

Dear *Inkanyiso* readers,

It is my pleasure to present *Inkanyiso* Vol. 8 No. 1. This issue consists of eight scholarly articles, covering the academic disciplines of history, library and information science, management, philosophy and political studies.

The first two articles, in the field of philosophy, delve into its theories and development. In “Kant’s theory of concept formation and the role of mind”, Francis Israel Minimah from the University of Port Harcourt, Nigeria, attempts to analyse how Kant “sets out to discover and justify the principles underlying objective judgements” and how he argues that the human mind brings ‘something’ transcendental to the object it experiences’. The work further shows the influences of Kant’s conception for subsequent development of the philosophy mind and consciousness. In the second article, by David Oyedola, from the University of Ile-Ife, Nigeria, entitled “The contribution of philosophy to Africa’s development”, David acknowledges that Africa not only lags behind in development but also in philosophy, science, politics, and technology. He suggests that philosophers could proffer various solutions, which he discusses in the article, to African leaders. The third article, “The suppression of political opposition and the extent of violating civil liberties in the erstwhile Ciskei and Transkei Bantustans, 1960-1989” is by Maxwell Shamase from the University of Zululand, South Africa. Maxwell interrogates the nature of political suppression and the extent to which civil liberties were violated in the erstwhile Ciskei and Transkei. He narrates the use of the Bantustans by South Africa for suppressing opposition, how Bantustans borrowed repressive South African legislation and, in addition, supported this with emergency-style regulations passed with South African assistance. He adds the information that police in the Bantustans often targeted political opponents rather than criminals, as the South African Police (SAP) did in South Africa.

Performance management systems are highly regarded – and yet often controversial – in human resource management in organisations. The fourth article, “Effect of leadership styles on successful implementation of a performance management system”, is by Jane Sang and James Sang from Moi University, Kenya. The two authors argue that although a well implemented performance management system can have immense benefits, it has been reduced in many organisations to a mechanical, end-of-the-year requirement for information. They recommend that organisations should adopt a more strategic leadership style if they are to successfully deliver the contiguous stages required.

The fifth and sixth articles focus on library and information studies. “Outsourcing information communication technology services in selected public university libraries in Kenya” is by Naomi Mwai and Joseph Kiplang’at from the Technical University of Kenya, and David Gichoya from Moi University, Kenya. The three authors investigate the outsourcing of ICT services in selected public university libraries in Kenya in order to establish the challenges facing libraries in outsourcing ICT services. They conclude that there is a need for library managements to be conversant with outsourcing procedures and recommend outsourcing policy review and the involvement of librarians in the outsourcing process and implementation. The next article, focusing on information literacy, is extremely essential for lifelong learning and more so for enabling better information access and use. Ephraim Mudave from the Africa International University, Kenya, in his article “Information Literacy (IL) learning experiences: A literature review”, provides theoretical development of IL through a broad-based literature review that includes an overview of IL learning initiatives in academic environments in developed and in developing countries. He concludes that in Africa, despite infrastructural, technological and personnel challenges, many countries have insignificant IL learning initiatives at individual university levels and recognizes that more work is required to develop IL in the region.

The last two articles focus on political studies. In the first one, entitled “The role of the African Union (AU) in preventing conflicts in African States”, Oluwaseun Bamidele, from the Institute of Peace, Security and Governance, Ekiti State University, Nigeria, recognises that regionalism is present throughout the international system, and regional organisations are widely considered to play an important role in relation to regional and sub-regional security. He also argues that the AU has played an important role in averting violent conflict in a number of cases in Africa. In the last article, “Jonathan’s Constitutional Conference in Nigeria: A reflection and a radical critique”, Adeniyi Basiru from the University of Lagos, Nigeria, Mashud Salawu from Southwestern University, Nigeria and Martins Arogundade from Lagos State Polytechnic, Nigeria, examine the most recent attempt at Nigeria’s constitutional engineering in 2014. They argue that constitution-making should not be left in the hands of an exclusive few, as is currently the case, but must be inclusive enough to be a true people’s constitution.

Enjoy the reading

Dennis Ocholla

Editor-in-Chief

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