

# Trends, challenges and opportunities of LIS education and training in Eastern and Southern Africa

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## Abstract

Library and information education and training in Africa is undergoing rapid change with difficult challenges to overcome. During the past 20 years the number of library schools has grown in some regions and declined in some such as in South Africa, amalgamation, re-orientation has been common in most LIS schools, curriculum review and revision has also been common. The quality of LIS professors/educators has improved and research output experienced major attention. Increased use and access to ICT for LIS education is evident. The challenges of LIS education and training include how to make LIS education relevant and effective. This paper discusses these issues in relation to LIS education and training in Eastern and Southern Africa.

## 1 Introduction

The aim of this paper is to discuss the status, trends and challenges of library and information education and training in Africa. The authors have used their extensive experience and exposure to LIS education, observations and the relevant literature in the field to inform this paper. Africa consists of 53 independent countries. A large part of Africa's history is influenced by its colonial past that is remembered either negatively or positively. The negative part of this history is tainted periods of invasion, wars, servitude, divestment, racial segregation, illiteracy and poverty and the denigration of the indigenous communities. The positive part that is easily ignored is some of existing developmental infrastructure that, though not initially intended to benefit African's, later became strongly relevant and cemented foundations on which some of the current developments thrive. For instance besides the local languages, 26 are English speaking [Anglophone], 29 French speaking [Francophone], 5 Portuguese speaking [Lucophone], 7 Arabic speaking and 2 Spanish speaking. The knowledge of these languages has leveraged Africans to participate easily in the global knowledge and information production, consumption and sharing. Libraries and Library and information education institutions also got started quite early in the continent. Apart from South Africa LIS schools that started as early as 1938 (see Ocholla 2000:35; Raju 2005), LIS education in Africa began after 1960. By 1980s there were five main LIS education institutions based in Ghana, Nigeria, Senegal and Uganda (Sitzman, Bock, Aina, Ocholla and Gupta in Ocholla 2000:35) and 18 in South Africa (Ocholla 2000:35; Raju 2005). Although LIS education in Africa at present does not mainly focus on the training and education of librarians to work in libraries, originally LIS schools' major focus in the education and training area was librarianship. A significant growth of LIS schools is noted in Anglophone Africa, slight growth in Francophone and Arabic oriented countries and unknown growth from the Lucophone speaking countries (e.g. Angola, Cape Verde, Guinea Bissau, Mozambique and Sao Tome et Principe). The growth of Library schools in South Africa is noted with periods of significant quantitative growths from 1938 to 2000 rising from one LIS School to eighteen (Van Aswegen 1997, Ocholla 2000:36 and Raju 2005) and notable decline from 2000 to 2006 (from eighteen to eleven) caused largely by the transformation of education sector in South Africa that lead to the merger of many Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) and review of their sizes and shapes in terms of programmes/qualifications offered within the institutions. A significant growth of LIS schools is noted in Nigeria, Kenya and Tanzania. In Southern Africa, at least one LIS School is found in Botswana, Malawi, Namibia, Zambia and Zimbabwe. The remaining countries have either one

LIS school or none (see Appendix 1). Most LIS Schools are located within HEIs or universities that would ensure that curriculum development and quality control is adequately monitored and evaluated despite or in the presence of National qualification authorities such as the South African Qualification Authority (SAQA). There is evidence that LIS qualification programmes have kept minimum credit and content requirements for LIS education such as management, information seeking and retrieval, knowledge organization, knowledge representation and user studies with increased integration of technology. LIS curricula also increasingly provide core or electives/auxiliaries in knowledge management, multimedia, publishing, records management, information and communication technologies (see Minishi-Majanja and Ocholla 2003, 2004). Contact teaching mode is widely used with minimal distance teaching (which is the dominant teaching mode at the University of South Africa (UNISA)).

There are two dominant learning models for librarianship qualification in South Africa, viz. the undergraduate model and the post-graduate diploma model. The undergraduate model is the most common model followed in South Africa. The undergraduate degree consists of three or four years of study in which topics from the broad field of Library and Information Science, combined with a number of compulsory or elective courses from other disciplines are studied. This can then be followed by an Honours degree (1 year) during which students specialize in topics in Library and Information Science. In the post-graduate model students are expected to obtain any general degree as admission requirement to the post-graduate diploma in Library and Information Science. The post-graduate diploma is then followed by an Honours degree. This model is followed by *inter alia* the Universities of Cape Town and KwaZulu-Natal. There are obviously advantages and disadvantages to both these models. The biggest disadvantage of the former is that students don't have a broad-based general education before starting their LIS studies; the study time, however, is shorter and the costs to qualify as information professional are lower. The disadvantages of the latter are that it takes considerably longer to obtain a formal qualification in LIS than in the former model, and the costs are considerably higher; however, students do have a broad-based general education. The advantages/disadvantages of the two models are therefore the reverse of one another. From Honours level and higher there are no differences between the models.

Undergraduate education programmes (either as degree or a post-graduate diploma) in all departments are followed by post-graduate programmes. In both cases students have a sound theoretical and practical knowledge of LIS topics before they start with their post-graduate LIS studies. Three-year programmes are usually followed by a fourth year, typically called an Honours programme. This leads to a Masters programme, which in most cases can either be offered by coursework or research. The coursework Masters is a specialization during which students study selected LIS topics in depth. The four-year undergraduate degree programme leads either to an Honours, or directly to the Masters. Masters programmes are followed by doctoral programmes by research. However, not all departments/schools offer doctoral programmes (see Appendix 1).

## **2 Overview of trends**

Essentially (see Ocholla 2000, 2005 and Minishi-Majanja 2004), common trends are noted in the growth of LIS schools, review and revision of curricula, increased use of ICTs, decrease or increase of student numbers, amalgamation and re-orientation (e.g. University of Johannesburg and the University of Stellenbosch) of LIS programmes, relocation of the academic administration of LIS schools (e.g. Information Science at the University of Pretoria), expansion and closure.

### **2.1 Expansion and closure**

The closure of LIS schools in Africa has occurred largely in South Africa during the last 10 years. However, in other parts of Africa, during the same period, the number of LIS schools have either remained the same or increased or new ones emerged. For instance, in eastern Africa, the number of LIS schools has increased in Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda. In southern Africa, the number of LIS schools in Botswana, Namibia, and Zambia has not changed. New LIS schools have emerged in Malawi and Zimbabwe. There are no reported cases of LIS schools existing in

Mozambique, Lesotho or Swaziland, although plans to establish a LIS school in Lesotho exist. South Africa is the only country in southern Africa that has witnessed a drastic reduction of its LIS schools during the last ten years, from eighteen to the current eleven, with possible further closures (e.g. the prestigious LIS school at the University of Cape Town is, for instance, due for closure in 2010, unless something drastic can be done.). The reduction of LIS schools has been caused largely by transformation of the higher education sector in South Africa that lead to downsizing of some HEIs and creation of new sizes and shapes of the institutions mainly through merger and re-orientation of the academic dispensations. In West Africa, the number of LIS schools has significantly increased in Nigeria. Other countries such as Ghana have retained the original number of the schools (see Ocholla 2000). These authors were unable to establish the number of LIS schools in Francophone, Lucophone and Arabic speaking parts of Africa. However, the general trend is that LIS schools are increasing, new ones are emerging either in the same country or in a country that previously never had a LIS school.

## **2.2 New names and realignment**

In the past most departments were simply called Departments of Library Science / Library Studies or Librarianship. In the eighties many departments changed their names to Department of Library and Information Science / Studies. In the nineties many departments again changed their names to Information Science / Studies. Through combination with other (information-related) disciplines some have incorporated this in their names as well, for example the Department of Information and Communication Studies at the University of Namibia. At the University of Johannesburg the department's name was changed to the Department of Information and Knowledge Management.

Traditionally LIS schools formed part of a faculty of Humanities or Social Sciences. This is usually still the case. However, in a number of cases, again to reflect the changes in focus, departments have moved to other faculties or schools. So, for instance, the LIS programmes at the University of Cape Town are offered by the Centre for Information Literacy in the Centre for Higher Education Development. At the University of Johannesburg the department forms part of the Faculty of Management. At the University of Pretoria the department is a member of the School of Information Technology (with Computer Science and Informatics (Information Systems)).

These changes all reflect the changing information landscape and the changing focus areas of the departments.

## **2.3 Articulation of LIS schools and academic programmes**

Articulation of LIS Schools may be viewed in at least five ways. The nature and type of qualifications programmes offered (e.g. bachelor or masters degree), the duration and credits requirements for a qualification (e.g. three or four years), the academic level of the qualifications (e.g. undergraduate or graduate), the mode of instruction (contact or distance), the orientation of the LIS school (e.g. vocational or general education). Notably, university based LIS schools offers more general or theoretical education and also largely offer undergraduate and post-graduate degree qualifications lasting three to four years for undergraduates and a minimum of one to three years for Honours, Masters and doctorate qualifications respectively. The mode of instruction is mainly contact while distance education is insignificant. The LIS qualifications programmes offered at the Universities of Technology (formerly called Technikons in South Africa) and Polytechnics offer vocational education and training qualification lasting one to two years for certificates and three to four years for diploma and higher diploma or bachelor of technology qualifications. Like universities the mode of instruction is mainly contact. The common qualification programmes focus on LIS education and training for library workers. A large number of institutions focus on other related information fields such as publishing, records management, multimedia, information technology, knowledge management, either as autonomous qualifications or as integrated disciplines within a holistic LIS qualification as strongly witnessed at the Universities of Botswana, Pretoria (South Africa), Ghana, Moi (Kenya), Makerere (Uganda), KwaZulu-Natal (South Africa).

## **2.4 Limited training in Library Science**

Although initially LIS schools in Africa focused on the education and training of librarians to work in libraries, the focus of current LIS schools in the region has become more diversified as libraries alone are unable to provide enough jobs for LIS graduates. Hardly any new libraries are built. Those existing are unable to offer enough employment because of lack of money, lack of appropriate posts/vacancies to accommodate college/university graduates and low salaries; library management structures do not prioritize libraries for further development. Libraries are also facing stiff competition from the emerging information provision centres and services, particularly the technology driven services such as the internet, wireless technology whose proximity to the information seekers and relevance of content is increasingly rendering library services irrelevant to most people. Sadly, all these development are happening to an old information service provision centre that has not created a niche area for itself in the community that has always marginalized the majority of the population in Africa because of its elitism, urban-centrism and Euro-centrism. We believe that these factors have, to a larger extent, contributed to the declining student number in LIS schools for librarianship on the continent. For instance, most LIS schools in South Africa have reported sharp decline in student enrolment for librarianship. The response to this decline has been made in different ways. Some LIS schools have closed librarianship programmes completely, others have changed the name of the departments, a lot more have diversified their qualification programmes by providing additional qualifications in related information areas such as knowledge management, multimedia, records management, publishing, information technology, while others have enriched their curricula by adding other market-oriented courses and/or academic subjects. In essence, many LIS schools no longer target libraries alone but the broader information or emerging market.

There is nevertheless evidence that LIS qualifications have kept minimum credit and content requirements for LIS education such as management, information seeking and retrieval, knowledge organization, knowledge representation and user studies. For instance, in the advanced diploma at the University of KwaZulu-Natal, the following is offered: "Descriptive cataloguing, information sciences and agencies, management of information agencies, information users and use, information delivery systems, information searching and retrieval, subject analysis, automation of information centres, information and communication technologies, records and documents management" (<http://www.hs.unp.ac.za/infs/course3.htm>); at the University of Zambia courses on indexing and abstracting, cataloguing and classification, collection development, records management, special libraries and information centres are offered (<http://www.unza.zm/schools/education/lis/lisprog.htm>); at Moi University in Kenya courses on *inter alia* cataloguing and classification, records management, collection management, user studies, subject indexing and thesaurus construction are offered (<http://www.mu.ac.ke/academic/schools/is/curri.html>); at Makerere University in Uganda, in the East African School of Library and Information Science, the programme also contains courses on abstracting and indexing, cataloguing and classification and records management (<http://www.makerere.ac.ug/easlis/programs/blis.html>). Similar course content is offered at the University of the Western Cape (<http://www.uwc.ac.za/arts/libinf/index.htm>). At the University of Cape Town the post-graduate diploma offers "traditional" LIS topics, e.g. user groups and information use, information resources, information tools and skills, performance evaluation and resource management, expanded by more technology and management oriented modules (e.g. databases and database production, organizational behaviour and development, strategic planning (<http://www.ched.uct.ac.za/cil/dils/pgdiplis.html>)). Similar trends can be observed at other universities still offering Library Science as an option, e.g. the University of Pretoria (<http://is.up.ac.za>), the University of Namibia (<http://www.unam.na/faculties/humanities/ics/libstudy.html>) and the University of Botswana (University of Botswana 2005/6). Thus, not much has changed in terms of the core LIS subjects in selected African countries reported by Ocholla (2000:38-39).

## **2.5 Expansion of broader Information Science topics**

Even though the distinction between Library Science and Information Science is unclear and fuzzy at best, it is evident from a perusal of curricula at the various universities that there are a

number of new topics being phased in at most universities. These include courses on information technology, the information society, legal, ethical and economic aspects of information and information and knowledge management.

There is evidence that there is an increased integration of information technology in LIS curricula. Courses on computer literacy, ICT, hardware and software (for LIS and in general), databases, information systems and systems development can be found in most curricula. In most cases the study of ICT is in support of information work, e.g. understanding computers and networks to facilitate online information retrieval. However, courses in computer programming, operating systems theory and computer architecture (e.g. at Moi, <http://www.mu.ac.ke/academic/schools/is/curri.html>) are to be found, as well as courses on website design and development (e.g. the Universities of Johannesburg, <http://www.uj.ac.za/infoman/index.asp?page=detail&id=956>, and Stellenbosch, <http://academic.sun.ac.za/infoscience/socio-informatics/under.htm>).

Courses on the information / knowledge society, globalization, information / communication for development are found at *inter alia* the Universities of Pretoria, Namibia and Cape Town, Courses on information ethics, law, philosophy and economics are found at the University of Pretoria. Most programmes include courses on information management; see below.

Electives, as part of the programme in LIS, often include communication or media studies, publishing (e.g. the University of Namibia and Moi and Makerere Universities).

## **2.6 Importance of Information and Knowledge Management**

### **2.6.1 Within LIS schools**

Information management is found, in different formats, as part of most – but not all – LIS programmes at undergraduate level. Very often this is expanded to information and knowledge management, or even separate, specialist modules on knowledge management. Typical topics in information and knowledge management (for example at the University of Pretoria) include personal information management, tools and techniques for information and knowledge management, strategy formulation and implementation, information and knowledge audits and information consultancy; theoretical models are also studied in detail. Thus, knowledge management courses seem to be provided either as autonomous courses or units within an existing management course or a qualification programme of its own within or outside an LIS school.

### **2.6.2 Developments at UJ and US**

These two institutions provide an example of cases where LIS schools abandoned their original mandate in place of a totally different learning focus (perhaps to remain viable). At the Universities of Johannesburg (UJ) and Stellenbosch (US) traditional LIS programmes have been totally replaced and the focus is now solely on information and knowledge management.

At the University of Johannesburg the department has changed its name to Information and Knowledge Management, and has moved from the Faculty of Humanities to the Faculty of Management. Two programmes are offered, viz. a BA in Information Science and a BCom in Information and Knowledge Management. The aim of the BA programme is to educate “students in the ability to obtain, manage and communicate information, emphasizing the electronic environment such as the Internet and World-Wide Web. South Africa is well on its way to become an information society, and Information Management will play an important role in this regard. Course modules such as personal, organizational and strategic information management prepare students to use information as an important resource in the decision-making process” (<http://www.uj.ac.za/infoman/index.asp?page=detail&id=956>). The aim of the BCom programme is to “provide students with intellectual competencies and practical skills in the application of information and knowledge management principles in the different functional units of an enterprise. South African enterprises today operate in a global market with an increasingly turbulent and volatile environment, and must withstand the competitive pressure both from other producers as well as from new alternative technologies and products. In this environment of

uncertainty, information and knowledge management offer opportunities for innovative managers to use information as a strategic tool for competitive advantage” (<http://www.uj.ac.za/infoman/index.asp?page=detail&id=952>). “Traditional” information science topics, such as information seeking and retrieval, information economics, information entrepreneurship etc. are still offered (but no “traditional” library science topics). The emphasis, however, in both programmes is on (strategic) information and knowledge management, and WWW and intranet management. (The main difference between the programmes is the electives with which the information science modules can be combined.)

At the University of Stellenbosch the Department of Information Science has changed the name of its courses in information science to socio-informatics, and offers (amongst others) a BA in socio-informatics. Socio-informatics is defined as the discipline that “deals with the productive synergy between the world of human beings, organisations and their management, and the world of informatics and knowledge and decision-making technologies” (<http://academic.sun.ac.za/infoscience/socio-informatics/index.htm>); “Socio-Informatics deals with the triangular relationship and interface between information needs and practices, the knowledge economy and society, and knowledge dynamics en computer technology. The primary aim is to understand the implications of this for personal, organisational and social development and competitiveness. The programme focuses not only on theoretical aspects, but also on the practical needs of information specialists and knowledge workers. Three possible professions are anticipated, namely information management, electronic publishing, and data organisation and retrieval. For all of these functions computer technology offers the necessary infrastructure, and as such it is studied as a separate area of interest, but also integrated with the other themes. Further focus is supplied by the study of socio-theoretical perspectives on the contemporary knowledge economy and society, as well as basic organisational knowledge management” (<http://academic.sun.ac.za/infoscience/socio-informatics/under.htm>). Some “traditional” information science topics are retained in the curriculum. The focus, however, is very strongly on information and knowledge management, information technology and multimedia, decision-making and value studies.

Both these universities offered programmes in library and information science in the past. In both cases the focus changed to information science some years ago, and library science (both as a programme and as courses within the information science programme) was dropped. At present the focus has again totally changed.

## **2.7 Information literacy**

The Association of College and Research Libraries (2000:2-3 ) define Information Literacy to be “a set of abilities requiring individuals to recognise when information is needed and have the ability to locate, process, and use effectively the needed information. Information literacy forms the basis for lifelong learning”. Information literacy is becoming increasingly popular in HEIs and LIS Schools in South Africa mainly because it has been recognized to be essential for life long learning, supporting students coming from the information deprived environments or communities whose number is highly increasing in HEIs throughout the country. For example, there are strong information literacy programmes at the Universities of Cape Town, Pretoria and KwaZulu-Natal in South Africa. The Information literacy programme is normally offered or coordinated by LIS schools in the HEIs where they exist. Information literacy usually forms part of the LIS programme only. In some cases, however, the information literacy courses are available to other students at the university, for example at the University of KwaZulu-Natal, where the student “will become familiar with a range of the most commonly used information sources and will acquire skills necessary to access these sources. [They] become acquainted with the latest computer-based technological developments such as CDs, email and the Internet [and] learn about other information agencies and their role in the provision of information. [They have to] understand the concept of information and how the information explosion came about. Finally, [they have to be] in a position to critically evaluate the information [they] find and use” (<http://www.hs.unp.ac.za/infos/course0.htm>). At the University of Pretoria the course in information literacy is a compulsory credit-bearing semester course offered by the Department of Information Science to all first year students enrolled at the university (more than 6100); it is a very practical,

hands-on course that deals with information resources (both paper-based and electronic), principles of information retrieval (including concept identification and Boolean logic), practical information seeking and retrieval on the internet, online databases and electronic journals, copyright, plagiarism, referencing techniques, evaluation of information and writing an assignment. (This course follows on a similar course on computer literacy, also compulsory for all first year students.)

## **2.8 Expansion of the curriculum**

In order to enrich the LIS curriculum and make it more relevant to the market as well as to attract more students, LIS curricula have been expanded both within and outside the existing programmes.

### **2.8.1 Computer trouble shooting skills**

One of the requirements for getting a drivers license that we are aware of is to know basic vehicle mechanics such changing of flat tyres. Similarly, computer users or operators particularly in an environment where computer repair centres are minimal or non-existent should acquire computer trouble shooting skills essential for basic repair of computers. Experience has showed that most computer-oriented problems are minor and can be resolved by the users who know basic computer trouble shooting problems. Such a course is offered in the BA (Information Science) programme at the University of Zululand to equip students will skills of basic computer repairs for un-interrupted use of computers. Interestingly, students from this qualification programme are using this skill to earn a living (see <http://www.lis.uzulu.ac.za>).

### **2.8.2 Multimedia**

At a number of universities multimedia topics/subjects are included as either electives or compulsory modules as part of the LIS or information science degree. At the University of Stellenbosch, for example, students have to take quite a number of multimedia modules as compulsory modules for their degree in socio-informatics. At the University of Johannesburg management of the multimedia and web environments is stressed in the degree programmes. At the University of Zululand students can specialize in multimedia in addition to their standard information science courses; students may therefore choose web design and development (including HTML, XML and related technologies) as a specialization stream from first to third year.

At the University of Pretoria multimedia topics/courses are also included as part of the compulsory modules for the IS programme, but multimedia has also been developed as a fully-fledged degree qualification/programme where students do a full major in multimedia and in computer science, in addition to doing information science courses, language courses and visual design courses. Multimedia topics include the theory and praxis of multimedia and hypermedia, multimedia technologies, human-computer interaction, web design and development (including HTML, XML and related technologies at a very advanced level), computer game design, etc. Practicals include developing sophisticated websites (XML-based), video and sound editing, animation with Flash and 3D Studio Max, computer game design in *inter alia* Macromedia Director, etc. ([http://is.up.ac.za/academic/programmes/BIS\\_mm.htm](http://is.up.ac.za/academic/programmes/BIS_mm.htm)). At the end of their studies students are multimedia programmers, with a very good understanding of information organization and architecture, and a feel for visual design and languages.

### **2.8.3 Media and Publishing Studies**

A number of universities offer courses in media and publishing studies as part of their programmes in LIS. At Moi University, for example, there are a number of compulsory such modules in the first three years, and students are offered the option of doing Publishing Studies as a specialization option in their fourth year (<http://www.mu.ac.ke/academic/schools/is/curri.html>). At Makerere University publishing and book trade is offered as a specialization option (<http://www.makerere.ac.ug/easlis/programs/blis.html#cou>).

At the University of Namibia the LIS degrees are offered in the Department of Information and Communication Studies, and specialized programmes in media studies are offered. These students take a number of information science topics as part of their media studies programme as

well, for example information and knowledge management and electronic information sources and the internet (<http://www.unam.na/faculties/humanities/ics/mstudies.html>).

At the University of Pretoria Publishing Studies has also evolved out of information science as a separate programme. In addition to a number of information science topics, students study publishing management, commissioning, marketing and sales, copy-editing, design and production ([http://is.up.ac.za/academic/programmes/BIS\\_pub.htm](http://is.up.ac.za/academic/programmes/BIS_pub.htm)).

#### **2.8.4 ICT**

All programmes make provision for compulsory modules in ICT, to a greater or lesser extent (as indicated above). However, in a number of cases a specialization in ICT is offered, for example at Moi University (<http://www.mu.ac.ke/academic/schools/is/curri.html>) where the focus is on programming skills (i.e. combining information science with computer science) and the University of Zululand, where students have the option to specialize in computer trouble shooting skills.

At the University of Botswana a degree in information systems is offered by the Department of Library and Information Studies. A number of information science topics are studied, such as information and knowledge management and information retrieval, in addition to systems analysis and design, web management, databases, decision support systems, electronic commerce, human-computer interaction, networks, basic programming, etc. (University of Botswana Handbook 2005/6).

At the University of Pretoria an interdisciplinary four year programme in information technology exists within the School of Information Technology. Students take three majors for this programme, viz. information science, computer science and informatics (information systems) as well as a number of multimedia courses (<http://www.up.ac.za/academic/ebit/schoolit/academic/ung.htm#BIT>).

#### **2.8.5 Records management**

Another subject that has become increasingly popular in LIS schools is Records Management. In some institutions Records Management is offered as fully fledged degree qualification programmes (e.g. University of Botswana, Moi University (Kenya), University of Kwazulu-Natal (see Appendix 1)) or courses/modules within a larger degree programme that is common in most qualification programmes in LIS Schools (e.g. Universities of Zululand, Pretoria, Namibia, Makarere, Zambia, Zimbabwe, etc.).

### **2.9 Typical course content**

#### **2.9.1 University of Zululand**

The LIS curriculum at the University of Zululand offers six programmes: Bachelor of Library and Information (to be suspended because of low student numbers), Bachelor of Arts in Library and Information Science, Honours Bachelor of Library and Information Science, Postgraduate Diploma in Library and Information Science (currently suspended/archived), Postgraduate University Diploma in Specialised Education School Library Science, Masters in Library and Information Science and PhD(LIS). Within the programmes the curriculum (see <http://www.lis.uzulu.ac.za>) consists of the following core components: management (including information and knowledge management), searching and retrieval, knowledge organization, knowledge representation, information seeking and user studies, information literacy and information and communication technologies (including computer trouble shooting skills) besides other academic courses that student have to take at undergraduate level. Post graduate Masters and PhD are done by thesis only.

#### **2.9.2 University of Pretoria**

At the University of Pretoria there are three undergraduate programmes, viz. in Information Science, in Publishing and in Multimedia. The Information Science programme has three options, viz to specialize in information science, in library science or in information and knowledge management. The undergraduate programmes are all three-year programmes, followed by an

Honours (1 year), a Masters by coursework or research and a doctoral programme (DPhil or PhD) by research.

In the Information Science option at undergraduate level students study the information society, information organization and retrieval, information representation, information and knowledge management, information economics, ethics and law, information for development and ICT, in combination with Informatics (Information Systems). In addition to the information science topics, students taking the Library Science option study the management of information organizations, user studies, cataloguing and classification (instead of the Informatics). Students specializing in Knowledge Management do all the previously mentioned Information Science topics, in addition to further topics in Informatics and topics in Human Resource Management and Business Management.

Students in Publishing Studies and Multimedia do a number of core Information Science topics in combination with Publishing and Multimedia topics offered by the Department. Publishing students study additionally three years of a language of their choice, Visual Communication and Business Management. Multimedia students study additionally three years of Computer Science, Visual Communication and a language of their choice for one year. For details of the programmes at the University of Pretoria see <http://is.up.ac.za>.

Similar examples can be found in other LIS qualification programmes in the region (see Appendix 1).

### **3 Challenges**

The challenges and opportunities facing LIS Schools in eastern and southern Africa, more recently, are discussed by Ocholla (2000, 2001 and 2003), Minishi-Majanja (2003, 2004), Minishi-Majanja and Ocholla (2003), Kigongo-Bukenya (2003), and Ocholla and Minishi-Majanja (2004).

#### **3.1 Student numbers**

Without students LIS schools cannot exist just like businesses cannot exist or thrive without customers. Whereas students enrolling for library science has declined in most LIS schools in Africa, the number of students enrolling for LIS with diversified qualification programmes with either broader information orientation or specialized information qualification programmes (such as Records Management, Publishing, Multimedia, Knowledge Management, Information Technology) has either increased or stabilized. Most LIS schools are offering education and training for the broader information related jobs in the emerging markets or markets that never employed LIS graduates before. The decline of enrolment for Librarianship qualification is caused by limited job opportunities in libraries as the expansion of libraries in Africa is very minimal or in some cases non-existent.

#### **3.2 Career opportunities**

Although libraries are reported to be the biggest employers of LIS graduates in Africa, increasingly, career opportunities in the emerging LIS markets are noted. For example, studies by Ocholla (2000, 2005) and Snyman (2000) focusing on career opportunities in South Africa noted that besides career opportunities in libraries (which was the largest employer of LIS graduates in South Africa) there were rapidly growing career opportunities in the non-library sector or the emerging market. The emerging market has forced most LIS schools to re-orient their curricula to the new market in order to survive. Experience has showed that educating and training of LIS graduates with wider knowledge and skills in the broader information disciplines is realistic, viable and rewarding. The graduates from broad LIS programmes can work in any information-related field. However, the LIS curriculum must consist of the core LIS subjects/courses/modules such as information and knowledge management, information storage/seeking and retrieval, knowledge organization, knowledge representation and ICTs.

#### **3.3 Funding of LIS schools**

LIS schools are largely funded by the government through their affiliation institutions such as universities. In countries where LIS schools fall within the lower funding clusters among other

disciplines such as in South Africa, the schools receive much lower funding when compared to other disciplines in the applied and natural sciences. Because of rapid technological changes in the information environment resource support is fundamental for the growth and sustainability of LIS schools. Increasingly, LIS education and training is becoming highly dependent on modern computer hardware and software, efficient internet access and connectivity, computer literate and highly skilled IT staff and well equipped computer laboratories. Unfortunately, funding of LIS schools does not meet these requirements in most LIS schools in Africa. South Africa, though, when compared to the rest of Africa emerge relatively stronger in terms of the funding of LIS schools.

### **3.4 Technology infrastructures at LIS schools**

Recent reports (Ocholla 2003, Minishi-Majanja 2003, 2004, Minishi-Majanja and Ocholla 2003, Minishi-Majanja and Ocholla 2004) focusing on information and communication technologies in LIS education in Africa recognized increasing investment on ICT for LIS education in the region for teaching and learning, research and for academic management and decision making. There are, however, disparities in the nature and level of access and use at the institutional, national or regional levels. The disparities are caused largely by both economic (inadequate infrastructure and resources) and political reasons (willingness to invest on ICT). The common issues range from the need for ICT policies, resource support, students and staff access (e.g. in the laboratories and offices, internet access, use of ICT for teaching and learning), access to adequate computer hardware and software licenses to computer literacy. LIS schools based in South Africa, however, have better technology infrastructures than in other parts of Africa, and, in particular cases, fairly comparable to those in developed countries.

### **3.5 Lack of funding for public libraries**

Public libraries are known to provide most jobs for LIS graduates in the developed countries in Europe and North America particularly. In Denmark for example, the development and sustainability of public libraries is a major cultural responsibility of the government. In Africa, going by a recent report on public libraries in Africa by Issak (2000) that provided an ontological account of trends, issues and problems of public librarianship in a significant part of Africa (ten Anglophone countries) echoed poor services, declining budgets, lack of resources, outdated materials, lack of planning, inadequate knowledge of the information needs of the users and poverty, and also blamed the western model of public library system on the poor performance of libraries. Although South African public library services were relatively far better than those of the other nine countries in the survey, several authors in this collected work, suggested provision of alternative services such as community information services, impact assessment of public library services, government commitment, improvement in the professional commitment of librarians and provision of resources to be essential areas of focus. Proper planning and funding of public libraries is a major obstacle. For example, the rapid rolling out of public libraries in South Africa after the 1994 democratic dispensation has slowed down and affected not only library services and information access but also the market for LIS graduates.

## **4 Opportunities and challenges**

Threats can easily be turned into opportunities. Fundamentally, collaboration and partnership could be forged among LIS institutions in a country and internationally or regionally in such areas as teaching, research, student and staff exchange, conferences and workshops, curriculum development, publications, research supervision and examination and distance teaching/research. In South Africa, for example, LIS schools have begun to meet on regular basis and discuss issues relating to LIS education and training. Initiatives on collaboration have also been forged at the LISNET-ECSA Workshop in Kampala, Uganda in 2004. A second area of opportunity is in the development of partnership with industry/employers in curriculum development, teaching, research, publication and experiential learning. Opportunities also exist in staff development both formal and informal, creation of consortia of LIS schools, distance learning (e.g. at UNISA), multidisciplinary approach to LIS education and training that enables the extension of knowledge frontiers made possible by the location of most LIS schools in HEIs, market orientation of programmes, uniqueness of programmes and avoidance of harmful competition, accreditation

standards, location of programmes - largely within established universities, internet presence for web visibility and networking and knowledge sharing.

#### **4.1 Perceived needs of the country / the developing world**

Well-trained information professionals are essential in any country, both in the developed and in the developing world. They are employed in libraries of all kinds (school, public, special, academic), in information centres (private, public, government), as consultants to big business, as information managers, etc. etc. There should therefore be a huge market for graduates of LIS, IS and related programmes. If there is a consistent demand for our graduates, this would translate into a demand for our programmes. This seems to be the case in, for instance, Botswana, where the department at present boasts approximately 600 undergraduate students in its programmes, of which approximately two-thirds are in the library and information studies programmes. This is sadly not the case in South Africa, where, as indicated above, a number of library schools have closed down in the past few years and many LIS programmes are under threat. This nevertheless presents a huge opportunity for (L)IS schools to market their programmes.

We also recognize opportunities for LIS workers emanating through collaboration and partnerships, human resource needs for knowledge management and information services in the government and corporate sectors, the need for relevant research and new regional initiatives such as SADC, NEPAD and East African Community (EAC).

#### **4.2 Industry requirements**

There are many ways of determining LIS market needs, some of which have been reported in studies by Ocholla (2001) and Snyman (2000). These include newspaper scanning for skills, knowledge and attitudes required by LIS jobs; tracer/follow up studies of graduates, focus group discussions through committees consisting of participants from LIS schools and stakeholders from the industry (including employers), consultations and reading relevant literature, etc. Recent studies have shown that libraries are still the biggest employers of LIS graduates in the region despite their low number. However, the emerging market that offers non-library jobs both in the public and corporate/private sectors is rapidly growing and offering jobs requiring high levels of information competencies. Essentially, the LIS sector in the region requires good knowledge and skills in areas such as information literacy, information and knowledge management, information technology, information searching and retrieval, research, communication skills, customer care, ability to work independently and in a team and positive work-related attitudes.

#### **4.3 Indigenous knowledge**

Indigenous knowledge and indigenous knowledge systems are an important research focus area in many developing countries. In South Africa research in indigenous knowledge is regarded as very important, and the National Research Foundation has identified this as one of its nine focus areas, since "we need to understand IK and its role in community life from an integrated perspective that includes both spiritual and material aspects of a society as well as the complex relation between them. At the same time, it is necessary to understand and to explore the potential contribution of IK to local development. Further, research into the protection of IK and its utilization for the benefit of its owners and the communities where it is practiced is also needed. The present status of IK is that these forms of knowledge have hitherto been misunderstood and as such suppressed. Therefore, IKS should be brought into the mainstream of explaining and understanding the world in order to establish its place within the larger body of knowledge. The socio-economic potential of IK should be considered, as should the cultural and moral values and systems of IK. Research into IKS ideally, should also be carried out with the participation of the communities in which it originates and is held as far as is practicably possible" (<http://www.nrf.ac.za/focusareas/iks/>). Very often this research is carried out by anthropologists, biologists, botanists, sociologists, art and music experts, etc., but there is a definite place for information professionals in this research as well, especially in terms of collecting, organizing, describing and digitizing the information, and making it accessible (*inter alia* via the web). This presents a unique opportunity for information professionals. However, there does not seem to be any courses that specifically train information professionals to work in these areas, and current

information professionals working in these areas seem to be making use of their general (L)IS skills. Specifically training information professionals to work in the field of indigenous knowledge (probably as a member of interdisciplinary teams) presents a huge opportunity to (L)IS schools to extend their curricula.

#### **4.4 Opportunities for (relevant) research**

Research and development form the backbone of any profession and also of any teaching programme. There are many opportunities for relevant research in information-related fields in Africa. Obviously scholars from Africa can make significant contributions to the mainstream topics in, for example, information retrieval (IR), IR systems design and development, information and knowledge management and many other topics. However, Africa presents unique opportunities for research that may not necessarily be available in the developed world, or where the issues may differ between the developed and developing world, and between developing countries. A few random examples will suffice: indigenous knowledge and indigenous knowledge systems (as explained above), information for development, the use of ICTs in the developing world, information ethics and legal aspects of information in an African context, dissemination of information in rural areas / health contexts (especially regarding the AIDS pandemic), literacy and information literacy training in a developing world, information flow between the developed and the developing world, etc. All these topics are highly relevant for the developing world, but may radically influence the developed world as well in terms of its perceptions of the developing world.

#### **4.5 Continuing education for LIS workers / professionals**

Although not necessarily fresh information, some of the initiatives made on continuing education so far covering Africa were reported by Ocholla (2000:43-44) and Kaniki (1997) on South Africa. There are also fresh initiatives being made in South Africa through CEPD–ICDC. The need and relevance of Continuing Education and Professional Development has been recognized by the Library and Information Association of South Africa (LIASA) among its four focus areas, viz. Personal Development, Professional and Support Skills Development, Information and Communication Technology and Management and Leadership Development, including advocacy. Continuing Education and Professional Development (CEPD) (see <http://www.liasa.org.za/cerd/index.php>) is crucial to enable professions to keep their practices current and relevant and involves "learning to know" and "learning to do" through "the promotion and provision of education and training for LIS workers" and "to encourage the promotion of service standards and acceptable good practice". This initiative is currently achieved through the Centre for Information Career Development (CICD) (see <http://www.liasa.or.za/partnership/cicd.php>) "to access, offer and recommend a suitable spread of relevant programs thereby ensuring the trainee has access to a variety of courses that will enhance and upgrade skills pertinent to their personal and professional development".

#### **4.6 Continuing education for faculty members**

Redesigned curricula obviously have a very serious implication for faculty members in (L)IS departments. Faculty members have to move out of their traditional comfort zones and ensure that they keep up-to-date with developments to ensure quality teaching and research. Since training courses are not always readily available, and those that are available tend to be very expensive, it very often implies that faculty members have to take responsibility for their own education and training, and actually educate and train themselves, through a policy of life-long learning. This creates a lot of stress and uncertainty, and, in the case of less dedicated faculty members, may lead to teaching that is not of an acceptable standard or quality. This obviously places additional stress on everyone. Faculty members tend to take their own training very seriously, but this is unfortunately not necessarily always the case. Change management is therefore a serious issue and quality control is extremely important. Heads of department play an important role in this. A general system of external examiners and regular external evaluations, however, tend to help departments stay on track and ensure that their teaching and research is of an acceptable quality.

## 5 Conclusion

This paper has brought to the fore several fundamental issues:

- A comprehensive and inclusive coverage of LIS education and training in Africa that includes developments and issues in Francophone, Lucophone, Arabic and Spanish speaking countries is essential. This invites a collaborative publication involving LIS educators from all these areas.
- Although there are variations, there are common trends in the growth and development of LIS schools that include periodic curriculum reviews and revision, increased application and use of ICTs, decreasing or increasing student numbers, mergers and re-orientations, relocation of LIS programmes, expansion and closure.
- The numbers of LIS schools are increasing within countries where such schools already exist or new ones are emerging in countries where such schools never existed before. This expansion contradicts views that LIS job market is growing smaller or that the market is shrinking. In South Africa, however, a number of LIS schools have closed. We note that some expansions are not necessarily justified by market needs.
- Articulation of LIS schools is varied by type of qualification programmes offered, duration of programmes and credit requirements, levels of qualifications, mode of instruction and the orientation of LIS schools. These trends are not common to LIS schools in Africa alone.
- LIS schools no longer focus on the education and training of librarians to work in libraries as was the case before, as libraries alone cannot sustain the employment needs of LIS graduates. Thus, curricula of many LIS schools currently target the emerging or broader information market. This probably explains why specific LIS schools have grown in some countries.
- There is strong evidence that curricula and qualifications of LIS schools in the region have kept minimum content, core subjects and credit requirement for LIS education and training internationally.
- Although integration of ICTs in LIS curricula is still problematic largely due to resource support, most LIS schools in the region have integrated ICT in their curricula and are implementing ICTs in teaching, learning and research processes.
- In order to make LIS education relevant and current and also for purposes of viability of some LIS schools there is a strong integration of new courses such as knowledge management, information literacy, multimedia, media and publishing studies, records management and basic computer technology into LIS curricula in general or as separate degree qualification programmes.
- The major challenges facing LIS education and training (in addition to the issues already mentioned) include the regulation of student numbers, knowledge and diversification of LIS job markets, funding of LIS schools and the development of technology infrastructures both in quantity and quality, allowing efficient access and development of continuing education and short courses to provide new knowledge, skills and attitudes to LIS workers.

From the above descriptions it is evident that LIS schools have, to a greater or lesser extent, been redesigning their curricula to keep track with the latest developments in the information world and to keep their teaching market-related. Information retrieval has always been a core component of LIS, and this has been expanded to online information retrieval, web-based IR and database searching. Another core component is information organization, and in addition to traditional cataloguing and classification, students now also study the principles of metadata, Dublin Core and other metadata schemas, etc. Courses on information management were introduced many years ago, and this has been extended by adding knowledge management. Computer literacy and information literacy in the computerized environment have been added. Numerous courses on ICTs have been added. Many specialization options have been added, and new programmes have been developed to provide opportunities for even further specialization. In

many cases departments have changed their names to reflect these new focus areas and extensions, and in many cases departments have realigned themselves within their universities.

It is evident that (L)IS schools have taken the challenges of the changing information environment very seriously, and have adapted their curricula, their names and their institutional alignments to reflect these changes.

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University of Namibia, <http://www.unam.na/faculties/humanities/ics/libstudy.html>.

University of Pretoria, <http://is.up.ac.za>.

University of Stellenbosch, <http://academic.sun.ac.za/infoscience/socio-informatics/under.htm>.

University of the Western Cape, <http://www.uwc.ac.za/arts/libinf/index.htm>.

University of Zambia, <http://www.unza.zm/schools/education/lis/lisprog.htm>.

University of Zululand, <http://www.lis.uzulu.ac.za>.

**Appendix One: Programmes available in LIS Schools in ECSA N = 29**

Kinds of Programmes	L I S Schools		
	*Abbreviation	No.	%
<p>1 Undergraduate - <i>Certificate Level</i></p> <p>i. Certificate in Library and Information Studies/Science</p> <p>ii. Certificate in Information Science</p> <p>iii. Certificate in School Librarianship</p> <p>iv. Certificate in Health Information and Records Mgt.</p> <p>v. Certificate in Archives and Records Mgt./Administration</p> <p>vi. Higher Certificate in Library and Information Science</p>	<p>SLADS/EP/HP/KP/EASLIS/STTI/TSA/UB</p> <p>KSPS</p> <p>UB</p> <p>HP</p> <p>HP/KP/UB</p> <p>TSA</p>	<p>6</p> <p>1</p> <p>1</p> <p>1</p> <p>3</p> <p>1</p>	<p>21%</p> <p>3%</p> <p>3%</p> <p>3%</p> <p>10%</p> <p>3%</p>
<p>2 Undergraduate - <i>Diploma Level</i></p> <p>Diploma in Library Studies</p> <p>Diploma in Information Science/Studies</p> <p>Diploma in School Librarianship</p> <p>Diploma in Library/Information Science/Management</p> <p>Diploma in Archives and Records Mgt./Administration</p> <p>Diploma in Library, Archives and Documentation Studies</p> <p>Diploma in Information Technology/Computers</p> <p>Diploma in Youth and Children's Information Work</p> <p>Advanced/Higher Diploma in Information Management</p>	<p>TSA/UG/USL</p> <p>EP/ KP/KSPS/STTI/UoN/UNISA</p> <p>HP/UB/UN</p> <p>BUN/DIT/EASLIS/UB</p> <p>SLADS/KP/EASLIS/UB/UG</p> <p>HP/SLADS</p> <p>STTI</p> <p>UNISA</p> <p>BUN/HP</p>	<p>3</p> <p>6</p> <p>3</p> <p>4</p> <p>5</p> <p>2</p> <p>1</p> <p>1</p> <p>1</p>	<p>10%</p> <p>21%</p> <p>10%</p> <p>14%</p> <p>17%</p> <p>7%</p> <p>3%</p> <p>3%</p> <p>3%</p>
<p>3 Undergraduate - <i>Bachelors Degree Level</i></p> <p>Bachelor of Library and Information Science</p> <p>BSc/BA. Information Science</p> <p>BA in Information Systems</p> <p>BA in Archival Science</p> <p>BA in Arts &amp; Culture - Societal Information</p> <p>Bachelor of Information Science (BIS)</p> <p>Bachelor of Information Science and Technology</p> <p>Bachelor of Technology in Library/Information Science</p>	<p>ASU/BUN/KSPS/EASLIS/UB/USL/UWC/UZ</p> <p>MU/RAU/UG/UP/UNISA/UZ</p> <p>KSPS/UB/UoS/</p> <p>UNISA</p> <p>UNISA</p> <p>UP</p> <p>NUST</p> <p>DIT/TSA</p>	<p>6</p> <p>6</p> <p>4</p> <p>1</p> <p>1</p> <p>1</p> <p>1</p> <p>2</p>	<p>21%</p> <p>21%</p> <p>14%</p> <p>3%</p> <p>3%</p> <p>3%</p> <p>3%</p> <p>7%</p>
<p>4 Postgraduate - <i>Post-Graduate Diploma</i></p> <p>Post-Graduate Diploma in Library and Information Science</p>	<p>UCT/USL/UZ</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>10%</p>

Postgraduate Diploma in Information Studies	UN	1	3%
Post-Graduate Diploma in Records and Archives Mgt.	RAU/UN	2	7%
Post-Graduate Diploma in School Library Services/Science	KSPS/UZ	1	3%
Post-Graduate Diploma in Museology	UN	1	3%
<b>5 Postgraduate - Honours Bachelor Degree</b>			
Honours (Bachelor) degree in Library and Info. Science	UCT/UP/UZ	2	7%
Honours (Bachelor) degree in Information Science	UP/UNISA/UoS/UZ	2	7%
Honours (BA) in Archival Science	RAU/UNISA	2	7%
<b>6 Postgraduate - Masters Degree</b>			
MA/MSc. Library/Information Science	ARCIS/EASLIS/OIU/UB/UCT/UDSM/ UG/UN/USL/UNISA/UWC/UZ	12	41%
Master of Library and Information Science	ASU/BUN	2	14%
Master of Information Science	RAU/UP/UNISA/UoS	4	14%
MPhil - Library/Information Science	ARCIS/MU/UCT/UG/UoS	5	17%
Master of Technology in Library/Information Science	TSA	1	3%
Master of Education (M.ED) -LIS	KU	1	3%
MA Archival Studies	UG	1	3%
<b>7 Postgraduate - Doctoral Degree</b>			
PhD - Library/Information Science	BUN/OIU/UB/UCT/UDSM/UG/UN/UP	7	24%
DPhil	ARCIS/MU/RAU/UB/UP/UNISA/UoS/UZ	8	28%
PhD. Computer Science	UP	1	3%

\* Some of these abbreviations are created for this study. Source: Ocholla and Minishi-Majanja 2004:58-59.

SU	Abia State University, Department of Library and Information Science
ARCIS	African Research Centre for Information Science
SLADS	Bagamoyo School of Library, Archives and Documentation Studies
BUN	Bayero University, Nigeria, DLIS
DIT	Durban Institute of Technology, DLIS
EP	Eldoret Polytechnic, Small Business Centre
HP	Harare Polytechnic, Department of Library and Information Science
KP	Kenya Polytechnic, Department of Information and Liberal Studies
KSPS	Kenya School of Professional Studies, Dept. of Information Science
KU	Kenyatta University, Department of Library Studies

EASLIS	Makerere University, East African School of LIS
MU	Moi University, Faculty of Information Sciences
OIU	Omdurman Islamic University, DLIS
RAU	Rand Afrikaans University, Department of Information Studies
STTI	Sigalagala Technical Training Institute, Dept. of Information & Technology
TSA	Technikon South Africa, Department of Library and Information Studies
UB	University of Botswana, Department of Library and Information Studies
UCT	University of Cape Town, Dept. of Information and Library Studies
UDSM	University of Dar-es-Salaam, Department of Information Studies
UG	University of Ghana, Department of Information Studies
UoN	University of Nairobi, Department of Information Studies
UN	University of Natal, Department of Information Studies
UP	University of Pretoria, Department of Information Science
USL	University of Sierra Leone, Institute of Library, Information & Communication Studies
UNISA	University of South Africa, Department of Information Science
US	University of Stellenbosch, Department of Information Science
UWC	University of Western Cape, Department of Library and Information Science
UNIZUL	University of Zululand, Department of Library and Information Science
NUST	Zimbabwe National University of Science and Technology, DLIS

Overall, paraprofessional programmes are offered in 16 (55%) of the LIS schools, undergraduate degree.

Because of mergers of South African universities the higher education landscape has changed considerably; for instance, Rand Afrikaans University has merged with a technikon to become the University of Johannesburg, University of Natal has merged and the name was changed to the University of KwaZulu-Natal, UNISA merged with Technikon SA and retained its name UNISA.

**Appendix 2: Population of LIS Schools in ECS Africa as at February-June 2003**

Name of Institution	Established	Undergraduates		Postgraduates	Academic Staff	ICT Staff	Admin Staff
		<i>L/IS</i>	<i>Other</i>	<i>LIS</i>			
Bagamoyo School of Library, Archives and Documentation Studies (SLADS)	1989	47	0	0	6	0	5
Durban Institute of Technology (DIT), Department of Library and Information Studies.	1987						
Eldoret Polytechnic (EP), Small Business Centre	1990	120	0	3	7	1	1
Harare Polytechnic (HP), Department of Library and Information Science	1985	60	0	0	6	0	1
Kenya Polytechnic (KP), Department of Information and Liberal Studies	1978						
Kenya School of Professional Studies (KSPS), Department of Information Science	1993	230	0	0	18	-	2
Kenyatta University (KU), Department of Library Studies	1984	+350	0	0	24	1	3
Makerere University (EASLIS), East African School of Library and Information Science.	1962						
Moi University (MU), Faculty of Information Sciences	1988	300	200	0	6	2	-
Omdurman Islamic University (OIU), Department of Library and Information Science	1966	-	-	-	9	0	-
Rand Afrikaans University (RAU), Department of Information Studies	1969						
Sigalagala Technical Training Institute (STTI), Department of Information and Technology	1990	425	0	27	14	1	5
Technikon South Africa (TSA), Department of Library and Information Studies	1993						
University of Botswana (UB), Department of Library and Information Studies	1979	397	0	8	24	1	1
University of Cape Town (UCT), Department of Information and Library Studies	1939						
University of Dar-es-Salaam (UDSM), Department of Information Studies	1997	-	-	-	8	0	1
	1999	-	-	-	4	-	-
	1973	-	-	-	-	-	-
	1947	400	-	80	5	-	2
	1955	-	-	13	12	2	1
	1958	0	0	40	6	0	1
	1960	0	0	24	10	4	0

University of Nairobi (UoN), Department of Information Studies	1969	-	-	-	20 <sup>^</sup>	3	4
University of Natal (UN), Department of Information Studies		0	100	67	7	-	3
University of Pretoria (UP), Department of Information Science	1944	+300	+1000	+60	16	0	2
University of South Africa (UNISA), Department of Information Science		-	-	-	12½*	1	3
University of Stellenbosch (UoS), Department of Information Science		200	-	100	9½*	0	2
University of Western Cape (UWC), Department of Library and Information Science		+200	+400	+10	8	1	1
University of Zululand (UZ), Department of Library and Information Science		+60	-	17	6½*	0	0
Zimbabwe National University of Science and Technology (NUST), Department of Library and Information Science		60	0	0	8	1	1

Source: Ocholla and Minishi-Majanja 2004:71-73.

Because of mergers of South African universities the higher education landscape has changed considerably; for instance, Rand Afrikaans University has merged with a technikon to become the University of Johannesburg, University of Natal has merged and the name was changed to the University of KwaZulu-Natal, UNISA merged with Technikon SA and retained its name UNISA.