

Dear SAJLIS Readers,

It is my pleasure to present SAJLIS 71(2), consisting of eight research articles, including four revisions from conference papers, as well as six articles of a general nature, including a ProLISSA conference report and five book reviews. This issue has attracted articles on LIS theory and history, information policy, information seeking, ICT knowledge and skills, LIS education and training and information, and knowledge management. It is pleasing to inform our readers and LIASA members that LIASA will possibly publish three issues of SAJLIS annually as from 2005. We will try to keep the number of articles published in each issue as they are in Volume 71.

The first article, on information theory, was presented at the ProLISSA conference is by Fanie de Beer, a professor at the University of Pretoria. Entitled 'Towards the idea of information science as an interscience', this philosophical article strongly ponders intellectual discourse on science, and aims to emphasise the core aspect of scientific activity. It addresses the question of how Information Scientists respond intellectually to what is happening in the world of information and knowledge development and work, given the context of new socio-cultural and knowledge landscapes. Different approaches to the establishment of a new scientific paradigm are explored; the demands these developments pose for human thinking are highlighted, and the implications for Information Science regarding its proposed functioning as a nomad science and its proposed responsibility of focusing on informatization and inventiveness, are specified. The second article, on the history of libraries, that also attracted a lot of interest at the ProLISSA conference in 2004, is by Archie Dick, also a professor at the University of Pretoria. Entitled 'Send your books on active service: The books for troops scheme during the second World War, 1939-1945', it describes the South African Library Association's coordination of the Books for Troops Scheme that distributed thousands of books and magazines to soldiers in the Union Defence Force, and argues that personal squabbles, regional tensions, racialism and the regulation of reading by the Army Education Services prevented the South African Library Association from making a forceful impact on the South African public. In the third article, that focuses on information policy, Charles Masango, a lecturer at the University of Cape Town, writes on 'Digital licence agreements and their effects on acquisitions and academic library users', he examines the origin of print media copyright law and the fair dealing exemptions. The article discusses the effects on acquisitions and academic library users of incorporating the print media fair dealing exemption in the digital licensing agreements.

Parliamentarians' information seeking behavior has invited some exciting but limited studies around the world. The fourth article, originally presented at the ProLISSA Conference in Pretoria, is by Janneke Mostert and Dennis Ocholla, both from the University of Zululand. The article, entitled 'Information needs and information seeking behavior of parliamentarians in South Africa', recognises the constant need for relevant information by parliamentarians to fulfil the social responsibility bestowed on them by society. This study reveals that parliamentary libraries are underutilised, largely because parliamentarians use the Internet and other sources. It was not expected that oral sources of information would be used less by parliamentarians in this region, as this study discloses. Wilson's model on information seeking has been extended by a model proposing and explaining information-seeking strategies popular to parliamentarians in South Africa.

The fifth article, by Ruth Hoskins, a lecturer at the University of KwaZulu-Natal, focuses on ICT knowledge and skills. The article, 'Information and communication technology (ICT) knowledge and skills of subject librarians at the university libraries of KwaZulu-Natal', investigated subject librarians in the libraries of the Universities of Durban-Westville, Natal (Durban and Pietermaritzburg), and Zululand, and largely used the International Computer Driving Licence (ICDL) for benchmarking the ICT knowledge and skills of the librarians: Ruth's study revealed a low level of ICT knowledge and skills and a general lack of formal training for ICTs amongst the subject librarians.

The sixth article is on LIS education and training. In the article, 'First Level Library and /or Information Science Education and Training at South African Universities and Technikons: possibilities for institutional specialization?', Jayaran Raju, an associate professor at the Durban Institute of Technology, draws from an empirical study on first level LIS qualifications at South African universities and technikons to examine what possibilities exist for institutional specialisation in LIS education and training, and recommends what LIS departments and programmes need to focus on.

Knowledge sharing is still problematic among knowledge holders. The seventh article, by Lucky Mosia of the Kwazulu-Natal Law Society Library and Patrick Ngulube, Senior Lecturer at the University of KwaZulu-Natal, is entitled 'Managing the collective intelligence of local communities for the sustainable utilisation of estuaries in the Eastern Cape, South Africa'. It demonstrates that managing the collective intelligence of the community, that is, tacit and explicit knowledge, is key to the sustainable utilisation of resources, and shows that sharing knowledge is problematic in most organisations, formal and informal. A model to facilitate the sharing of knowledge on the management of estuaries in the Eastern Cape based on community storytelling practice is suggested.

The eighth article, the last of the research articles, focuses on the management of HIV/AIDS information. In the article, 'Insight into the Management and Diffusion Strategies of HIV/AIDS Information in Institutions of Higher Education in South Africa' (revised from the original presented at the ProLISSA Conference), Luyanda Dube and Dennis Ocholla, both from the University of Zululand, reveal that the response of the higher education sector to HIV/AIDS is not uniform, but that there is a positive move towards strong management of HIV/AIDS and information, and recommend further research on feasibility, applicability and effectiveness of the centralised coordination of the higher education HIV/AIDS response.

The general contributions section of this issue comprises a report on the ProLISSA conference by Petros Dlamini and Blessing Mbata, both PhD students at the University of Zululand, and book reviews by Dr Joyce Bukirwa Nyumba, Professor I M N Kigongo-Bukenya, Professor Ina Fourie (two) and Norma Russell.

I wish you all rewarding and enjoyable reading

Dennis N. Ocholla

Editor-in-Chief, SAJLIS