

**Department of Information  
Studies**

**University of Zululand**

*RESTRUCTURED FOR RELEVANCE*



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## **19th Information Studies (IS) Annual Conference.**

**Theme:**

**“Navigating the digital economy”**

**12-14 SEPTEMBER, 2018, RICHARDS BAY, KWAZULU-NATAL, SOUTH AFRICA**

### **CALL FOR PAPERS**

#### **Preamble**

We wish to invite you to participate in the 19<sup>th</sup> Information Studies (IS) conference at the University of Zululand, Kwazulu-Natal (KZN), South Africa. This year’s conference theme is **“Navigating the digital economy in Africa”**

#### **NAVIGATING THE DIGITAL ECONOMY IN AFRICA**

Today, we have entered the Fourth Industrial Revolution. The digital age has ushered in the digital economy which now permeates all aspects of society, including the way people interact, the economic landscape, the skills needed to get a digital savvy job, and political decision-making. Evidently, the ways in which people connect with others, with information, and with the world, is being transformed through a combination of technologies. These technologies will help us solve increasingly sophisticated problems, while big data will assist us in complex decision-making with a massive impact on the economy. Like the rest of the world, the African continent is alive to these changes and challenges as well. The current emerging digital economy has thus the potential to generate new scientific research and breakthroughs, creating new job opportunities, economic growth, and improving the standard of living in Africa. The trends in the digital economy are enormous, evident and progressive. Thus, for example, the use of mobile data is being used to identify infection patterns such as malaria and identify locales that guide governments’ efforts to eradicate the deadly disease in Africa. Some countries use vehicle sensor data from delivery trucks, combined from mapping data analytics, enabling companies to save millions of litres of fuel thus reducing carbon emissions. Farmers can now use satellites, and sensors to make better decisions about what they grow and how to adapt to changing climates. In entrenching democratic values and governance, e-voting and e-balloting are emerging as a key in the new political dispensation. Other emerging trends include those in e-commerce and banking; e-learning, e-tourism and industry with the rise of block chain technology, and changes in manufacturing driven by 3D- and 4D-printing – signalling a sharing global economy. The sharing economy has thus been described as a model in which people and organisations connect on-line to share goods and services. It is also known as collaborative consumption or peer-to-peer exchange - with two of the best known examples of the sharing economy are being Uber (transportation) and Airbnb (housing).

This year's 19<sup>th</sup> IS conference seeks to unravel issues related to the rise of the digital economy. As has been the case in the previous years, the conference will take an interdisciplinary and multi-disciplinary dimension to information and knowledge management and will attempt to bring together all information and knowledge workers in Africa and beyond from different IS knowledge fields/domains such as archival science, records management, knowledge management, media and publishing, information science, information systems and computing that support the rise to a digital economy in Africa. Our aim is to create cross-disciplinary linkages of the views that would deliver richer, deeper and clearer scholarly perspective and practice on the different aspects of the navigation of the global digital economy. The conference will therefore enable the interrogation of theories, methodologies, technologies and practices in the digital economy in Africa and beyond.

We anticipate that the 2018 19<sup>th</sup> IS annual conference will provide an international open forum for academics, students, researchers, knowledge and information managers and authorities, and information and communication related professionals, largely from Africa, to converge, discuss, and share knowledge and experiences on the conference theme, with an emphasis on the progress made in Africa and linkages to the global world.

### **Conference Theme**

We invite researchers worldwide, and especially from Africa and the developing world, to submit their contributions to the 19<sup>th</sup> IS Annual Conference in the form of original full research papers (FRP), research-in-progress (RIP) papers, or posters that have not previously been presented elsewhere and make new contributions to the theme's theory and practice. Topics of interest include, but not limited to the following broad areas:

- Cryptography and block chain technology
- Cyber ethics
- Digital archiving
- Digital curation
- Digital libraries and open source software technology
- Digital preservation and access
- Digital records management
- Digital scholarship and open access
- E-agriculture applications
- E-commerce and banking
- E-content in indigenous knowledge management
- Education and training in the digital economy
- E-government
- E-learning innovations
- E-tourism applications
- E-transport applications
- E-voting
- Health informatics
- Integration of social networking tools
- Knowledge discovery tools – web and linked data
- Management of social media content
- Mobile government
- Multi-media management
- Open data and big data
- Research data management
- Tele-marketing
- Virtual community information/knowledge services

## **Guidelines on Submission of Abstracts and Full Papers**

You are invited to submit an abstract of your proposed paper in electronic format (as an attachment to an e-mail) based on the following guidelines:

1. The extended abstract should be 300 - 500 words in length and consist of:  
(a) purpose (b) methodology/approach (c) findings (d) practical implications (g) originality/value of contribution (h) keywords; and (i) paper type (e.g. research paper, literature review, case study, conceptual paper, etc.).
2. The heading should include the title of your paper, followed by name(s), qualification, title, affiliation(s), and the e-mail of the author.
3. The deadline for submitting proposals is 15 May, 2018.
4. Full text should be 4000 - 6000 words in length (single spaced, size 12, Roman Times font, Harvard referencing style).
5. The deadline for submitting full papers is 30 July, 2018.
6. The deadline for research-in-progress papers and posters is 30 July, 2018.
7. Accepted full text papers will be published on the conference website and in peer-reviewed conference proceedings before the conference begins. Selected papers may be published in a book or journal.

Proposals for papers should be sent to **Programme Chair:** Prof. T. Kalusopa ([kalusopat@unizulu.ac.za](mailto:kalusopat@unizulu.ac.za)), and copied to **Conference Chair:** Dr. N. Evans ([evansn@unizulu.ac.za](mailto:evansn@unizulu.ac.za))

## **Conference Fees and Registration**

1. The conference fee is R3,000.00 (three thousand rand or its equivalent) per participant and R1,500.00 (one thousand, five hundred rand or its equivalent) for students (Proof of studentship required).
2. The fees will cover conference materials, teas, luncheons and excursions.
3. Registration details can be found on the conference website ([www.lis.uzulu.ac.za/conference](http://www.lis.uzulu.ac.za/conference)). Proforma invoices will be provided once you do your online registration.

## **Payments**

Cash payments can be made at registration. However, bank payments can be made to the following bank account:

University of Zululand  
ABSA - Empangeni Branch  
Account No. : 1880 000 035 (11ZA632005 for  
International Payments)  
Branch code : 632005  
Reference : D009-25109

For details, please see: ([www.lis.uzulu.ac.za/conference](http://www.lis.uzulu.ac.za/conference)).

## **Venue**

The conference will be held in Richard Bay. The Richards Bay is a town in KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa. It is situated on a 30 square kilometre lagoon of the Mhlatuze River, which gives it one of the country's largest harbours. It is a bubbling and fast becoming the north coast holiday destination, offering remarkable scenery. The coastline stretches about 350 km from the mouth of the mighty Tugela River in the south to the Mozambique border in the north. The coastal plains include endless unspoilt beaches and coastal conservation

areas and incorporate the largest estuarine system in Southern Africa. The town can be reached by daily flights through OR Tambo Airport, Johannesburg.

See more details at: [http://www.places.co.za/html/richards\\_bay.html](http://www.places.co.za/html/richards_bay.html).

### **Travel and Visa Requirements**

It is expected that most participants should make their travel arrangements. However, most SADC residents do not require entry VISA to travel to South Africa. For those requiring visas it is advisable to apply in good time to the South African Embassy in your respective countries. The Conference Organising Committee will facilitate letters to confirm the hosting of the conference.

### **Accommodation**

The costs for travel, accommodation and incidentals are the responsibility of the participants. Participants are expected to make their own accommodation arrangements. More information pertaining to alternative accommodation is available on: ([www.lis.uzulu.ac.za/conference](http://www.lis.uzulu.ac.za/conference)).

### **Conference Organising Committee**

#### **Conference Chair**

Dr. Neil Evans – University of Zululand, South Africa

#### **Programme Chair**

Prof. Trywell Kalusopa – University of Zululand, South Africa

### **Members of the Committee**

Ms. Phindile, R. Bennett – University of Zululand, South Africa

Prof. Johannes Britz – University of Wisconsin Milwaukee, USA

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