligtingwerkers 'n fundamentele verantwoordelikheid het om by te dra tot professionele kommunikasie. Daar is toenemend verskillende maniere om met mekaar te kommunikeer, maar dit wat ons publiseer, is wat regtig saak maak. Alleenlik op grond van die bestaan van en voortgehoue publikasie van vakliteratuur kan daar aanspraak gemaak word op professionele status. *SATBI* verskaf 'n forum vir die sake wat ons moet deel en bespreek.

Die redakteurskap word oorgeneem deur dr Liz van Aswegen, hoof van die Kaapse Technikon se Departement Biblioteek- en Inligtingstudies. Ek wens haar alles van die beste toe.

MAGDALEEN BESTER  
Wetenskaplike redakteur