

Scholarly journals are currently functioning in an age of 'open' scholarship dominated by rapidly evolving digital technologies as well as a very competitive higher education environment vying for research output for purposes of institutional rankings, academic promotion and research ratings. In such an age, scholarly journals such as the *South African Journal of Libraries and Information Science (SAJLIS)* become very vulnerable to quality compromise in an effort to keep the number of articles per issue buoyant. While every effort is made to bring out an issue of *SAJLIS* twice a year timeously, an equal amount of effort is made not to compromise the quality of its content. This is strived for through rigorous application of its peer-review process, continuously updating author guidelines and an insistence on the submission of a plagiarism check report for every manuscript submitted. It is in this context that, for the period January to June 2017, *SAJLIS* received seventeen manuscript submissions of which only five made it to the final publication stage – resulting in 71% of the submissions either being rejected or authors being requested to revise and re-submit for review. Authors are always provided with guidance on improving the manuscripts for re-submission to *SAJLIS* or to any other journal platform. For this, the Editor is very grateful to the tireless work of its reviewers who have been very supportive of the journal as well as of the authors contributing to it.

In view of the above, it is not surprising that this issue is dominated by articles emanating from higher education institutions. The issue opens with Solomon Bopape, Maoka Dikotla, Matlala Mahlatji, Morongoenyane Ntsala and Lefose Makgahlela reporting on a study that investigated the information needs of people using public library facilities in Limpopo Province (South Africa), built with the use of the Department of Arts And Culture's annual conditional grant towards improving public library services in South Africa.

In a higher education environment increasingly requiring accountability for investment in resources such as library services and collections, Deborah Becker, Hillary Hartle and Gugu Mhlauli usefully report on an assessment of use and quality of library services and facilities at the Cape Peninsula University of Technology.

Public sector accountability too becomes critical in an age of global financial austerity. In this context, Abdulsalam Abiodun Salman, Tinashe Mugwisi and Bertha Jantine Mostert report on access to and use of public library services in Nigeria.

South Africa's "historically disadvantaged university libraries are, like others, challenged to meet patrons' demands through the provision of relevant infrastructure, services and information-related skills to enable users to function in the digital information age". In this context, Lena Nyahodza and Richard Higgs report on a phenomenological study undertaken to explore whether the electronic services initiated in post-apartheid South Africa by the University of the Western Cape Library are perceived by users and library staff as effective in bridging the digital divide.

The issue closes with Paul Maku Gichohi, Omwoyo Bosire Onyancha and Frankwell W. Dulle reporting on a study which investigated the training needs of small-scale business enterprise (SBE) traders and public library staff with the aim of proposing capacity-building modules that can be considered by public libraries in Meru County, Kenya, in their endeavour to support the SBEs.

Enjoy the read!

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Editor-in-Chief