



**Call to Submit Research Manuscripts for
*Alternation 2022 in Management, Informatics,
Governance and Research Methods Edition***

Journal issue Theme:

***Artificial Intelligence in Management, Informatics, Governance
and Research in a Virtually Connected World***

— Methodological contributions on related themes are also welcome —

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Since more than 10 years ago, *Alternation* has championed research on our virtually developing and digitally connected world and its impacts on research, teaching and learning and community engagement at different social levels of our rapidly transforming societies in Africa. A substantial number of projects have been successfully completed and selected research published from them, in *Alternation* and related journals.

Building on previous trajectories, this Call for Papers focuses primarily on Artificial Intelligence in Management, Informatics, Governance and Research in a Virtually Connected World.

The CfP invites titles and abstracts that investigate a) the fundamentals; b) software development; c) technologies; d) and empirical deployment of intelligent machine learning in business development and analytics; e) the different fields of informatics and artificial intelligence, as such; and f) their role in enhancing the qualitative services associated with artificial intelligence in the governance sectors of South Africa, and Africa more broadly speaking. The emphasis is on workable experimental initiatives and solutions to existing problems in these sectors.

Generically it also includes research focuses on intelligent commerce, intelligent business analytics, intelligent analytics of big data, and artificial intelligence.

Titles and abstracts are invited on any of these focuses, and especially submissions that may disclose leading-edge hypothetical basics, technologies, methodologies, and applications of intelligent analytics in integrated ways.

Our aim is to foster and provide scientifically approved processes and procedures that demonstrate that intelligent analytics across these fields of research, could be formatively at the centre for the advancing and enhancing of quality in service delivery in both the business and governance sectors of Africa. These may range from intelligent business analytics, intelligent business and governance decision making, intelligent business and governance management, the harnessing of digital media



toward fast-tracking forms of social and economic transformation, including the acceleration of the world-wide constructive and formative embracing of the 4IR (Fourth Industrial Revolution) ranging from algorithms through digitised business and governance, to digital media.

Recommended topics include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Intelligent business analytics as a science
- A combined theoretical foundation, including frameworks and mechanisms, of intelligent business analytics
- Business Intelligence, big data intelligence
- Smart business analytics for big data, information, knowledge, intelligence processing, environmental systems
- ICT fundamentals and Business models for analytics including data preparation and visualization
- Machine learning and deep learning for intelligent business analytics
- Knowledge management
- Social networking technologies, cloud computing, IoT, and IoE
- Intelligent business and management technologies for Small & Medium Enterprises (SMEs)
- Challenges, opportunities, and implications of intelligent big data analytics in emerging economies

Topics and Abstracts, and Full Articles should be sent to Rembrandt Klopper
rklopper@gmail.com

Suggested Timeframes:

- 30 September 2021: 2021 Deadline for submission of topic and provisional abstract
- 15 October 2021: Final date for acceptance of topics and abstracts
- 30 November 2021: Submission of accepted articles
- 30 January 2022: Return of peer reviewed articles
- 15 February 2022: Submission of final versions of all articles
- 15 March 2022: Final proof reading and desk copy editing, phase
- 30 April 2022: Publication

General

Alternation is an interdisciplinary DoHET accredited South African scholarly journal with an established local and international readership in the Arts, and Human and Social Sciences.

1. In the interdisciplinary domain, *Alternation* provides a peer reviewed **research space for the interface between the Arts, Human and Social Sciences, with Informatics, as well as the Management and Governance Sciences**. This focus seeks to address the numerous knowledge production opportunities as well as challenges that arise within this space. As such, it aims at advancing peer reviewed research on these intersecting issues, that might be perceived to be peripheral to core scientific disciplines, but are significant, with regard to



the human-social-digital scientific interfaces and uses of digital technologies, when considered across disciplines, and the management and governance sectors of African societies and communities.

2. Contributions must report the results of **original research**, based on the analysis of primary data, with the exception of Economics and Finance where researchers often analyse secondary data available in the public domain. Researchers could also present the results of research on **conceptual models**, based on a critical analysis of existing published researched literature. Such conceptual models should be able to form the basis of subsequent empirical research.
3. All contributions must pass **blind peer review** by at least two independent peer reviewers, before publication. If a submission receives one positive and one negative review it is sent to a third reviewer.
4. **Alternation website:** <http://alternation.ukzn.ac.za/>. Individual articles from 1994 onwards, are freely downloadable in PDF format from *Alternation*'s archive, at: <http://alternation.ukzn.ac.za/archives/journal-archive.aspx>
5. A **sample article** for this issue can be downloaded from *Alternation* 25,1 (2018) *Management, Informatics and Governance* at: <https://doi.org/10.29086/2519-5476/2018/v25n1a14>

Letters to the Editor

From 2021 *Alternation* will again publish a *Letters to the Editors* section for constructive comments. Contributions dealing with the topic of the published issue concerned, or a specific article or two, or general deductions or findings of related research that might enhance the research in the issue, or on helpful analyses, comments or insights that might be helpful to the discipline/s and interdisciplinary work in the field, or the general approach of specialist research groups articulated with *Alternation*'s thematic or open issue interdisciplinary research focuses. The provisional and proactive problematisation and demarcation of new potential vistas for related research, are also welcome.

Research Author Requirements

Articles that report empirical results should comply with the logic of scientific discovery. This entails that they have at least the following sections (which may very well have more imaginative headings):

- (a) An **abstract** in the form of a single paragraph that cogently states the problem/s under investigation, the research methodology employed, and the major findings of the article;
- (b) **Keywords** listing five or six key concepts extracted from the title and problem statement of the article;
- (c) A **statement of problem/s** section;
- (d) A **literature review** section. Articles that are a patchwork quilt of quotations, or that systematically cherry pick references from articles that support one's own particular point of view, will not be considered for publication.



(e) A **research methodology** section. In the case of articles based on quantitative or qualitative analysis, the author must briefly explain how s/he identified a representative sample of quantitative data, or respondents from among the target population in the case of qualitative research, or an appropriate number of texts (documents or verbatim transcribed interviews) in the case of published quantitative and qualitative research. The methodological procedures for verifiable data generation representative and relevant to the research problem, need to be explicated. The thematics and/ or conceptual framework for the data analysis and interpretation also needs to be specified. For example, in the case of quantitative research, a case for sufficient evidence must be made. In the case of qualitative research, assumptions and bias need to be specified. This may have to include how a representative sample of interviewees were selected, according to which criteria, and according to which qualitative methodology, interview-based data was generated/ collected, processed and analysed.

(f) A **results section**. In the case of articles that are based on qualitative analysis, the author should make a critical comparative analysis of existing frameworks or models in similar research, or should use the principles of logic to derive and propose her/ his own model.

(g) An **interpretation of results** section; and

(h) a **conclusions and recommendations** section.

Position Papers

Position papers should take well-motivated stimulating positions on contentious issues within particular policy frameworks, in order to stimulate evidence-based debate about crucial aspects in the respective subject field or discipline. They should be written lucidly and display erudition regarding the issues under consideration.

What Counts as Evidence?

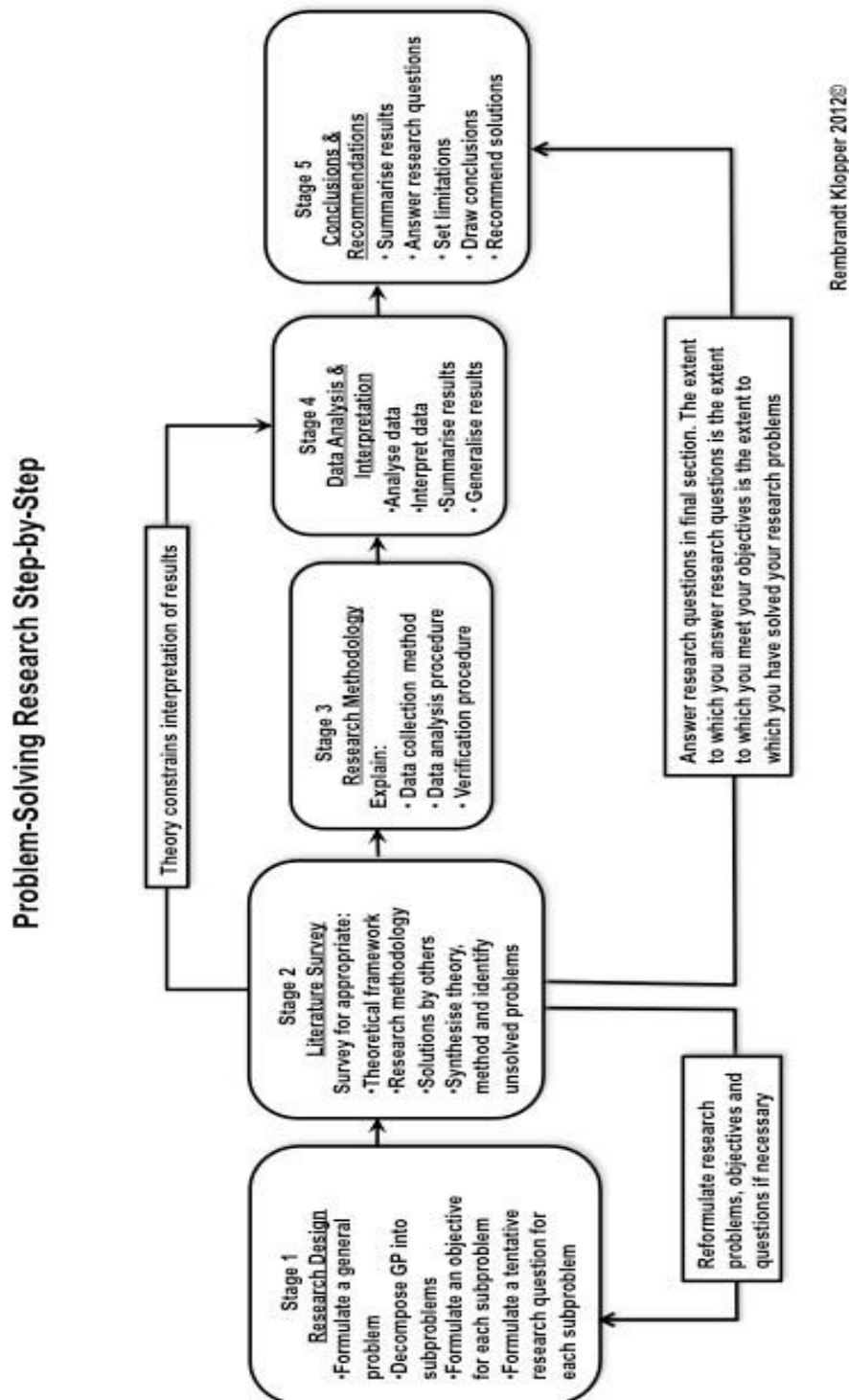
In any article there are three sources of evidence: primary and secondary data and data analysis and interpretation.

- a. *Primary data* that the author has collected, analysed and interpreted.
- b. Interpretation of *secondary data* that are already in the public domain, which was previously collected and analysed by other researchers, and which the author is subjecting to critical analysis. This could also entail a critical comparison of different data sets. This approach is commonly used in Finance and Economics.
- c. A *critical analysis* of and comparison with conclusions of other authors' results, or frameworks or models in the public domain.

*All assertions in the paper must be supported either by literature reviewed, or from one's own empirical results. Statements that rely on the standing/ prestige of a writer in her/ his scientific community do not count as evidence. They remain unsubstantiated assertions and will be subjected to the RoR rule by reviewers – **reference** the assertion **or remove** it.*

Below, we provide a flowchart of a sample of the processes outlined above and which we recommend prospective authors follow in their various approaches, if relevant at certain points in

the research process, but also in the actual analysis and interpretation of data and the authoring of the article.



Pull no white rabbits out of your research hat: It is not good practice to introduce new references in the results and conclusion sections of an article. The introduction of new references should be



limited to the problem statement, research design and literature review sections of an article. If a source is important to analyse or interpret one's own generated data, it is crucial that it be referenced, and discrepancies, conflicts of comparable findings and interpretation analysed, or have similar findings confirmed. These show how existing gaps in research have been filled.

If the abbreviation contains internal punctuation, form the plural with an apostrophe s:

Alternation conventions are: PhDs (for Ph.D.'s); MCSs for (M.C.S.'s); CPUs (for C.P.U.'s); and LANs, (for L.A.N.'s), for instance.

Peer Review Assessment Criteria and Process

Peer reviewers will use the following assessment matrix to score submissions, followed by brief subjective motivations of their assessments:

Please rate the aspects of the paper listed below: (5 = excellent, 1 = poor)		5	4	3	2	1	N/A
1	Appropriateness of abstract						
2	Relevance of keywords concepts provided						
3	Appropriateness of the research method						
4	Contribution to academic debate						
5	The relationship between theory and results						
6	Structure of the paper: coherence, progression, closure						
7	Discussion and conclusions						
8	Standard of academic English						
19	Relevance and clarity of drawings, graphs and tables						
10	Bibliography: relevance, comprehensiveness, accuracy						


Graphics and tables should be designed to be resizable and to fit on A-5 pages, in portrait or landscape orientation, and still be legible, with text in Times New Roman 11 point size. Tables and graphs should be integrated in the manuscript, provided with captions - and as separate files in *jpeg* or *bmp* format. Sources of all non self-authored or adapted graphics must be acknowledged in the captions.

Information about authors and their institutional affiliations: On the final page of the article indicate each contributor's details right aligned like shown below, repeated for each co-author:

(Title) First name and Surname
 Department/ School
 Faculty
 Institution
 City, Country
 E-mail address



Queries about publication status of articles that passed peer review

1. Our **peer review process** has been optimised to eliminate the writing of long subjective reviews, now consisting of the awarding a grade on a ten-point scale for each of about a dozen critical requirements, followed by a concise summary motivation of the review.
2. **Manuscripts** must be submitted electronically on *Alternation's* A-5 page format to Rembrandt Klopper (rklopper@gmail.com) in Ms. Word A5 format, on the template supplied. Submissions in other formats will not be considered. Do not include authors' publication histories.
3. On a separate document include the **telephone numbers, brief author biopics, ORCID iD number** and the **email address** of each contributor.
4. All successful authors receive one hard copy published journal issue, as per our website. Soon after the publication of journal, final copies of the journal issue will be emailed in PDF format to the author/s.
5. All articles must be submitted in the required **template** format to minimise reformatting during the final editing process.
6. **Formatting your article according to *Alternation's* formatting conventions:** If you have an already completed article in A4 format, the easiest way to convert it to *Alternation's* A5 template format, is to open both the article and template and to use Word's format painter (paintbrush icon ) to "paint" the format of headings and paragraphs used by *Alternation* from the template onto your document. You will end up with your document reformatted to *Alternation's* style sheet, except that it will still be in A4 format. Finally, inside the *Alternation* article template choose Edit> Select All to highlight and erase the content of the template. Then perform the Edit> Select All procedure in the A4 document to copy your reformatted A4 document.

Switch to the empty A5 template – which still contains the template's format characteristics – and paste your article into the required A5 format. Save your newly reformatted article according to the document naming convention: **Surname Alt ms.doc**, with your own surname in place of "Surname". In the case of two authors, use the "Surname X & Surname Y" naming convention. In case of more than three authors, use the surname of the lead author. Followed by "et al":

- Mazibuko Alt ms.doc (single author)
- Jones & Maharaj Alt ms.doc (two authors)
- Voljoen et al. Alt ms.doc (three or more authors)

Email your submission as an attachment to: rklopper@gmail.com. **The corresponding author must supply, as a separate Word document, a brief Author Biopic** for each author like the example provided below for publication in the front of the journal. Please note that no formal titles and academic ranks are used as part of author labels, on the front page of the article.

<p>James Randall obtained his PhD in Economics in 1987 at University of Cape Town, South Africa. He currently is a Professor at the Pan African University where he teaches Financial Statistics and Strategic Management. He spent the first 17 years of his career in the financial sector in South Africa as a risk manager. He subsequently held positions as Research Fellow at the University of Aberdeen and Associate Professor at the University</p>
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of Pretoria. He has published widely and was guest lecturer on Strategic Management at Antwerp University in the Netherlands in 1999 and 2006.

7. Entries in the **References** section should be free of any macro text elements because they interfere with the final format adjustments to documents. In the case of cited journal articles the page numbers of the article have to be indicated. Note that in the case of multiple authors only the lead author's surname precedes her/ his initials or full name. There are *no brackets around the year of publication, which should be followed by a full stop. Article titles are not put between quotation marks. Book and journal titles should be italicized. All journal references must include the volume and issue numbers, and pages of the article in the journal.*

(A DOI, or Digital Object Identifier, is a string of **numbers**, letters and symbols used to permanently and uniquely identify an article or document and link it on the web. A DOI will help your reader easily locate a document from your citation. library.uic.edu)

Sample Reference Entries

DoBE 2015. *Five-Year Strategic Plan*.

<http://www.education.gov.za/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=aVsPfd/u5u0=&tabid=889>

(Accessed on 12 August 2021.)

EFA 2015. *EFA Global Monitoring Report*.

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Traxler, J. & S. Vosloo 2014. Introduction: The Prospects for Mobile Learning. *PROSPECTS* 44,1: 13 - 28.

<https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s11125-014-9296-z> (Accessed on 12 August 2021.)

Woldu, G.E. 2009. *The Effective Use of Computers and Emerging Technologies for E-Education in Public Secondary Schools in Urban and Rural Communities of KwaZulu-Natal*. Unpublished MCom Dissertation, University of KwaZulu-Natal.

https://ukzn-dspace.ukzn.ac.za/bitstream/handle/10413/8008/Woldu_Ghebre%20E_2009.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y (Accessed on 12 August 2021.)

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "R. Klopper", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Rembrandt Klopper