

In an age defined by unprecedented technological advancements, the role of information literacy in fostering informed, and empowered citizens has never been more critical. As librarians and information professionals, we find ourselves navigating a rapidly evolving digital landscape, where technological advancements, including Artificial Intelligence (AI) continues to reshape how knowledge is accessed, consumed, and applied. It is within this dynamic context that we present this special issue on information literacy, an essential cornerstone of librarianship and lifelong learning.

This special issue draws inspiration from the International Conference on Information Literacy - Africa, held in Alexandria, Egypt, in 2024. The conference served as a vibrant platform for dialogue and collaboration, bringing together leading minds from across the continent and the world at large to address the pressing challenges and opportunities in information literacy. It provided the impetus to explore further how researchers, librarians and information professionals can adapt to and thrive in this era of rapid technological change.

This issue covers the conference theme: "Information Literacy Revolution: Get Ready." Topics explored include the integration of AI in library and information services, the role of digital literacy in addressing socio-economic disparities, the impact of multilingualism on information literacy practices, information literacy skills and competencies in the digital age, information ethics, the implications of information literacy skills on information sharing, and information literacy instructional best practices.

The articles in this issue are authored by distinguished African scholars who engage critically with key themes shaping information literacy today. These contributions aim to expand the scholarship in this vital field, offering thought-provoking insights and practical recommendations for librarians working in diverse contexts.

African library and information service professionals and scholars must take the lead in spearheading change by developing Afrocentric frameworks and lenses that critically interrogate the evolving dimensions of information literacy. It is imperative to contextualise information literacy practices within Africa's unique socio-economic, cultural, and technological landscapes. As the digital divide persists, it becomes increasingly important to localise and implement best practices that resonate with the continent's diverse communities, ensuring inclusivity and equitable access to information.

We hope this issue will not only inform current debates on information literacy but also serve as a practical resource for librarians and information professionals striving to adapt their practices in this era of digital transformation. The issue further advances the notion of information literacy as a maturing discipline. By advancing the discourse on information literacy, we reaffirm its centrality to our profession and its enduring significance in fostering democratic participation and social justice. As you engage with the rich and diverse contributions in this issue, we encourage you to reflect on the opportunities for collaboration, innovation, and advocacy in your own practice. Together, we can ensure that information literacy remains a powerful tool for empowerment and positive change in Africa and beyond.

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