

Department of Information Science Research Focus Areas (Working document as on 9 March 2014)

Research focus areas:

1. Knowledge Management
2. Information Processes
3. Meta-Context of Information
4. Book and Publishing Studies

1. Knowledge Management (KM)

Dimensions	Special interests
1) Policy and Strategy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Theories and models of strategy • Strategies and policies for various environments • Measurement
2) Tools and Techniques	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Audits • Communities of Practice • Storytelling • Intranets and portals • Expert locators • Knowledge maps
3) Organisational Culture and Leadership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creating a conducive environment and culture for KM • Organisational learning • Knowledge sharing • Impact of corporate culture • Leadership and governance
4) Knowledge Infrastructures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Physical infrastructure • ICT for KM • Human resources • Intellectual capital • Indigenous knowledge
5) Knowledge Systems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indigenous Knowledge Systems (IKS) • Other knowledge systems
6) Competitive and Business Intelligence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establishing a CI/BI strategy for an organisation in order to gain a competitive edge in the market • Investigating the benefits of the implementation of CI/BI within a specific business sector • The effective implementation of CI/BI tools in organisations to improve or sustain competitiveness
7) Teaching, Theory and Practice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Curriculum development • Experiential learning • Teaching methodologies

2. Information Processes

Dimensions	Special Interests
1) Information Organisation & Representation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Metadata schemas • Taxonomies, ontologies, topic maps and folksonomies • Abstracting, indexing and thesaurus construction

2) Information Dissemination & Use	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Current awareness services and alerting services • Push technologies • Informal electronic communication, including social media • User studies • Information literacy • Personal information management (PIM)
3) Information Behaviour, Seeking and Searching	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Models and theories • Information behaviour in context (including collaborative information retrieval and affect and emotion in information behaviour)
4) Information Retrieval (IR)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information retrieval system design and evaluation • Cross-language information retrieval • Relevance studies • Web information retrieval
5) Information Architecture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Structuring information • Web and multimedia design, development and software • Human Computer Interaction (HCI) • Game theory and gamification
6) Digitisation and Curation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Digital libraries • Digitisation and curation technologies (including archiving) • Policies and procedures
7) Teaching, Theory and Practice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Curriculum development • Experiential learning • Teaching methodologies

3. Meta-context of Information

Dimensions	Special Interests
1) Information Ethics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social media and information ethics • Privacy (moral values, protection of private information, management of private information, surveillance, trust, information security) • Access (accessibility, gender issues) • Intercultural information ethics (information ethics in Africa) • Information ethics and Governance (social justice, information ethics and power, information ethics and politics, e-democracy/e-government) • Emerging trends and technologies (e-waste, information and cyber warfare)
2) Legal Issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Intellectual property rights (including fair use, copyright) • Open access • Freedom of access to information and freedom of expression • Information legislation

3) Socio-cultural Issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Globalisation • Information and knowledge society • Digital divide • Information and development • Information poverty • Information flows • Informatisation and “information consumption”
4) Economic and Political Issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information economy • Information politics • Pricing of information (fee vs. free)
5) Information Communication	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accessibility of information content • Content repackaging
6) Teaching, Theory and Practice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Curriculum development • Experiential learning • Teaching methodologies

4. Book and Publishing Studies

Dimensions	Special Interests
1) Authorship	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Multilingual and local language writing • Translation practices • Profiles of South African writers
2) Current publishing practice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Publishing list analysis and bibliographic studies • Editorial policy, practice and issues for print media products • Ownership and business profile analysis • Product and cost analysis • Regulation, censorship and national policies
3) Digital and e-publishing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • E-publishing formats • E-publishing technologies and processes • Publishing in multiple formats and media from single sources • Enhanced e-books • The impact of digital publishing
4) Book and print history	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Histories of publishers, printers, booksellers and related industries • History and development of practices of reading • History of orality, performance and print cultures
5) Dissemination and reception	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access to print media products • Distribution networks and bookselling practices • Marketing and markets • Audience research • Reception and readership studies • Reading promotion campaigns, including issues of literacy
6) Teaching, Theory and Practice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Curriculum development • Teaching methodologies • Experiential learning and vocational training for the publishing industry