

DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATION SCIENCE (DoIS) NEWSLETTER

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DoIS

From the Marketing team

Dear Reader

First and foremost, the editorial team would like to sincerely thank the previous team under the leadership of Dr Modiba. They have laid a solid foundation which the current team is building on. The team would like to extend a warm welcome to students, practitioners, scholars, academics and researchers in the field of library and information science through this newsletter. We are delighted to present this newsletter, which is distributed across all communication and marketing channels of the Department of Information Science (DoIS) on a biannual basis.

The newsletter is a comprehensive source of stories and updates pertaining to the DoIS at UNISA. It highlights noteworthy events such as conferences, achievements and accolades earned by our esteemed academic staff, promotions, new staff appointments and upcoming departmental events. Additionally, it showcases inspiring stories of students' accomplishments.

We trust that this newsletter will not only be informative but also a source of enjoyment for our readers. Thank you for joining us on this exciting journey of sharing knowledge and celebrating the successes within our vibrant academic community.

Regards

The Marketing team: Prof Dikotla, Mr Matshotshwane , Mr Modiba and DDr. Mosako.



Department of information science Staff

CONFERENCES & EVENTS

ESARBICA Conference 2023



The Department of Information Science proudly collaborated with the organisers of the Eastern and Southern Africa Regional Branch (Esarbica) conference to co-host the event, a significant gathering that unfolded at the Birchwood Conference Centre in Gauteng, South Africa, spanning from 14 to 18 August 2023. This conference, drawing attendees from across the Esarbica region and beyond, brought together hundreds of archivists and records practitioners to explore and deliberate on the theme, "Archives, records and memory in digital spaces and global chaos".

Throughout the conference, presenters aligned their discussions with the central theme, offering diverse perspectives on the challenges and opportunities presented by the digitisation of archives and records in the context of today's global complexities.

The distinguished Deputy Minister of Sport, Deputy Minister N. Mafu, graced the occasion and delivered a compelling speech that resonated with the conference's focus. Deputy Minister Mafu emphasised the critical role of 4IR technologies, including artificial intelligence, in the realm of archives and records management. Her insightful remarks underscored the importance of embracing technological advancements to enhance the efficiency and accessibility of archival information.

Deputy Minister Mafu took a moment to celebrate the remarkable milestone of the University of South Africa (UNISA), acknowledging its 150th anniversary. She commended UNISA's commitment to extending education even to remote students, highlighting the institution's dedication to fostering learning opportunities on a global scale.

Among the esteemed attendees was Prof Nkosi, whose presence added scholarly weight to the event. Prof Nkosi applauded the pivotal role played by Esarbica in advancing the field of archives and records management within the region. Additionally, she acknowledged and commended the Department of Information Science for its substantial contributions to the Esarbica region, emphasising the department's commitment to excellence and innovation.

The collaborative efforts between the Department of Information Science and the Esarbica conference organisers not only facilitated a successful event but also reinforced the importance of continuous dialogue and collaboration in advancing the field of archives and records management. As the conference concluded, participants left with enriched perspectives and a strengthened sense of community within the Esarbica region.



School of Arts (SoA) Conference 2023



The Department of Information Science proudly collaborated with the School of Arts for the highly anticipated School of Arts Conference 2023, meticulously organised by the esteemed School of Arts at UNISA. The conference took place at the iconic Sun City Convention Centre North West, from 16 to 20 October 2023, revolving around the overarching theme of "development, promotion, and preservation of languages through art, culture, music, and heritage".

This five-day event provided a unique platform where professionals, artists and academics converged at Sun City Convention Centre to delve into critical discussions on arts, culture, language and music. Participants engaged in thought-provoking dialogue, sharing insights and perspectives that contributed to a deeper understanding of the intricate interplay between these diverse elements.

The opening ceremony was graced by the esteemed presence of Prof Nkosi, the dean of Human Sciences at UNISA, who set the tone for the conference. The deputy executive dean, Prof Mashao from Unisa, brought the event to a close during the gala dinner, a fitting culmination to a week filled with intellectual exchange and cultural appreciation.

Distinguished figures in the realms of music and art, such as Show-Majozi, lent their expertise as speakers, addressing pivotal issues concerning the language employed in crafting lyrics for their musical compositions. Their contributions added a dynamic layer to the conference, enriching the discourse on the intersection of language and artistic expression.

Among the notable attendees was Prof Jacobs, the chair of the Department of Information Science, whose active participation significantly contributed to the success of the conference. Prof Jacobs not only chaired multiple sessions but also shared valuable insights on various topics throughout the event, showcasing the DoIS's commitment to fostering interdisciplinary discussions.

Adding to the department's representation was Prof Ngoepe, the former chairperson of the Department of Information Science and former school director, who currently serves as the executive director at the UNISA library. Prof Ngoepe played a pivotal role in the conference's success, conducting workshops and delivering key presentations that underscored the importance of information science in the broader context of arts and culture.

The collaborative efforts of the Department of Information Science, alongside other key contributors, ensured that the School of Arts Conference 2023 was a resounding success, leaving a lasting impact on the participants and reinforcing the vital role of information science in the multifaceted landscape of arts and culture.



Dr Modiehi Rammutloa shared her words of wisdom at LIASA Conference



Dr Rammutloa recently participated in the LIASA Conference, which took place at the Lord Charles Hotel in Somerset West, Cape Town, spanning from 10 to 13 October 2023. The conference centred around the theme, "Libraries-Writing the Next Chapter". During this event, Dr Rammutloa delivered a noteworthy presentation titled, "Academic Librarians as Conduits Between Citizen Scientists and Achieving Sustainable Development Goals".

Dr Rammutloa's academic pursuits and research interests encompass a broad spectrum, including Citizen Science, Sustainable Development Goals, Information and Knowledge Management, Data Quality/Integrity, and Research Data Management. Her commitment to these diverse areas reflects a holistic approach to contributing valuable insights to the academic and scientific community.

For those contemplating participation and presentation at conferences, Dr Rammutloa offers words of encouragement. She emphasises that conferences serve as exceptional platforms to showcase one's research work and foster connections with potential collaborators in research projects. Dr Rammutloa underscores the significance of seizing the opportunity to learn from those who have navigated the research path before, highlighting that everyone starts somewhere. In line with her positive perspective, she reassures that public speaking and presenting, much like any other skill, may appear challenging until one takes the plunge. To assist in this journey, she encourages individuals to seek guidance from colleagues who have prior experience in presenting at conferences, inviting them to serve as mentors. Dr Rammutloa believes that having already conducted the research positions individuals ahead in terms of content knowledge, and she encourages them to relish the experience and enjoy the process.

In summary, Dr Rammutloa's active participation in the LIASA Conference, her impactful presentation and her insightful advice to aspiring conference attendees underscore her dedication to academic excellence, knowledge sharing and mentorship within the academic and research community.

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NEW APPOINTMENTS CORNER

Mr. Sanele Mbatha appointed as Lecturer



The Department of Information Science (DoIS) at UNISA proudly extends its heartfelt congratulations to Mr Sanele Mbatha on his recent appointment as a lecturer within the department. Mr. Mbatha's role encompasses a multifaceted array of responsibilities, reflecting the dynamic nature of academic life. In his capacity as a lecturer, Mr Mbatha will be actively engaged in teaching, where he will impart knowledge in areas such as information ethics and information

research pursuits as he embarks on his journey towards earning a PhD. His commitment to guiding and supporting students is evident in his role, which includes student supervision, particularly for honours students. This mentorship aspect underscores the department's dedication to nurturing the next generation of information science professionals.

Beyond the classroom, Mr Mbatha will actively participate in community engagement projects, showcasing the department's commitment to making a positive impact beyond academic spheres. Moreover, he will be involved in academic citizenship activities, contributing to the broader academic community and furthering the department's mission. Offering words of encouragement to aspiring young academics, Mr Mbatha advocates for embracing risk taking. He emphasises that, in the academic journey, taking risks provides valuable learning experiences,

even in the face of setbacks. His message resonates with the idea that failures are opportunities for growth, and with time and perseverance, individuals can develop and excel.

Mr Mbatha's research interests, which include digital transformation, blockchain technology, and records management, reflect his commitment to exploring cutting-edge topics that have transformative implications for the field of information science. His endeavours in these areas align with the department's ethos of staying at the forefront of advancements in the information science landscape.

As Mr Mbatha assumes his role, the Department of Information Science looks forward to the positive impact he will undoubtedly make in teaching, research, mentorship, and community engagement. His appointment adds a valuable dimension to the department's academic community, contributing to its ongoing commitment to excellence and innovation.

Mr Joseph Matshotshwane appointed as Lecturer



The Department of Information Science at UNISA is delighted to extend its heartfelt congratulations to Mr Matshotshwane on his recent appointment as a permanent lecturer in the department. Mr. Matshotshwane, a dynamic PhD candidate, officially assumed his role on 1 August 2023.

Possessing a robust academic background, Mr Matshotshwane holds a Master of Information Science and a Bachelor of Information Science. His master's dissertation, titled "Towards Inclusive Archives Through the Collection of Sports Athletics Memories at the Gauteng Provincial Archives," reflects his commitment to fostering inclusivity

Currently, Mr Matshotshwane imparts knowledge in courses such as Managing Archives (1503) and Development and Collection of Information Resources (AIS2605). In addition to his teaching responsibilities, he takes on the role of supervising honours research reports and co-supervising master's students. As a testament to his dedication to academic rigor, Mr. Matshotshwane actively engages as a peer reviewer for several esteemed academic journals in the field of Information Science.

Beyond the confines of academia, Mr Matshotshwane actively contributes to community projects aimed at documenting cultural heritage and recognising unsung sports heroes. He plays a pivotal role as a member of the marketing committee within the DoIS, showcasing his commitment to the department's growth and outreach.

Mr Matshotshwane's research interests span a diverse range, including citizen archives, oral history, inclusive archives, sports archives, and the documentation of grassroots communities. He has had the privilege of presenting his research at national conferences such as the Oral History Association of South Africa (OHASA) annual conference and the South African Society of Archives (SASA). Additionally, his work has been showcased at international conferences, including the International Council on Archives (ICA).

We are confident that Mr Matshotshwane will continue to make significant contributions to the academic community and beyond, and we look forward to witnessing his continued success in the Department of Information Science at UNISA.

Dr. Mamotshabo Boloka



The DoIS at UNISA proudly congratulates Dr. Boloka on her recent appointment as a senior lecturer. Dr. Boloka assumed her role in the Department of Information Science at UNISA on July 1, 2023. Dr Boloka earned her PhD in Information Science from the University of South Africa in 2022. Under the guidance of Professor Jiyane and Professor Ngoepe, she conducted a commendable research project for her doctoral studies. Her academic journey includes a Master of Arts in Information Science from UNISA, and she previously completed her honors-included degree in Information Studies (B.Inf) at the University of Limpopo. An active contributor to the academic community, Dr Boloka regularly presents papers at both local and international

conferences. She has also made noteworthy contributions to scholarly discourse through publications in peer-reviewed journals in South Africa. Dr Boloka consistently engages in the academic community by reviewing papers for accredited local and international journals.

Beyond academia, Dr Boloka is deeply involved in community engagement projects focused on addressing illiteracy levels in rural communities through the establishment of reading clubs. She serves as the secretary of the Library and Information Association of South Africa (LIASA) Limpopo Branch, highlighting her commitment to professional development and collaboration. Dr Boloka brings a wealth of experience from various sectors, having worked in the private sector, including AISA (Africa Institute of South Africa), now incorporated with the Human Science Research Council, National Health Laboratory Services, and National Institute for Occupational Health. She also has experience in the government sector with the

National Prosecuting Authority of South Africa and has worked at the University of Limpopo and the University of Zululand, before joining UNISA.

Currently, Dr Boloka imparts her knowledge through teaching INS3707 (Information Organisation and Retrieval) and HIN4802 (Social Impact of ICT). She has a history of successful supervision, having cosupervised one master's student to completion at the University of Limpopo and currently co-supervising master's and doctoral students at UNISA.

Dr Boloka's diverse research interests encompass user studies, public librarianship, literacy in rural settings, ICT in libraries, cataloguing and classification, as well as indexing and abstracting. Her multifaceted expertise and dedication to both academic and community initiatives make her a valuable addition to the Department of Information Science at UNISA. We look forward to her continued contributions and success in her new role as a senior lecturer.

Doctor Lungile Luthuli secures a senior lecturer job



The Department of Information Science at UNISA extends its warmest congratulations to Dr Luthuli for her remarkable achievement in securing a senior lecturer position within the department. Her dedication and expertise in the field of information science have garnered her this well-deserved recognition.

In her notable thesis, titled "A Framework for Archiving Municipal Websites in KwaZulu-Natal Province, South Africa," Dr Luthuli adeptly employs the web archiving life cycle theory to delve into the critical topic of archiving websites as valuable records within the context of KwaZulu-Natal municipalities.

Recognising the challenges posed by the limited infrastructure for assimilating digital records into archival custody, her work proposes an innovative framework. This framework aims to harvest web content of enduring significance both internally within municipalities and externally within archival repositories. Dr Luthuli's impressive academic journey encompasses her previous role as a Lecturer in the Department of Information Studies at the University of Zululand, South Africa. Additionally, she has enriched her experience through her involvement in the UN programme in Hamburg, Germany, where she contributed to the Law of the Sea Library and Archival Department, ITLOS. Her roles as WIL coordinator and FAREC representative for the Information Department underscore her commitment to advancing the field.

Currently engaged in significant projects such as the InterPARES AI project in Canada and the Erasmus Project, Dr Luthuli remains at the forefront of cutting-edge research and collaboration. Her multifaceted expertise extends to her role as an honours, masters, and PhD supervisor, enabling her to guide the next generation of scholars. Notably, she has made impactful contributions through her publications in esteemed journals and book chapters, as well as through her presentations at prestigious international and regional conferences. Dr Luthuli's research interests are both diverse and substantial, encompassing areas such as medical records management, web archiving, digital records management, digital preservation and curation, liquid communication, artificial intelligence, cloud computing, databases, electronic records management, knowledge management, information ethics, and library and information centres. Her affiliation with esteemed organisations such as the International Council on Archives (ICA) and the South African Society of Archivists (SASA) attests to her commitment to advancing the field and contributing to its success.

Prof Maoka Dikotla appointed as Associate Professor



by recently completing a Post Graduate Diploma in Higher Education from the Durban University of Technology. Prof Dikotla's research interests are wide-ranging, encompassing Information, Records, and Knowledge Management, as well as Teaching and Learning. His expertise extends to Academic, School, Public, and Community Libraries, Information Organisation and Retrieval, Information Literacy, and the Integration of Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) in Education.

The Department of Information Science (DoIS) at UNISA extends a warm welcome and hearty congratulations to Professor Dikotla on his recent appointment as an Associate Professor within the department. Prof Dikotla is a distinguished academic who earned his PhD in Library and Information Science from the University of Fort Hare in 2016. Prior to this, he achieved his Master of Library and Information Science from the University of Limpopo in 2008, including an Honours and Junior Degree in Information Studies. Notably, Prof Dikotla has furthered his academic pursuits

In his role as Associate Professor, Prof Dikotla takes on the responsibility of supervising both master's and doctoral students. Additionally, he contributes to the academic curriculum by teaching several modules. These include Practical Portfolio (AIS3705), Information Technology for Organisation and Retrieval (HA1402), and Information Literacy Programs (PCYL03C).

Prof Dikotla's academic journey is marked by a commitment to excellence in both teaching and research. His diverse research interests and teaching responsibilities showcase his dedication to advancing the field of Information Science and nurturing the next generation of scholars. The department looks forward to the valuable contributions and leadership that Prof Dikotla will undoubtedly bring to the academic community. Once again, congratulations on this well-deserved achievement.



STUDENT GRADUATION CORNER

PhD Graduates—2023

Congratulations to Dr Alugumi Samuel Ndou



The DoIS extends its heartfelt congratulations to Dr Ndou for his remarkable achievement in obtaining his PhD from the Department of Information Science at Unisa. Dr Ndou is a distinguished professional librarian, whose extensive experience in academic library environments is truly commendable. His journey from a library assistant – a non-professional position)

to a professional librarian is a testament to his unwavering dedication and hard work. His outstanding abilities are evident in his capacity to deliver compelling, engaging, informative and educational presentations. His outstanding abilities are evident in his capacity to deliver compelling, engaging, informative, and educational presentations. Moreover, he has demonstrated his proficiency in conceptualising, coordinating, conducting, and managing research projects by employing various appropriate methodologies.

Dr Ndou's doctoral thesis, titled "Opportunities and Challenges of Integrating Information Literacy as a Credit-bearing Module into First-Year Level Academic Programs at the University of Venda, South Africa," reflects his commitment to addressing vital issues in the academic world.

He was under the able supervision of Prof Zimubiyela. Dr Ndou's research interests encompass the critical areas of information literacy, academic library development, and the integration of ICT in education. His scholarly pursuits reflect a deep commitment to advancing knowledge in these domains. In offering encouragement to students currently pursuing their PhDs, Dr Ndou invoked the wise words of South Africa's former President, Dr. Nelson Mandela: "Perseverance has its own ultimate reward. A winner is a dreamer who never gives up." Once again, congratulations to Dr. Ndou on this remarkable achievement. Your dedication and commitment are an inspiration to us all, and we look forward to the continued contributions you will make to the field of Information Science.

Congratulations to Dr Phillipus Rudolph van der Walt



The Department of Information Science extends heartfelt congratulations to Dr Van der Walt on successfully earning his PhD in Information Science from Unisa. He was supervised by Prof Jacobs. Dr Van der Walt, an esteemed public librarian with 28 years of experience, dedicated his research to the "Competencies Knowledge, and Skills Framework of Metropolitan Municipality in-charge librarians in South Africa." His career commenced as a library assistant at Alberton Public Library in 2006, progressing to roles

such as Librarian in-charge at Eden Park Library and control librarian at Primrose Library in Germiston. Joining the City of Cape Town's Department Library and Information Services in 2008 as an area manager, Dr Van der Walt has showcased expertise in various aspects of library management, human resources, finance, and information literacy. Active in professional associations, he has contributed significantly to the Library and Information Association of South Africa (LIASA), serving on committees and as the national chair for the public library division. Notably, he has been a member of the Metropolitan Library Section of the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions since 2021 and a panel member for the annual IFLA Public Library Award. Dr Van der Walt's academic journey began in 2006, culminating in his PhD. He received accolades, including the LIASA/SABINET Public Librarian Award in 2004, the LIASA/UKS South African Librarian of the Year Award in 2014-2015, and the City of Ekurhuleni Employee of the Year award in 2006. His research interests encompass public librarianship, public libraries, metropolitan municipal library and information services, information literacy for children, and the competencies and knowledge of public library managers. Dr Van der Walt emphasises the importance of enjoying the academic journey, advising aspiring students to dedicate themselves to studies with consistency and a structured routine. He underscores the significance of pursuing post-graduate studies for personal growth and professional contribution, ensuring that acknowledgment and achievements will follow through hard work and dedication.

Congratulations to Dr. Mary Acanit



The DoIS extends its warmest congratulations to Dr Mary Acanit for the successful completion of her PhD in Information Science at the Unisa. Dr Mary Acanit currently serves as a dedicated librarian at Kyambogo University in Uganda, where she holds the position of head of the library's ICT section. Her role encompasses supervising the digitisation unit, managing e-resources, coordinating and facilitating information literacy programmes, and providing vital research support services to predominantly postgraduate students and teaching staff. Prior to her tenure at Kyambogo University, which commenced in 2012, Dr Acanit gained valuable experience as a human resource officer in charge of records and archives at Posta Uganda. She also

worked as a librarian at Cavendish University, Uganda (CUU). At CUU and Kyambogo University, she shared her expertise by instructing information classification and information retrieval modules, respectively. Dr Acanit's educational journey is characterised by academic excellence. She holds a Bachelor of Library and Information Science degree from Makerere University, a Master of Information Technology degree obtained from the University of Pretoria, and her most recent accomplishment, a PhD in Information Science from the University of South Africa. Her research interests span various domains, including human information behaviour, digital libraries, the integration of ICTs in libraries, e-resources, information literacy, and research support services. Her doctoral thesis, titled "Use of Electronic Library Resources by Postgraduate Students at the Faculty of Engineering at Kyambogo University in Uganda," is a noteworthy contribution to the field. In this work, Dr Acanit presents a framework aimed at promoting the utilisation of electronic library resources among postgraduate engineering students. She was fortunate to have the guidance and mentorship of Prof Mojapelo and Prof Ngulube as her promoters. Currently, Dr Acanit is actively engaged in a research project exploring the use of Covid-19 ICT surveillance applications in Uganda under the auspices of the Austria-Africa Research Network (Africa-UNINET). In offering advice to aspiring PhD students, Dr Acanit emphasises the importance of self-reflection. She encourages them to maintain a clear vision of their initial motivation for embarking on the PhD journey. She reminds them to stay resolute in their goals and liken the academic pursuit to a jigsaw puzzle. Like pieces of a puzzle, different aspects of learning, unlearning, and relearning will eventually come together to form a meaningful whole. Once again, we congratulate Dr Mary Acanit on her remarkable achievement and express our appreciation for her dedication to the field of Information Science. Her contributions are invaluable, and we eagerly anticipate her continued success in her academic and research endeavours.

Congratulations to Dr Modiehi Winnie Rammutloa



The DoIS is delighted to extend its heartfelt congratulations to Dr Rammutloa on the successful completion of her PhD in Information Science at Unisa. Dr Rammutloa currently holds the position of Specialist: Data Standards and Quality Reporting, where her role is integral to the Unisa library system. Her responsibilities encompass various facets, including statistics collation and analysis, data quality assurance, and data standardisation. Notably, she recently embarked on her journey at the Department of Information Science as a Talent Management Candidate, with aspirations of pursuing a career in academia.

In her new role, she assumes responsibilities that span teaching and learning, research, engaged scholarship, and academic citizenship. Dr Rammutloa's academic journey is marked by dedication and achievement. She commenced her studies at the University of Limpopo, where she earned a Bachelor's Degree in Information Studies. Subsequently, she furthered her education at the University of South Africa, where she obtained an honours degree. She later completed an MPhil in Information and Knowledge Management at Stellenbosch University.

The focal point of Dr Rammutloa's remarkable PhD project is titled "Positioning Citizen Science in University Libraries in South Africa." This research endeavour was skillfully supervised by Dr Van Deventer and Co supervised by Prof Jacobs. Her research interests encompass a broad spectrum, including citizen science, information and knowledge management, research data management, Sustainable Development Goals, and data quality. In offering guidance to prospective PhD students, Dr Rammutloa underscores the importance of recognising the PhD project as a journey, rather than a mere race. She advises students to embrace each step of this journey, emphasising the need to maintain a healthy balance between their academic pursuits and their family life. Dr Rammutloa ardently believes in the significance of family as a vital source of support and suggests that it is crucial for one's mental well-being. She further encourages students not to take the presence of family and friends for granted, emphasising the importance of maintaining social connections and participating in social events, albeit in moderation. Her resounding message is a reminder to savour life and not forget to live it to the fullest. Once again, we extend our warmest congratulations to Dr Rammutloa, celebrating her achievements and welcoming her contributions to the field of Information Science with great anticipation.

Congratulations to Dr. Refiloe Mabaso



The DoIS proudly congratulates Dr Mabaso on her remarkable achievement of obtaining a PhD in Information Science from Unisa. Dr Mabaso is an accomplished senior business leader with a wealth of experience spanning over two decades across both the private and public sectors. Her expertise encompasses various domains, including data management, information management, knowledge management, library management, records and document management, and business intelligence. She has a proven track record of designing and implementing comprehensive information and knowledge management strategies that align with organisational goals and objectives. Dr Mabaso's academic journey is an impressive one, including a degree in Library and Information Studies from the University of South Africa, a Management Development Programme from the same institution, a Postgraduate Certificate in Knowledge Management from the University of Pretoria, a Master's in Business Administration (MBA) from the University of South Africa, and participation in the International Women in Leadership Programme and General Manager Programme

at the Gordon Institute of Business Science (GIBS). Furthermore, she holds a Postgraduate Diploma in Knowledge and Information Systems Management and has culminated her academic career with a PhD in Information Science.

she holds a Postgraduate Diploma in Knowledge and Information Systems Management and has culminated her academic career with a PhD in Information Science. Currently, Dr Mabaso holds the position of senior manager of Information and Knowledge Management at Air Traffic and Navigation Services (ATNS). In this role, she leads a team of specialists responsible for library management, records management, knowledge management, data analysis, business/market intelligence and digital enterprise content management.

Her commitment to the field extends beyond her professional endeavours. Dr Mabaso serves as the board chairperson of several notable organisations, including Knowledge Management of South Africa, the National Library of South Africa (appointed by the Minister of Sports, Arts and Culture), Kitso Lesedi (a non-profit organisation) and as deputy chairperson of the National Committee on DATA (National Research Council). She is also a board member of the Knowledge Management Global Network, an international body for KM Professionals, and a member of the Committee on Data (CODATA) under the International Science Council.

Dr Mabaso's research project, titled "Integrated Information Governance Framework for South Africa Air Traffic Navigation Services," was supervised by Prof Ngoepe. Her research interests span a wide spectrum, including Information Governance, Knowledge Management, Information and Library Science, and Records Management.

Her words of encouragement to PhD students are both inspiring and motivating. She emphasises that starting the journey of studying is a commitment to see it through, and not completing one's studies should never be an option. She underscores the value of hard work, acknowledging that the path of education is challenging but ultimately worth the effort. Dr Mabaso encourages students to persevere, ensuring that their dreams become reality and regrets do not overshadow their aspirations. In an era filled with challenges, she emphasises the importance of focus and diligence, noting that hard work always pays off. Finally, she highlights the critical role of PhD research in addressing South Africa's challenges, such as poverty reduction, inequality elimination, educational enhancement, and research and innovation capacity building.

Dr Mabaso is a shining example of dedication, leadership and academic excellence, and her accomplishments serve as an inspiration to all.

**Department of Information
Science**

**We dedicate this
year to excellence in
tuition**

Congratulations to Dr. Tinyiko Vivian Dube



The DoIS extends its heartfelt congratulations to Dr Dube on the successful completion of her PhD in Information Science at Unisa. Dr Dube's journey in the field of information science is both commendable and inspiring.

Dr Dube embarked on her academic path, earning her initial degree in Information Studies from the University of Limpopo in 2001. In March 2006, she contributed her expertise as a senior library assistant at the Polokwane municipal libraries. In October 2010, she seized an opportunity to join the Unisa library as an information resource request processor. Her role primarily involves facilitating the access and retrieval of information resources for remote students through online platforms such as MyUnisa, OPAC and Interlibrary loan. Since June 2023, Dr Dube has been serving as a cataloguer on secondment at the Unisa library, Muckleneuk Campus. Dr Dube's commitment to her academic journey is evident in her rapid progression. In 2012, she registered for a HONS BA (ISC) (Honours Bachelor of Arts in Information Science) with Unisa and completed it within a year.

In 2013, she continued her academic pursuit by enrolling in the Master of Arts in Information Science (MA ISC), which she completed with distinction in 2016. Her thesis, titled "Information Technology Skills and Competencies of Staff Members in the Information Resource Distribution Directorate of the University of South Africa Library", showcased her dedication and scholarship.

In 2018, Dr Dube embarked on the challenging journey of a Doctor of Philosophy and Literature in Information Science, culminating in her successful completion in 2023. Her doctoral thesis, "The provision of academic library services and resources to remote clients during the COVID-19 pandemic in the Gauteng Province, South Africa", stands as a testament to her scholarly contributions. Throughout this journey, she was under the able guidance of Prof Dube. Dr Dube's interests encompass a wide spectrum of information and communication technologies, artificial intelligence and knowledge management. As a seasoned academic, Dr Dube offers valuable advice to aspiring PhD students:

- Cultivate self-belief and maintain self-motivation, as these are indispensable for success.
- Actively engage with your supervisor for guidance to prevent feeling lost during your research process.
- Seek guidance and motivation from others who have completed their PhDs.
- Utilise your available time wisely for study rather than working under pressure, which can be detrimental to your progress.
- Vigilantly avoid plagiarism by using tools like Turnitin to check your work's similarity index.

Dr Dube's achievements and insights serve as an inspiration to all students, and her dedication to the field of information science is commendable. We look forward to witnessing her continued contributions to the field in the years to come.

DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATION SCIENCE



Thomas van der Walt
Department of Information
Science
University of South Africa

Congratulations to Dr Anushie Moonasar



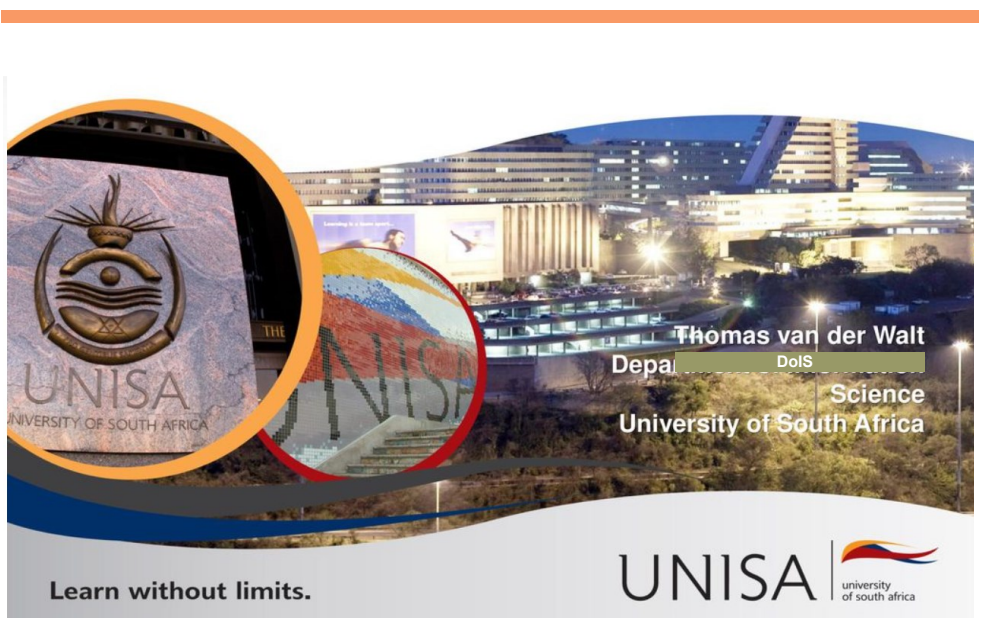
The DoIS is pleased to extend its heartfelt congratulations to Dr Moonasar for the successful completion of her PhD in Information Science at Unisa. Dr Moonasar, a highly accomplished cataloguing and metadata librarian, is currently affiliated with the Durban University of Technology. With an extensive and diverse background in various roles within the library field, she has developed a profound understanding of library products and the seamless migration of integrated library systems.

Dr Moonasar's pivotal roles in multiple library project teams and institutional committees underscore her unwavering dedication to advancing academic resources and enhancing the overall scholarly experience. Her comprehensive skill set encompasses original cataloguing, authoritative database control and meticulous maintenance, all of which have significantly enhanced the operational efficiency of the library. Proficient in the application of Resource Description and Access (RDA) standards, she adeptly undertakes cataloguing tasks, diligently assigning Library of Congress Subject Headings (LCSH) and employing the latest Dewey Decimal Classification (DDC) system for

comprehensive classification purposes. Notably, her significant role in uploading and refining metadata on the Institutional Repository exemplifies her commitment to preserving and disseminating scholarly works. Her commitment to preserving and disseminating scholarly works. Dr Moonasar is a distinguished graduate of the University of Pretoria, where she earned her Master of Information Technology (MIT) degree with distinction. Her academic journey also included her undergraduate and honours studies in Information Technology at UNISA. Her valuable contributions to the field are exemplified by her research publications, which reflect her unwavering dedication to the advancement of knowledge.

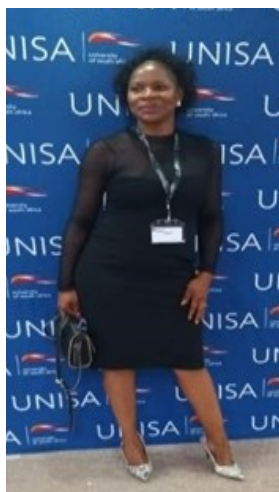
Beyond her professional achievements, Dr Moonasar is deeply passionate about fostering a culture of knowledge sharing and peer mentorship. She embodies a commitment to nurturing the next generation of information professionals.

The title of her research is "Shaping the Evolving Roles of Academic Librarians in the Fourth Industrial Revolution Through Continuous Professional Development at the Durban University of Technology". Dr Moonasar's research was supervised by Prof Ngoepe. Her research interests encompass metadata standards and practices in digital libraries and institutional repositories, the impact of emerging technologies on libraries, continuous professional development, the Fourth Industrial Revolution, knowledge management, and mentorship. Dr Moonasar imparts valuable advice to PhD students, emphasising the importance of maintaining a healthy work life balance. She acknowledges that while research can be time-consuming, it is crucial to take breaks and spend quality time with family and friends to prevent burnout. Dr Moonasar also encourages students to effectively manage their time, identifying their most productive periods and scheduling their PhD work accordingly. She further motivates them to keep their end goals in sight, maintain a positive outlook, embrace challenges as opportunities for growth and learning, and celebrate every milestone, no matter how small. Dr Moonasar inspires students to remember their initial reasons for embarking on their PhD journey, keeping their passion for their field of study alive and allowing it to drive them through the challenging times.



STUDENTS ACHIEVEMENTS CORNER

Ms Vanessa Neo Mathope, a PhD candidate for Information Science, participated in an international exchange visit



The Department of Information Science at Unisa would like to congratulate Ms Mathope, a PhD candidate for Doctor of Philosophy in Information Science for winning the 2022 Student Showcase. As a winner, Ms Mathope is selected to participate in an international exchange visit to the University of Basel in Switzerland. The visit forms part of the Unisa International Student Exchange Programme and will take place later this year. Ms Mathope is currently studying towards

her PhD in Information Science and the title of her research is, "Artificial intelligence to manage records in support of the claims management system at Road Accident Fund in South Africa". She indicated that AI is a fairly new phenomenon in archives and records management. Therefore, she hopes that her participation in the Unisa International Student Exchange Programme will set her on the right path as far as my AI research is concerned. She further anticipates that since AI research is still new in archives and records management in Africa, her research project will have great impact in both the practice and the body of knowledge. Ms Mathope is supervised by Dr Modiba, a senior lecturer in the Department of Information Science.

Ms Mathope is excited to be part of the team that will participate in the international exchange visit since it will be her first time travelling outside the borders of South Africa. She alluded that she is looking forward to learning a lot and engaging with other international students about research and collaborate with students from Switzerland and elsewhere abroad. She is hopeful that after spending the ten days in Europe, she will come back home with renewed confidence knowing that not even the sky is the limit.

She often draws her strength from the ever-so-wise Professor Mamokgethi Phakeng who said "Opportunities are always highly contested. When one is presented to you, make sure you grab it with both hands and use it wisely! Fully commit or don't take or accept the opportunity at all. Half measures will not take you forward. Take up opportunities with decisiveness and full commitment – one wasted opportunity is more expensive than I missed one!". To her fellow Ph.D. students at Unisa and abroad, she hopes they too shall find these words by Prof Phakeng as encouraging as she does.

Congrats and all the best to Vanessa Neo Mathope.

Ms Thulisile Lemekoane, a PhD candidate, receives prestigious scholarship

Ms Lemekoane, an industrious and passionate PhD candidate for Information Science at Unisa, has achieved a significant milestone by being awarded the prestigious 2023 ARMA International Educational Foundation (AIEF) Scholarship. This accomplishment marks a pivotal moment in Lemekoane's academic journey, as she expresses gratitude for the financial support that will underpin her groundbreaking research.

The AIEF scholarship, established in 2006, stands as a beacon of hope for information management professionals, aiming to nurture individuals who possess the potential to shape the future of the profession. Its overarching objective is to empower and bolster individuals pursuing degrees, ranging from associate to postgraduate levels, in the field of information management. Over the years, AIEF has consistently served as a reliable catalyst for education and research within the realm of information management.

Hailing from KwaZulu-Natal, Lemekoane's unwavering commitment to her studies and research made her a standout candidate for the AIEF scholarship. Her research focus, titled "Ingesting digital records into the National Automated Archival Information Retrieval System – Gauteng, South Africa," aims to contribute valuable insights and advancements to the field. In acknowledging the significance of receiving the scholarship, Lemekoane emphasises, "This scholarship will enable me to dedicate more time and focus to my studies, acquire knowledge, and produce high-quality research." She further notes that the financial assistance will alleviate some of the challenges associated with her Ph.D. journey, enabling her to fully immerse herself in achieving her research objectives. As Lemekoane embarks on her research journey with the support of the AIEF scholarship, she carries with her the aspirations of a brighter



future for information management in Gauteng, South Africa, and beyond. Currently employed at the National Archives and Records Service of South Africa, Lemekoane offers valuable advice to those aspiring to follow in her footsteps. She encourages them to pursue further studies, find their passion, and diligently commit to their chosen path. Lemekoane concludes with a reminder to maintain clear goals, exercise patience through the inevitable challenges, and steadfastly persevere on the journey toward academic and professional success.

AWARDS AND BURSARIES CORNER

Dr Mashilo Modiba awarded ICA bursary in 2023



Dr Modiba has recently been granted an ICA bursary, providing him with the opportunity to participate in an International Council on Archives (ICA) conference held in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates (UAE), from 9 to 13 October 2023. The conference theme, "Enriching Knowledge Societies," set the stage for Dr Modiba's presentation titled "User Perception on the Utilisation of Artificial Intelligence for the Management of Records at CSIR in the 5IR". This is not Dr Modiba's first foray into international conferences. Earlier, he presented a similar paper, albeit from a 4IR perspective at the 15th annual Archival Edu

cation and Research Institute (AERI) conference hosted by Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, USA from 19 to 23 June 2023. Dr Modiba's commitment to sharing knowledge extends to various conferences, including the South African Society of Archivists (SASA) conference, the ESARBICA conference and the Nigeria Library Association conference. Dr Modiba's diverse research interests are anchored in cutting-edge technologies. His specialty entails the adoption of artificial intelligence (AI), robotic and cobotic machines, Internet of Things (IoT), cloud computing technology, big data technology and blockchain technology in the management of library and information services, including archives and records management.

Additionally, he is actively engaged in research related to the establishment of smart libraries and smart archives in the context of the 5IR in South Africa. Beyond his research endeavours, Dr Modiba plays a pivotal role in academia. He supervises honours, master's and doctoral students, guiding their research on 5IR technologies. This includes AI, robotic and cobotic machines, cloud computing technology, big data technology, among others, in the domain of information management, encompassing library and information science, as well as archives and records management.

Dr Modiba's influence extends beyond academic circles; he is a sought-after speaker in conferences, workshops and seminars, where he shares insights on issues related to 5IR technologies in the field of library and information services, archives, and records management. In a spirit of mentorship, Dr Mashilo Modiba encourages young academics, emphasising the importance of exploring the global academic landscape through international conferences. He believes that this exposure not only broadens one's horizons but also enables the contribution of valuable insights to the global knowledge pool through research endeavours. Dr Modiba's dedication to cutting-edge research and knowledge dissemination underscores his role as a leading figure in the intersection of technology and information management.

Department of Information Science

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Thomas van der Walt
Department of Information Science
University of South Africa

SCHOLARLY ENGAGEMENT CORNER

UNISA collaborate with Gauteng Provincial Archives on a sophisticated project



The collaborative efforts of the Department of Information Science at Unisa and the Gauteng Provincial Archives have taken a noteworthy stride with their engagement in an oral history project. The primary objective of this initiative is to gather and document the narratives of “unsung sporting heroes” within the province of Gauteng, shedding light on the often-overlooked contributions of individuals who have made significant impacts in the realm of sports. In a bid to enhance their capabilities and ensure the effective preservation and dissemination of these oral histories, the collaborative team sought valuable insights at a workshop hosted by the National Video, Film and Sound Archives. This workshop served as a crucial learning platform where participants delved into the intricacies of preserving, managing and marketing audiovisual archives. The workshop, a nexus of knowledge exchange was attended by representatives from both the Gauteng Provincial Archives and the UNISA

Department of Information Science. Guided by the expertise of Prof Saurombe, the team leader from Unisa, the participants immersed themselves in discussions and practical sessions aimed at honing their skills in the preservation and promotion of oral histories within the audiovisual medium.

Throughout the workshop, participants gained profound insights into state-of-the-art archival practices, emerging technologies, and effective strategies for making these valuable narratives accessible to a wider audience. The collaborative efforts between the UNISA Department of Information Science and the Gauteng Provincial Archives exemplify a commitment to preserving the cultural heritage embedded in the stories of unsung sporting heroes.

As they return to their respective roles, armed with newfound knowledge and skills, the team is poised to make significant strides in the oral history project. The narratives they collect, and preserve will not only contribute to a more comprehensive understanding of the sporting landscape in Gauteng, but it will also ensure that the stories of these unsung sporting heroes receive the recognition and appreciation they deserve. This collaborative endeavour stands as a testament to the vital role information science plays in preserving and disseminating the rich tapestry of cultural heritage within our communities.

Department of Information Science support the theology college in Rustenburg



The Department of Information Science at UNISA has been a pioneer in supporting societal transformation and community development through numerous library and heritage projects. Since 2017, the Department of Information Science has forged a collaborative partnership with the Southern African School of Theology (SAST) for a community engagement project aimed at establishing a sustainable library for the school. SAST, a bible school situated in Rustenburg, North West province, has been the focus of various visits by the department.

On 13 and 14 July 2023, the Department of Information Science conducted a two-day workshop at SAST, complemented by monitoring and evaluation activities. This recent visit built upon prior interactions with the school, revealing a crucial need for training in cataloguing, classification, and effective utilisation of open-access library databases. The training focused on enhancing the capacity of the school's library and information service, addressing the identified gaps.

While the intention was to extend the training to the entire school, including students, the timing coincided with the students' holiday period following the completion of their examinations. Mr Goundasamy, the head of the school, expressed gratitude for the intervention and suggested a repeat session when students return from recess.

An ongoing challenge faced by the school is the absence of a permanent or full-time librarian, relying instead on volunteers, a majority of whom are students. Recognising this, the team from the Department of Information Science and the College envisioned an expansion of the relationship. Specifically, they proposed incorporating final-year UNISA students into the school's library for practical training. This proposal aligns with UNISA's ongoing review of its Library and Information Service (LIS) curriculum.

The suggested student placement arrangement holds potential benefits for both parties. UNISA aims to produce graduates with practical knowledge of library and information service, while the college stands to gain uninterrupted library service for its staff, management, and students. As UNISA continues refining its LIS curriculum, such collaborative initiatives contribute to the holistic development of students and the enhancement of library services within the community.

Dr Boloka, senior lecturer in the Department of Information Science, advocates for reading, and celebrates National Book Week



Dr MJ Boloka, a senior lecturer at the College of Human Sciences' Department of Information Science and Secretary of LIASA Limpopo Branch, recently discussed the importance of National Book Week and the drive to cultivate a culture of reading in South Africa, encouraging parents to take their children to libraries and participate in this year's theme, "Read, Grow, Inspire".

In a recent interview, Dr Boloka, the secretary of the Library and Information Association of South Africa (LIASA), Limpopo Branch, and a senior lecturer at the College of Human Sciences' Department of Information Science, shed light on the significance of National Book Week. This annual event aims to inspire South Africans to embrace reading as an enjoyable pastime and showcases how it can seamlessly integrate into daily life. The 2023 theme, "Read, Grow, Inspire", encapsulates the essence of the campaign.

A pivotal aspect of this year's National Book Week celebration was the featured artist, Australian illustrator Matt Ottley, renowned for his book "Luke's Way of Looking", which was recognised as a CBCA Honour Book in 2000.

Dr Boloka, who serves as the branch secretary of LIASA in Limpopo and a senior lecturer in the College of Human Sciences' Department of Information Science, passionately encourages parents to introduce their children to nearby public libraries, which are treasure troves of diverse storybooks, enabling kids to develop vital

reading skills from an early age. She emphasised the importance of considering the results of the Progress in International Reading Literacy Study (PIRLS) and the National Reading Coalition which highlight the struggles of Grade 4 students who lack meaningful reading abilities. She believes that parents and librarians alike bear a collective responsibility to ensure that children are exposed to books, thus enhancing their reading proficiencies. Furthermore, those with the means to purchase books are encouraged to visit bookstores and handpick selections tailored to their preferences. For those already in possession of books, Dr Boloka suggests creating a "cosy" reading corner to display their current reads as part of the National Book Week festivities. Dr Boloka is quick to remind all South Africans that fostering a culture of leisure reading is a shared endeavour. South Africa has grappled with a lamentable track record of poor reading habits, with numerous households lacking even a single leisure book. She aptly notes the Sepedi saying, "sehlare se kobjwa e sale se se nanana", emphasising the ease of nurturing a child's reading enthusiasm from an early age. She ardently encourages parents to invest quality time in stimulating and nurturing their children's early development. For parents who may themselves struggle with literacy, Dr Boloka recommends enrolling their children in local reading clubs as a supportive alternative.

In a final call to action, Dr Boloka urges South Africans to come together in celebration of International Literacy Day on 8 September. Designated by UNESCO on 26 October 1966, at the 14th session of UNESCO's General Conference, International Literacy Day serves as a global reminder of the importance of literacy and reading.

LIASA Limpopo Branch extends an invitation to individuals to share the stories they are reading during this week on various social media platforms, fostering a sense of community around literature. The branch also commends the efforts of individuals like Mrs Anna Matlou, who has made "reading fashionable" through her Reatlegile Reading Club in the Ga-Dikgale area. Additionally, they acknowledge Ms Martha Setsiba's leadership at Mentz Reading Paradise, ensuring that children in rural communities have access to enriching reading experiences.

As National Book Week continues, South Africans are encouraged to embrace the transformative power of reading and to participate in activities that promote literacy, both during this week and beyond. Dr Boloka's interview serves as a rallying cry to build a nation of readers who "Read, Grow, Inspire".

**By Tebogo Mahlaela, Communication and Marketing Specialist, College of Human Sciences*

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SOCIAL MEDIA CORNER

The Department of Information Science is active on various social media platforms. Social media platforms are used to communicate with current and prospective students and to market departmental projects and services.

The Department of Information Science is available on the following social media platforms:

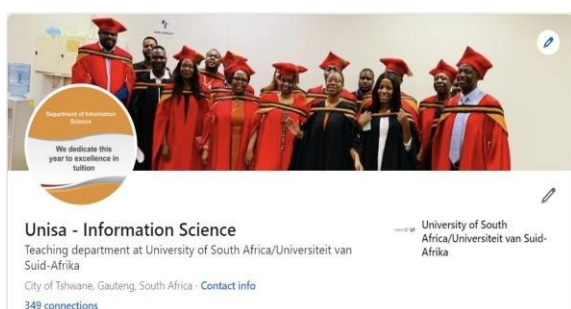
Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100063871200689>)



Twitter (<https://twitter.com/InfoScience15>)



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