Editorial: Winter Renewal

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SACJ editorial team

This winter has seen an exciting renewal in the SACJ editorial team! After a positive response to the posting of a call for applications via the SAICSIT mailing list, we invited seven new associate editors to join our team. We held an onboarding workshop in July and the renewed editorial team is already hard at work, putting in the ground work for future issues.

Editor-in-Chief	Katherine Malan	University of South Africa
Assistant Editor	<Vacant>	
Associate Editors	Marcellin Atemkeng	Rhodes University
	Marijke Coetzee	North-West University
	Aurona Gerber	Stellenbosch University
	Topside Mathonsi	Tshwane University of Technology
	Tendani Mawela	University of Pretoria
	Wynand Nel	Akademia
	Roseline Ogundokun	Redeemer's University, Nigeria
	Shawren Singh	Cape Peninsula University of Technology
	Hanlie Smuts	University of Pretoria
	Riana Steyn	University of Pretoria
	Pitso Tsibolane	University of Cape Town
	Terence van Zyl	University of Johannesburg
Production Editor	Etienne van der Poel	University of South Africa

At the same time, we sadly say farewell to the following long-serving volunteers:

- Ian Sanders leaves us as Assistant Editor after serving SACJ since 2014.
- Sigrid Ewert and Hugo Lotriet leave us after serving SACJ as associate editors since 2017.
- Deshen Moodley leaves us after 5 years of serving as associate editor.

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I am extremely grateful to Ian, Sigrid, Hugo and Deshen for the many years of dedication and hard work. After publishing this issue, we will be sending out a call for applications for the role of assistant editor. Please keep a lookout if you feel you have what it takes to assist the team in this capacity.

Submission statistics

For information, we present the following updated statistics around submissions, acceptance rates and the processing time of articles.

Year	2023	2024	2025
Submissions	95	96	120
Desk rejection	62	56	74
Desk rejection rate	65%	58%	62%
Final acceptance	12	11	13
Acceptance rate	13%	11%	11%

Submissions to SACJ are on the rise, with 101 submissions received in the first 6 months of 2026. The figures above translate into an overall rejection rate of 89% for 2024-2025. This high rejection rate can be attributed to the large number of submissions from all over the world due to the indexing of SACJ on Scopus. Similar to SACJ, South African Journal of Science reported a rejection rate of 82% in 2024.

In terms of submission processing time, the median time to a first decision (desk reject / send to review) for 2023-2025 was 2 days and the median time to final decision for submissions sent to review was 5 months.

In this issue

We have a bumper July 2026 issue with nine research articles – six from South African authors and three from international authors (from Algeria, Bangladesh and Kenya). The papers from South Africa cover the following institutions: Cape Peninsula University of Technology, University of Limpopo, Nelson Mandela University, University of Pretoria, and Stellenbosch University.

In terms of topics of research, there is a strong theme of health informatics (four articles), ICT for higher education (two articles), and individual articles on video gaming and wellbeing, human sign language processing, and blockchain ecosystems:

- A digital health design model for a live healthcare console from a South African public healthcare perspective by Moonsamy and Singh

- A system for linking and integrating heterogeneous datasets in health and demographic surveillance systems by Tlouyamma, et al.
- Towards a ubiquitous health system through integration of heterogeneous data sources using relevant attributes without identification keys by Kechida, Kalla, and Brik.
- Towards practical digital health designs: A single electronic health record for South Africa by Moonsamy
- Enablers and constraints of analytics-supported personalised learning in South African higher education by Tshidi
- Information architecture for first-year modules on Moodle: A Nelson Mandela University case study by Kafile, Barnard and Kunjuzwa
- Heavy, phone, and light gamers: Adolescent gaming profiles in South Africa and their academic and psychosocial correlates by van Wyk and le Roux
- A vector-based computational framework for comparative analysis of Kenyan Sign Language and American Sign Language phonology by Wangari, Muchemi and Waiganjo
- Revolutionizing blockchain ecosystems: InternxtChain's sharded storage & zk-SNARK security for secure, scalable, and decentralized solutions by Reno

Thank you to all authors for submitting your manuscripts to SACJ and for entrusting us with your research. Thank you also to the editorial team for all your work behind the scenes and to the many reviewers who support our journal.