# EDITORIAL

Dear SAJLIS Readers,

It is our pleasure, once again, to present the final issue of South *African Journal of Libraries and Information Science*, Vol. 68 No. 2, which contains valuable articles on a variety of current themes on Library and Information Science in general and relevant to South Africa in particular. In the previous issue (Volume 68, No 1) the coverage was largely focused on knowledge management – indigenous knowledge systems and information seeking. We are delighted that one student's article, based on completed masters research, has been positively reviewed for inclusion in this issue. Furthermore, it is important to note that we managed to obtain 25% contributions on reflective practice to be included as part of the Journal policy. Although we initially expected to continue publishing 80 pages in each issue as was done the previous issue, this will not be possible in the current and following issues owing to financial constraints facing LIASA that can currently afford only two issues of 48 pages each per volume (annually). We apologise to those contributors who expected their articles to appear in this issue. We do, however, promise to include them in the next issue, SAJLIS 69(1) due in June 2003. This issue reflects valuable contributions on information seeking and retrieval and information policy and also contributions of a general nature that include a conference report and a book review. Please be reminded that the mainstream articles in the Journal qualify for SAPSE subsidy accordingly.

The opening article by Margaret Mgobozi and Dennis Ocholla on "The use of electronic journals for the dissemination of scholarly information by the University of Natal and the University of Zululand" compares the usage of electronic journals between the two Universities with the assumption that such use at a Historically Advantaged University such as the University of Natal would be greater than the use at a Historically Disadvantaged University such as the University of Zululand and that e-journals would be used more than print journals. Margaret and Dennis have provided an insightful reading that reveals interesting dynamics in the use of e-journals among a community that still largely depends on print journals, while cautiously accommodating the new method of knowledge diffusion, despite historical disparities. The second article on "Information access in indigenous languages: a case study in Zulu" by Erica Cosijn, Theo Bothma, Ari Pirkola and Kalervo Jarvelin, that received substantial interest among the scholarly community in a series of conferences at both national (e.g. ProLISSA Conference in Pretoria, October 2002) and international (SCECSAL in Johannesburg in April 2002 and the 4th COLIS Conference in Seattle, University of Washington, USA in June 2002) level represents empirical research findings in a promising research domain to South Africa, a country that has eleven official languages. Observed that a large majority of the South African society can benefit from CLIR. Erica and her co-authors focus their study on the intellectual accessibility of information in indigenous languages, using Zulu, one of the main indigenous languages in South Africa, as a test case for Cross-Lingual Information Retrieval (CLIR) and metadata for facilitating access. The authors have discussed popular CLIR approaches and their resource requirements, the dictionary-based approach combined with approximates string matching for query translation from Zulu to English. Metadata formats for knowledge representation from the Indigenous Knowledge (IK) viewpoint is discussed, in particular the advantages and limitations of the Dublin Core (DC) metadata format. Women have more responsibilities than rights in the developing countries and, sadly, the responsibilities are delivered with dismal resources. The third article is by Neo Patricia Mooko, on "The use and awareness of women's groups as sources of family information in three small villages in Botswana". In this qualitative study and investigation, Patricia found that the women were aware of the existence of the various women's groups, both local and national, but they were not aware of the types of information and help to be obtained from such organisations. It also provides useful recommendations to support the women.

There is also one article on information policy. Sophia Le Roux's article on "School Library Policy in South Africa; where do we stand?" provides a rich account of the development of the school library policy in South Africa and reveals that South Africa still does not have a national school library policy, an omission that heavily affects the development of school libraries in the country.

This issue has other informative contributions, including reviews of the ProLISSA/DISSANET Conference by Luyanda Dube and one book reviews by Kigongo Bukenya. We hope that SAJLIS readers will gain additional knowledge and information from this issue. We will strive to ensure that the next issue is even more informative and interesting. Your valuable articles are welcome. Enjoy.

Dennis N. Ocholla

Editor-in-Chief, SAJLIS