

Dear SAJLIS Readers,

It is our pleasure to present SAJLIS Vol.69 No 2, the last issue of 2003, with five research articles and three book reviews. There are three items of good news worth sharing with our readers. First, *South African Journal of Libraries and Information Science* is included in the revised list of journals to be subsidised by the Department of Education (DoE) from 2005, as reflected in the "Policy for Measurement of Research Output of Public Higher Education Institutions" (<http://www.education.gov.za>). The list consists of 197 South African Journals and the journals indexed by ISI (<http://www.isinet.com/isi/journals/index.html>) and International Bibliography of Social Sciences (<http://www.lse.ac.uk/collections/IBSS/access/Default.htm>). Two additional LIS journals (*Mousaion* of UNISA and *South African Journal of Information Management* of RAU) have also been included in the new list. The objective of the policy is "to encourage research productivity by rewarding quality research output at public higher education institutions". Currently, DoE pays R28 500 to Public Higher Education Institutions in South Africa for each article published in the subsidised journals by an affiliated author. Each institution has devised its own way of allocating the money for research promotion and support (e.g. University of Zululand allocates 60% to the author, 15% to the author's department and 25% remains in the central pool). The electronic version of SAJLIS has been compiled by SABINET as was agreed with LIASA and can now be accessed electronically through SABINET. In addition, the Representative Council has approved free electronic access to the journal for paid-up LIASA members. Negotiated electronic access to the journal is available to institutions and libraries that subscribe to SABINET information products and services. Thirdly, it is gratifying to note that LIASA Representative Council has approved the increase of journal issues from two in 2003 to three as from 2004. Council has also promised a fourth issue in 2004 if income from the journal increases (the journal is largely financed through membership fees. Other sources are DALRO fees, page fees and advertisements). We are proud to record that the journal has attracted both established and novice authors, which is essential for sustainability and capacity building as a solid African journal. This issue reflects a mixture of contributions from established authors, novice authors and collaborative publications (both peer to peer and academic and student) that is encouraging.

Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) such as wireless technology are increasingly identified for the development of information services in rural areas. Maritha Snyman and Retha Snyman, both from Information Science at the University of Pretoria, in an article entitled "Getting information to disadvantaged rural community: the centre approach", report on the South African government's use of ICT for the dissemination of information to rural communities and evaluate the achievements of the initiatives. The second paper, that was highly welcomed at 2001 and 2002 LIASA conferences, focuses on information literacy as increasingly identified with learning support systems in South African tertiary institutions, whose students largely come from information-poor backgrounds and use second languages in the learning process. Two experts in this field, Karin de Jager and Mary Nassimbeni, both UCT academics, have tackled information literacy. In "An exploration of the current status of information literacy tuition in South African tertiary institutions and proposals for curriculum design" they determine measurable competencies in students' information literacy at tertiary level in South Africa. The authors recognise the need for technological skills among students, but also propose "rationally justified systems of standards and benchmarks" as crucial to inculcating competencies on information literacy. The increased use of web technology has popularised studies on web information seeking/searching. In the third article, Ina Fourie, from the University of Pretoria, argues in "Suggestions for a research framework for South Africa: how can we learn web information seeking/searching studies?" in favour of a research framework inclusive of a variety of research components, and offers suggestions for theoretical and practical research orientation to South Africa in the domain. The fourth article, "An investigation into the ease of use of a small Technikon library" by Adriaan Swanepoel, from Technikon Pretoria, reflects on research findings on the use of library services, facilities and information resources by pre-graduate students. This study provides an interesting insight into whether there is a difference in the use of library resources between students who have received library instructions and those who have not. The last research article demonstrates collaboration between an academic and a student (novice) that is highly encouraging for capacity building and empowerment. George Fredericks, a professor at University of Western Cape, and Z. Mvunelo, formerly a masters student at UWC, in "Publication of books in indigenous South African languages and their availability and use in public libraries" tackle a fundamental issue that affects literacy and the role and impact of public libraries in a country that is constitutionally expected to promote all eleven national languages. The study sadly reveals that publishing houses and libraries in South Africa largely provide information materials in English and Afrikaans. For example, publications in indigenous languages constitute less than 1% of the sampled public libraries in the Western Cape.

The issue includes reviews of three books: *Theological Librarians and the Internet. Implications for Practice* edited by Mark Stover and reviewed by Arthur Song (University of Zululand); *The Practical Library Manager* by Bruce E Massis, reviewed by Peter G. Underwood (University of Cape Town), and *Law Library Collection Development in the Digital Age*, edited by Michael Chiorazzi & Gordon Russell and reviewed by Charles A. Masango

On behalf of the Journal Management Team, let me recognise the valuable contributions made by SAJLIS manuscript reviewers (see Index for names) who have added value to the articles published in the LIASA journal and supported novice authors, through their insightful and generous remarks.

We believe that our readers will find this issue educative and worth reading.

Enjoy your end of year festivities

Dennis N. Ocholla

Editor-in-Chief, SAJLIS