

One of the factors contributing to the strength of a journal is the quality of reviews sourced for the manuscripts submitted to it. In the context of an international trend of a shrinking pool of reviewers, *SAJLIS* introduced in 2016 yet another innovation to enhance the quality of the journal – that of awarding, annually, honoraria to a selection of reviewers based on the following criteria:

- Number of review requests satisfied for the year;
- Depth and quality of review;
- Contribution to mentoring and development of authors of manuscripts requiring enhancement;
- Timeous response to urgent requests from the journal; and,
- Demonstration of leadership and expertise in a specific area of LIS.

This innovation has been well received by both the general *SAJLIS* readership community as well as by the reviewers themselves. Comments from readers and reviewers included:

- “Thanks to *SAJLIS* for appreciation of reviewers.”
- “My thanks to *SAJLIS* for its expression of appreciation [of reviewers] through the award of honoraria. It is an honour to be able to make a contribution to a journal that is such an excellent South African exemplar of open access publishing.”

From a reviewing point of view, this addition to the journal’s management is likely to impact positively on the quality of scholarship carried by the journal as well as on the development of the next generation of authors and researchers in the LIS discipline.

This first issue for 2016 includes contributions covering academic libraries, public libraries and information and knowledge dissemination strategies in the commercial and public sectors. Papers in this issue cover the adoption of social media by academic libraries, the use of telecentres for community information dissemination, evaluating the impact of public library services, the innovativeness of information technology products in knowledge transfer in the commercial sector, change management in academic libraries, and embedded librarianship supporting blended learning in higher education.

In an age in which the use of social media has permeated the professional, academic, social and many other aspects of people’s lives, Rangarirai Mabweazara and Sandy Zinn timeously report research conducted into the way librarians adopt social media platforms in their service delivery to higher education communities.

The digital divide between rural and urban communities in Africa remains a challenge. In this context, Sellina Kapondera and Genevieve Hart critically examine the use of the Lupaso Community Telecentre in a remote region of Malawi and find that the factors that negatively impact on the use of ICTs in rural areas include, *inter alia*, lack of internet searching skills, frequent power blackouts and lack of local content.

Impact studies are generally complex and also not very common in the public library context of South Africa. Janusz Skarzynski and Mary Nassimbeni brave this territory by reporting on the preliminary findings from an investigation into the benefits of leisure reading by patrons using the book collections of two public libraries in Cape Town, South Africa. They use generic learning outcomes as proposed by the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council of the United Kingdom to frame the study.

Williams Nwagwu and Stanley Ibeku, in observing that “every society has social and other systems that encourage and promote ... individuals to engage in creative processes and/or support new ideas and experimentation that may result in new products, services or technological processes”, interrogate how innovation variables explain the capacity of information technology products and service providers in the Otigba Computer Hardware Cluster in Lagos, Nigeria, to develop new strategies for solving information technology problems.

Tanya du Plessis and Tiyani Mabunda explain that “in the knowledge economy, knowledge flows are channelled in new ways which bring along changes to the structure and function of an organisation” and accordingly, “organisations such as academic libraries often introduce innovations in delivery of information services to clients which entail the use of information and communication technology”. In this dynamic knowledge economy context, they examine how evolving technology is managed in a higher education academic library in in South Africa.

Embedded librarianship is a new trend among academic libraries, globally, in their efforts for value-added services to their user communities. Lynn Kleinveldt, Marietjie Schutte and Christine Stilwell investigate how a South African university of technology library can contribute to knowledge management processes using Blackboard (a learning management tool), by embedding the librarian in the environment to support blended learning.

Enjoy the read!

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Editor-in-Chief