

Prof Ina Fourie



Prof I Fourie – Professor and Head of the Department

Head of the Department,
Professor
Programme coordinator
Module coordinator
Lecturer
Postgraduate supervisor
EXXARO Chair in Extended reality (XR) Technology: Chair
ACEIE: Member

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Qualifications

BBibl, BBibl(Hons), Mbibl (UOVS), DLitt et Phil (RAU), Postgrad Diploma Tertiary Education (*Cum Laude*) (Unisa)

Research

Interest:

- Information behaviour – especially healthcare contexts such as cancer in general, cervical and other gynaecological cancers, palliative care, pain, HIV/AIDS and compassion fatigue as well as academic and various workplace contexts
- Information literacy including academic and workplace information literacy, current awareness services, intermediary roles in information provision, collaborative information seeking and ad hoc topics such as trends in Internet censorship
- Autoethnography
- Participatory design
- Third Space
- Information sharing

Researcher ID profile:

- UPSpace: <https://repository.up.ac.za/handle/2263/975>
- OrcID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-9392-5824>

NRF rating: B2

Modules offered

Programme coordinator:

- BIS (Hons) Information Science
- MIS research master's degrees

Module coordinator and lecturer:

- INY 730 / 700 / 430 – Information communication

Postgraduate supervisor

- Doctoral theses
- Master's dissertations
- Coursework master's dissertations

[For full Curriculum Vitae, click here](#)

Short Curriculum Vitae

Prof Ina Fourie joined the Department in July 2001 as an Associate Professor. In January 2010 she was promoted to Full Professor and became Head of the Department in 2020.

She started her lecturing career at the University of South Africa (Unisa) in 1988 where she was respectively a junior lecturer, lecturer and later senior lecturer. At Unisa she taught various aspects of information organisation and retrieval including indexing, abstracting, thesaurus construction, online searching and developing personal databases. Here she gained extensive experience in distance education and teaching adult learners who were mostly employed fulltime. She started her career as a librarian and later senior librarian at the Atomic Energy Corporation of South Africa.

Prof Fourie is currently involved in teaching undergraduate and postgraduate modules concerning information literacy, information retrieval, information organisation, information behaviour and information seeking. Students completing their masters' and doctoral studies under her supervision are working on a variety of topics including various aspects of information needs and information behaviour (her main research focus), aspects of information literacy such as workplace information literacy and distance learning programmes in information literacy, bridging the digital divide, the role of the library in various contexts, legal depositories, and information services in various contexts.

Apart from a number of national associations such as the Library and Information Association of South Africa (LIASA), the Southern Africa Online User Group (SAOUG), and the Organisation of South African Law Libraries (OSALL), Prof Fourie is a member of the UK Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals (CILIP), the UK E-Information Group, the UK Health Libraries Interest Group, the Association American Society for Information Science and Technology (ASIST) (formerly the American Society for Information Science and Technology), the Medical Library Association (MLA), Association for Computing Machinery (ACM) and the European Association for Health Information and Libraries (EAHIL).

She is a member of the Editorial Advisory Board of several international journals such as Online Information Review, The Electronic Library, Library Hi Tech, Journal of Information Science Theory and Practice (JISTaP) and Webology, and locally of Mousaion and the South African Journal of Libraries and Information Science. She regularly reviews articles for ASLIB Proceedings and occasionally for other international journals such as Journal of Documentation, Journal of Librarianship & Information Science, African Journal of Library, Archives and Information Science, Nursing Education Today, Library and Information Science Research, and national journals such as Innovation and South African Journal of Information Management.

She was a regular book reviewer for The Electronic Library and Online Information Review for many years and occasionally for other journals such as Journal of the American Society for Information Science and Technology and Library Information Management. Occasionally she still writes book reviews on request.

Occasionally she is a reviewer for the National Research Foundation (NRF) and publishers such as Chandos Publishing and various national and international conference programmes.

Prof Fourie serves as an external examiner on undergraduate and postgraduate level for various national institutions including the University of Cape Town, University of KwaZulu Natal, University of the Witwatersrand, University of Zululand, North West University (Potchefstroom) and University of South Africa (Unisa). In the African contexts she is an external examiner for masters and doctoral studies for the Makerere University (Uganda).

She has published journal articles, and delivered conference papers and workshops at national as well as international level within the field of information organisation, information retrieval, current awareness services and information behaviour, as well as issues concerning teaching and education (especially distance education), and the use of research methods such as autoethnography. These include invited presentations and key note addresses. Several of her articles have been selected as feature article of the month for The Informed Librarian Online.

She has been involved in contract work and contract research on international projects including the IFLA World Report (2007, 2010), Internet censorship and an evaluation project for the European Union. Ina has been invited a guest lecturer and visiting researcher at the University of Milwaukee (Wisconsin), University of Alabama (USA), University at Buffalo (New York) (USA) and Victoria University of Wellington (New Zealand). Her research collaborators include academics and practitioners from The Netherlands, USA, Australia and New Zealand, as well as library and information science academics and practitioners and healthcare professionals in the South African context.

Her research focus mostly on information behaviour – especially healthcare contexts such as cancer in general, cervical and other gynaecological cancers, palliative care, pain, HIV/AIDS and compassion fatigue as well as academic and various workplace contexts. In addition she pursues research opportunities in

information literacy including academic and workplace information literacy, current awareness services, intermediary roles in information provision, collaborative information seeking and ad hoc topics such as trends in Internet censorship. She has received research funding and support from the National Research Foundation (NRF), UNESCO (project with Dr Kirstin Kraus), and the University of Pretoria fund for visiting scholars.