

DKIS Strategic Directions 2023-2027

Vision

To be the school of choice in Africa for Library and Information Studies

Mission

To take the leadership role in providing transformative and innovative Library and Information Studies teaching, learning and research, informed by our location in Africa and by global scholarship

Niche areas

In support of its mission and unique positioning for sustainable advantage, DKIS has three niche areas, namely, sector specialisation, subject foci and level of study specialisation, underpinned by a critical approach to knowledge stewardship.

Sector specialisation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Academic and research libraries• Public libraries
Subject foci	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Digital curation• Impact analysis and assessment• Knowledge and skills competencies• Research librarianship• Resource description and representation• Social informatics
Level of study specialisation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Postgraduate diploma• Master's• Doctoral• Post-doctoral

Strategic themes

Transformative and relevant curricula

Innovative and socially engaged teaching and learning

Research excellence

Recruitment and retention of students and staff

Collaborative relationships

Social and professional engagement

Strategic Goals

To provide **transformative and relevant curricula** for a new generation of library and information professionals

To offer **innovative and socially engaged teaching and learning** experiences for effective delivery of curricula in response to decoloniality

To achieve **research excellence** through active research and publication in LIS and cognate domains in response to UCT's research-intensive and socially engaged positioning

To **facilitate access and support academic success** for students towards a socially responsive LIS profession and a pipeline of LIS academics who are agents of transformation

To **recruit and retain staff** for sustainable innovation, growth and development of academic and research programmes

To establish and sustain mutually beneficial **collaborative relationships** at the institutional, national, continental and international levels, across disciplinary spaces

To grow partnerships in **social and professional engagement** to advance South African/African development, sustainability and social justice

Strategic Actions

To provide **transformative and relevant curricula** for a new generation of library and information professionals:

- Offer programmes of choice for South Africa and the rest of Africa that lead to internationally competitive qualifications
- Design and implement curricula that embrace new and emerging areas of specialisation in LIS and cognate sectors
- Embrace critical engagement of the relationship between technology and the information society
- Continuously and critically review and evaluate programmes and curricula for relevance and for alignment with the imperatives of decoloniality
- Produce leaders for LIS and related contexts

To offer **innovative and socially engaged teaching and learning** experiences for effective delivery of curricula in response to decoloniality:

- Engage in inspired and responsive teaching that advances equity, diversity, inclusivity and accessibility (EDIA), and multiple ways of knowing
- Capacitate students with knowledge, skills and attributes for academic success
- Adopt pedagogies that support self-directed, engaged and collaborative learning as well as critical thinking in a multi-modal learning environment
- Provide intellectually stimulating environments for learning, both peer-to-peer and between experts and learners

To achieve **research excellence** through active research and publication in LIS and cognate domains in response to UCT's research-intensive and socially engaged positioning:

- Cultivate a scholarly environment to accelerate independent and team research for publication and societal impact
- Build strategic research partnerships locally, nationally and internationally, with a particular focus on Afrocentric research
- Exploit opportunities to enhance DKIS's visibility as a centre of research excellence

To **facilitate access and support academic success** for students towards a socially responsive LIS profession and a pipeline of LIS academics who are agents of transformation:

- Create opportunities for access and articulation to programmes in order to counter financial, physical, geographic, infrastructural and educational barriers

- Actively engage barriers to student success and implement responsive interventions for ongoing support
- Nurture the growth of future LIS professionals and academics who will contribute to social cohesion and equity in praxis

To **recruit and retain staff** for sustainable innovation, growth and development of academic and research programmes:

- Create robust publicity and marketing opportunities to attract dynamic and innovative staff for a transforming institution
- Cultivate a stimulating scholarly environment to advance impactful teaching and research, and learning experiences

To establish and sustain mutually beneficial **collaborative relationships** at the institutional, national, continental and international levels, across disciplinary spaces:

- Create strategic partnerships to share and build teaching and learning expertise and resources
- Establish partnerships for postgraduate supervision, research and publication
- Identify and form alliances with relevant communities and institutions in support of development and social justice

To grow partnerships in **social and professional engagement** to advance South African/African development, sustainability and social justice:

- Establish DKIS as a source of intellectual guidance for policy makers
- Provide intellectual contributions and technical expertise to relevant institutions for development and redress
- Position DKIS as an intellectual leader within relevant communities for development and social justice