Editorial

Dear Colleagues and SAJLIS readers,

The *South African Journal of* Libraries *and Information Science* (SAJLIS), formerly *South African Journal of* Library *and Information Science* (SAJLIS), is a new publication that is initially to be published biannually, starting from June 2002.

It was recognised increasingly that it is important for the National Association, the Library and Information Association of South Africa (LIASA), to have a formal vehicle for publishing material largely about the South African library and information sector. The content of the journal is to comprise seventy-five percent research-oriented peer-refereed articles, including practical research reflecting on the developments and work in libraries and their communities. The remaining twenty-five percent is to consist of information of general nature, including reviews and announcements.

The articles represented in this issue are expected to stimulate debate around critical issues and trends in librarianship and information science, particularly concerning indigenous knowledge systems and information seeking, that are appropriate to the scope of the journal's objectives. We note, with pleasure and appreciation, that several interesting manuscripts/articles have been received from within and outside South Africa, some of which are currently being processed for the next issue. The issue (SAJLIS Vol.68 No.1) is a continuation of the re-named journal: *South African Journal of Library and Information Science.*

Three distinguished articles on indigenous knowledge that were ranked best by both the participants and the conference papers review committee of SCECSAL held in Johannesburg during the period 14 - 19 April 2002 start off this issue. An insightful article by Andrew Kaniki and Kutu Mphahlele conceptualises the two authors' views with regard to the *extent to which knowledge management methodologies and principles can be used to manage indigenous knowledge.* Their thesis is that indigenous knowledge forms part of knowledge management and therefore the two domains effectively supplement each other.

The next contributor is Justin Chisenga, whose conceptual essay on *"Indigenous knowledge: Africa's Opportunity to Contribute to Global Information Content"* challenges African scholars and information providers to contribute to the global information content by adding their unique, but unknown, indigenous information reserve to world-wide web infrastructure. Bright Nkhata's article on *"Setting up an Information Resource Centre and the Management of Indigenous Knowledge at the Harry Oppenheimer Okavango Research Centre"* closes the contributions on indigenous knowledge. Nkhata's contribution represents reflective practice and mainly discusses issues, trends and problems of indigenous knowledge management in an information centre. The author cautions that multidisciplinary indigenous knowledge invites the involvement of both information professionals and other professionals to propel its management and development.

It is widely assumed that the informal sector does not only represent tacit knowledge and indigenous knowledge in practice, but that it is also a unique economic forum for the masses in the developing countries. Robert Ikoja-Odongo's article *"Insights into the Information Needs of Women in the Informal Sector of Uganda"* not only explores the information seeking behaviour of female informal sector entrepreneurs and the development of the sector in Uganda, but also demonstrates the role of women in this popular industrial sector in Africa. The informal sector in Africa is, arguably, largely based on tacit knowledge and is also considered to be a major reservoir of indigenous knowledge. Ikoja-Odongo's article presents a challenging agenda and a manifestation of the significance and potential of indigenous knowledge in information transfer in Africa. A thematic article on *"The African Renaissance and Children's Literature: Is South African Librarianship Abdicating its Role?",* by Genevieve Hart, paints a rather bleak picture of the future of readership as a subject/course in LIS Education in South Africa. The author raises genuine concerns about the development of reading and readership as an important ingredient for imbibing knowledge and attaining modern education in a society that is increasingly apathetic to reading and bewildered by foreign multimedia images for information and entertainment. The articles in this issue that discuss issues and problems of information seeking include a dual contribution by Carol van Zijl and Elizabeth Gericke. They present an interesting cross-sectional study on the *"Use of Electronic Databases by the South African visual artists"* in which they explore the information behaviour of these unique information consumers.

An interesting essay reporting on a pilot project using a virtual classroom to develop literature review writing skills concludes the list of major articles in this issue. In this article George Stewart and Wendy Gordon, both of the Durban Institute of Technology, have provided an interesting outcome for an ongoing project involving the improvement of learning and teaching in tertiary education. Other general contributions in this issue are sure to be equally rewarding.

Without doubt, this issue will broaden the knowledge of our readers/clients on theoretical and practical developments in library and information studies/science and invite debates for further information and knowledge exploration. We will strive to ensure that the next issue is even more informative, educating and interesting. Your contributions and comments will be appreciated. Enjoy.

Dennis N. Ocholla

Editor - in- Chief