

The role of libraries in a knowledge economy

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Abstract

The presentation will review the concepts of knowledge economy and knowledge management. The differences between data, information, knowledge and wisdom will be highlighted. The role of libraries and information centres as contributors to a knowledge-based economy in Africa will be explored, including the challenges and possible solutions faced by libraries in Africa.



Prof Kingo Mchombu is Professor and Dean, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences at the University of Namibia. He holds a doctorate degree from Loughborough University, UK. He researched the impact of sexual and reproductive programmes (UNFPA funded), and the coverage of HIV/AIDS in Namibia (UNESCO) and worked for five years with OXFAM Canada to design grassroots-based information resource centres in the Horn of Africa (with an ICT component).

He completed an e-learning programme for certified knowledge managers and evaluated the Sexual and Reproductive Health Programme in Namibia on behalf of Unicef.

Mchombu initiated and taught courses in the area of communication for development as well as on knowledge management for the past 8 - 10 years, and courses in library and information science for the past 20 years.

He is researching knowledge management in the NGO and Public sector in Namibia and completed researching information support for the achievement of MDG in Katutura, Windhoek.

He serves on the editorial board of several international and local journals (including Knowledge Management for Development and Information Development) as well as on the Board of Directors of several international Non-Government Organizations.