



Information Management Training

Prof Adeline du Toit

asadt@lw.rau.ac.za

The idea that knowledge can be managed is fundamental to the related notions of the knowledge-based business, the learning enterprise and the management of intellectual capital. The recent interest in these overlapping concepts reflects important phenomena that enterprises have to deal with, such as perceptions of increased competition, rates of change and market turbulence. Enterprises are therefore looking for new ways to remain in business or compete effectively. This column looks at the establishment of a Center for Knowledge Management in River Forest, Illinois, and the offering of a Certificate in Knowledge Management.

Knowledge management is vital for survival in the knowledge economy

The objective of the Center for Knowledge Management at the Dominican University is to teach professionals how to manage the often overwhelming flow of information and knowledge within an enterprise successfully.

Beginning with the spring 2000 semester, Dominican will offer a Certificate in Knowledge Management geared toward people working in the information sciences, computer sciences, or business management fields, according to Kanti Srikantaiah, the center's director and editor of *Knowledge Management for the Information Professional* (<http://www.asis.org/Publications/bookstore/home.html>). Knowledge management has been endorsed as a sound business strategy by the private sector, including many Fortune 500 companies, and is rapidly moving into other areas as well, Srikantaiah says.

The Center uses an interdisciplinary approach to the field of knowledge management developed by the Graduate School of Library and Information Science and the Graduate School of Business. The knowledge management certificate programme enables participants to gain the educational background to build a career as knowledge management officers, knowledge management specialists and the like. Admission is open to students who hold a bachelor's degree in any field.

Some of the learning objectives of the certificate programme are to:

- Understand knowledge management concepts
- Become familiar with knowledge management tools
- Facilitate mapping of knowledge assets in enterprises
- Design and implement knowledge management systems
- Create a knowledge-sharing culture within enterprises.

Topics covered include:

- The history and the underlying concepts behind knowledge management
- Knowledge production, acquisition and dissemination
- Basic principles of organization of knowledge, indexing and data dictionaries
- Information policies and knowledge management
- Knowledge mapping
- Metrics in knowledge management
- Knowledge management application packages
- External information sources and online information systems
- Key elements in the internal and external environment of enterprises
- Relationships between strategy and structure in enterprises
- Sources of power and methods of decision making
- Dynamics of organizational change
- Knowledge representation and acquisition concepts
- Decision support systems and expert systems
- Database management technology
- Groupware
- Internet/intranet operations and web agents
- Intra- and inter-organizational knowledge management issues
- Intellectual property rights
- Transborder data flow
- National information policies

Upon successful completion of the certificate programme, participants may apply for admission to the Master of Science in Knowledge Management degree programme. Courses completed in the certificate programme may be credited toward the Master's degree in Knowledge Management. It is also possible to present the knowledge management certificate for credit toward a Master of Library and Information Science or Master of Business Administration degree, upon acceptance into one of these programmes.

Further information: <http://www.dom.edu> or send an e-mail to Kanti Srikantiah srikant@email.dom.edu.

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.