Information management training

Adeline du Toit
asadt@lw.rau.ac.za

Traditionally, information technology (IT) was used merely as a support service for other organizational system components to keep track of an enterprise's internal and external environments. Today IT allows the enterprise to be more active within the internal and external environments and can be considered a critical resource that creates competitive advantage. The Damelin Graduate College in South Africa offers a B.Com degree, specializing in information and communication technology. The curriculum has been designed to provide students with an in-depth understanding of the business world and the skills they will need to build their careers. The emphasis of this degree falls on teaching practical skills, as well as academic theory. The duration of the course is normally three years. The Oxford Brookes University in the United Kingdom, which has been rated the best new university in Britain for the past six years, recognizes the degree as equivalent to its own three-year qualification.

The degree, although recognized by a UK-based institution, is specifically tailored to South African business needs. This is an innovative course that integrates the disciplines of information management and information technology in an organizational context. It is designed for information systems professionals who wish to understand the requirements of information managers and contribute to the development of information systems. It is also suitable for management professionals who wish to have an in-depth understanding of information systems and what they offer the information manager. Students have the choice of studying either full-time or part-time and, because Damelin has a number of campuses in South Africa, students can transfer between campuses without fear of losing credits.

The degree comprises the equivalent of 26 courses that consist of the following:

First year:

- Economics 1A and 1B
- Information technology 2A and 2B
- Computer hardware
- Financial accounting 1A and 1B
- System software

Second year:

- Project management
- MS Project 2000
- Statistics 2
- Practical networking 1 and 2
- Database systems and structures
- Business management 1

- Internet/intranet/extranet design
- Database management
- HTML

Third year:

- Marketing and management information systems and decision support systems
- Systems design and implementation
- Advanced computer hardware
- Visual basic
- Security and ethics in information systems
- Manager development 3
- Systems for strategic advantage
- Java

Upon completion of the first year of the full-time B.Com, students not continuing their studies will be awarded the Damelin Certificate in Information Management. Upon completion of the second year, students qualify for the Damelin Diploma in Information Management.

Further information visit the Damelin college Web site at www.damelin.com.

Disclaimer

Articles published in SAJIM are the opinions of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the opinion of the Editor, Board, Publisher, Webmaster or the Rand Afrikaans University. The user hereby waives any claim he/she/they may have or acquire against the publisher, its suppliers, licensees and sub licensees and indemnifies all said persons from any claims, lawsuits, proceedings, costs, special, incidental, consequential or indirect damages, including damages for loss of profits, loss of business or downtime arising out of or relating to the user's use of the Website.