

Dear SAJLIS readers,

As we promised, we will be publishing a third issue of SAJLIS as from 2005, thanks to additional funding that LIASA has received from the SALI Trust and NLDTE. This will supplement the page fees and membership fees allocated to the journal. Readers will notice that we have published thirty-six research and general articles in SAJLIS Vol.71 thanks to this generous support. In this third issue we present eight research articles and four reviews that focus on LIS theory, referencing, information and communication technologies, information seeking, knowledge management, indigenous knowledge, informetrics, journal publishing, public libraries and information literacy and reviews.

A challenging issue in LIS research is the decision on a theoretical framework. Some researchers are strongly in favour of a good literature review as a theoretical framework. Others are of the opinion that researchers should largely identify a single research philosophy or theory as a foundation on which subsequent literature reviews originates for the theoretical framework. The first article, by Mabel Minishi-Majanja (University of South Africa) and Joseph Kiplang'at (Moi University), which is revised from their paper presented at the ProLISSA conference in 2004, discusses 'The diffusion of innovations (DoI) theory as a theoretical framework in library and information science research'. This is one of the most popular research theoretical frameworks, widely applied across disciplines particularly in the diffusion and adoption of innovations such as information communications technologies (ICTs). The two authors have reviewed literature on DoI and used their experience and findings of two recently completed doctoral research projects on ICTs in LIS education and training, as well as in Agricultural information systems, to demonstrate the strengths and weaknesses of the theory. They recognize, however, that the broad framework of the theory provides a platform for investigating LIS innovations, even in unique social systems such as sub-Saharan Africa's reality. Closely related to this article is a test of DoI among Botswana lawyers in an article jointly written by Madeleine Fombad (Tlokwenng DaySpring School) and Kgomotso Moahi (University of Botswana) entitled 'Perception of Botswana lawyers about the use of ICTs in Law Firms in Botswana' in a study conducted at the University of Botswana to establish the perceptions held by lawyers of ICTs. The study revealed that law firms are still at the early stages of adoption and use of ICTs and that the lawyers appear to be positively inclined towards Rogers' theory (1991) attributes of an innovation, although they remain low adopters of it, largely due to resource, personal and corporate challenges. Related to the two articles on ICT diffusion is an article by Joseph Kiplang'at (Moi University) and Dennis Ocholla (University of Zululand) that received significant attention at the IAALD XITH World Conference/USAIN Biennial Conference: Globalization of Information: Agricultural at Crossroads. Lexington, Kentucky, USA, this May, entitled 'Diffusion of Information and Communication Technologies in Communication of Agricultural Information among Agricultural Researchers and Extension Workers in Kenya.' The study, that also used Rogers' Theory (DoI), focused on the public agricultural sector and covered the Kenya Agricultural Research Institute (KARI) and the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MoARD), and found that KARI and MoARD had adopted a wide variety of ICT tools and services in an effort to facilitate information sharing and exchange among agricultural researchers, extension workers, farmers and other actors involved in research and extension. The ICT models adopted addressed the different kinds of information needs and communication problems encountered by agricultural researchers and extension workers. Indigenous Knowledge is a significant area of knowledge management research, particularly in South Africa. Dennis Ocholla and Bosire Onyancha (University of Zululand), in their article entitled 'The marginalized knowledge. An informetric analysis of indigenous knowledge publications 1990-2004' a short version of which was presented at the ISSI Conference in Stockholm, Sweden in July, analyses and demonstrates the application of informetrics by use of descriptive bibliometrics to determine the status and trend of Indigenous Knowledge (IK) development from 1990-2004 by using eight databases hosted by EBSCOHost and SABINET. A positive growth of IK is observed with strong representation in the AGRICOLA database, and recommendations are given for a follow-up and further research. Another area of interest is Information Literacy. Information literacy is recognized to be a major focus area of LIS research and practice in South Africa with a large fraction of information-deprived communities. The fifth article entitled 'The role of academic libraries in the enhancement of information literacy: A study of Fort Hare Library' is jointly written by Ntombizodwa G. Somi (Vaal University of Technology) and Karin de Jager (UCT). The authors recognize the student's predicament in finding and using information in an electronic technology-driven information environment that requires strong information literacy to sustain by reporting on an investigation into the role of the University of Fort Hare Library in the enhancement of students' information literacy. In the sixth article, 'Developing a GIS-based Inventory of South Africa's Public Libraries: The Public and Community Libraries Inventory of South Africa (PaCLISA) Project', Peter Johan Lor, Paul van Helden and Theo Bothma, all affiliates of the University of Pretoria, reflect on the PaCLISA project, and describe the processes involved in its execution, pinpointing the lessons learned and their implications for future efforts to inventorise South Africa's public libraries. They also note that 'although the project was not an unqualified success, it was a valuable learning experience'. This paper links well with that written by Karin de Jager and Mary Nassimbeni (UCT) reported in SAJLIS 71(1) 2005. In the seventh article, Iyabo Mabawonku (University of Ibadan) and Lenrie Aina (University of Botswana) write on 'Characteristics of Library and Information Science Journals published in West Africa' and recommend merging some of the journals, increased funding by their sponsors for stronger viability and visibility, as well as bolder ventures into electronic publishing, where the journals are exceedingly lacking. Misquoting in publications is a common dilemma in publications of all kinds. The last article, by Ken Masters of UCT, is entitled 'Flawed evidence: A case study of misquoting and inaccurate referencing' and reflects on this topical area through a case study of misquoting Michael Gibbons' work by several authors and notes that 'while small errors are excusable, obvious interpretations, alterations, additions and deletions are not'. He advises authors always to refer to the original sources when citing them in order to avoid misquoting and inaccurate referencing.

Other readings of general nature include four book reviews, by Anli van Straten, Caroline Dean and Anita Visser.

I wish you enjoyable reading

Dennis N.Ocholla

Editor-in-Chief

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