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## The Editorial

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*Dear Readers,*

I feel honoured to introduce to our esteemed readers the current issue (vol. 18, no. 1 of June 2023) of the *University of Dar es Salaam Library Journal (UDSMLJ)*. This issue comprises 10 scholarly articles focusing on different aspects of LIS and related disciplines. The first article by Edwin Ernest Babeiya and George Mashauri Magoti focuses on the political parties' use of Web 2.0 technologies as tools for political communication and engagement. Particularly the authors focus on the status of Tanzania's political parties on social media platforms and factors that explain their current status in social media platforms. The second article, by Robinah Nabafu, Musa Bukoma Moya, and Geoffrey Mayoka Kituyi looks at the impact of political institutions, ICT infrastructure, and social networks on citizens' self-motivation and engagement in policy formulation in Uganda. One of the major contributions of this article is a development of a new model to be used as the framework for citizens' engagement in policy formulation. Afolayan Oluyinka Titilope and Falade Adesola Muritala, though in a different domain, investigate social media use and perceived social capital dimensions among university students in Nigeria. The authors established an existence of a positive correlation between social media use, perceived online bonding, and bridging capital.

A paper by Emmanuel Mkhai and Mohamed Kassim provides some new insights into the information needs and information seeking behaviour of janitors working at the University of Dar es Salaam. The results from this paper have some implications, particularly on access to work-related information and information literacy skills enhancement among janitors. An article by Benson Rugalema Mwemezi, Geraldine J. Kikwasi and Sarah Phoya identifies and ranks the factors which significantly influence health safety risks (HSR) in Tanzania's informal construction sites (ICS). It was evident from the results of this paper that lack of information and knowledge about safety rules, lack of awareness of risk management processes, and lack of framework and procedures were the significant factors highly influencing informal construction. Besides theoretical contributions, the results from the article provide a baseline for developing an empirically grounded health and safety framework, particularly in developing countries like Tanzania.

Institutional repositories (IRs), played crucial roles in providing online education and scholarly materials for research during the Covid-19 pandemic. An article by Lucy Jelagat Sang and Hellen Jepkemoi Magut addresses the question of "how IRs performed during the Covid-19 pandemic in Kenya." Despite potential crucial roles in supporting teaching, learning, and research during the pandemic, the article reports low usage of IR. Perceived lack of usefulness and difficulty of use of IRs constituted the major challenges. Andrew Malekani's article examines the efficacy of the e-document management system (EDMS) and employees' perceptions of the e-document management system's usefulness at the Sokoine University of Agriculture, Tanzania. The results indicate that duration at work and rating on effectiveness have unique contributions to a variation in the perceived usefulness of EDMS. With special reference to the Tanzanian context, Ulingeta O.L. Mbamba's paper establishes the role of e-readiness in implementing e-commerce in organisations. Informed by Molla and Licker's (2005) model, it was evident that organisational

commitment, technological resources, awareness level, and the government's commitment to e-readiness are important factors in determining the level of e-commerce of an organisation.

Sumaya, M. Kagoya and Allen, R. Mushi's paper provides a systematic review of the literature related to the applications of operations research information system tools (ORIST) in hospital operations within the context of the East African Region. From the review, a proposal is presented about research opportunities on hospital operations in East African regions. Athumani S. Samzugi and Azizi H. Kagugu's article contextualises scholarly journal publishing forums in Tanzania universities at a time when the country's higher learning institutions have become increasingly aware of improving visibility and sharing their research outputs at the regional and global level. The study has acknowledged a number of initiatives taken by the universities in the country to put in place journal publishing forums. The paper further establishes that despite a positive financing picture on the part of universities and to a less extent donor support, getting adequate manuscripts publishing remained a vexing challenge.

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**Chief Editor, UDSMLJ**