

ABOUT THE POTRAZ ICT RESEARCH JOURNAL

FOCUS AND SCOPE

The POTRAZ ICT Research Journal (PICTRJ) is a peer-reviewed publication established by the Postal and Telecommunications Regulatory Authority Zimbabwe (POTRAZ). POTRAZ was established in terms of the country's Postal and Telecommunications Act Chapter 12:05 of 2001 and is also the designated Cyber and Data Protection Authority in Zimbabwe as per the Cyber and Data Protection Act Chapter 12:07 of 2021. As the national regulator, POTRAZ is dedicated to advancing research and development in Information and Communication Technology (ICT) and Data Protection, aligning with its mandates.

The PICTRJ invites contributions from researchers, academics, and practitioners worldwide. It seeks through rigorous peer review, the PICTRJ aims to ensure the highest standards of academic excellence. It provides valuable insights for policymakers, industry leaders, and the educational community. The journal aims to foster a wide range of research topics and shape the future development of ICT in Zimbabwe and beyond.

Editorial Policy:

POTRAZ adheres to the highest ethical standards in scholarly publishing. All submissions undergo a rigorous double blind peer review process to ensure the quality, originality, and significance of the research. The editorial board is committed to maintaining a fair and transparent review process.

Types of Submissions:

The PICTRJ considers a wide variety of submissions that include but not limited to original research papers: Presenting novel research findings and contributions to the field. Review articles: Providing comprehensive surveys of existing literature on specific topics. Technical reports: Describing practical implementations and case studies. Short communications: Reporting preliminary findings or significant results.

The PICTRJ invites submissions from a wide range of ICT-related disciplines, including: Computer science research articles such as Algorithms, data structures, software engineering, artificial intelligence, machine learning, computer networks, and distributed systems. We welcome Information systems research such as Information management, decision support



systems, knowledge management, ICT policy and e-commerce. We also welcome Telecommunications research such as Communication networks, wireless technologies, optical communications, and multimedia systems. Lastly but not least we invite papers on Human-computer interaction, i.e. user interface design, usability testing, and virtual reality as well as ICT applications: healthcare, agriculture, mining, education, business, and government.

FEE

The journal does not charge or pay authors to publish their work.

PEER REVIEW PROCESS

Internal Peer Review Process

Upon submission, all articles undergo an initial review by the Editorial Committee. The committee evaluates each submission to determine its suitability for the journal, considering factors such as relevance to the journal's scope, originality, and the quality of the research. Articles may be rejected at this stage if they do not meet the journal's standards or are similar to recently published work.

External Double Blind Peer Review Process

Selected articles are then subjected to a rigorous double-blind peer review, where the reviewers and authors remain anonymous. The peer review team, consisting of experts in the relevant fields, will carefully assess each manuscript's scientific validity, methodology, and contribution to the field. Reviewers are chosen based on their expertise and previous contributions to the journal.

Authors receive feedback with the following decisions: accepted as is; requires minor corrections; requires moderate revision; requires major revision; submit to another publication such as; or rejected. This thorough review ensures that the POTRAZ ICT Research Journal maintains high academic and research standards.

OPEN ACCESS POLICY

This journal offers immediate, open access to its content. This approach is based on the belief that freely sharing research findings helps foster greater global knowledge exchange and collaboration.



PLAGIARISM CHECK

All articles are verified by an anti-plagiarism software, Turnitin, before being submitted to the peer review process, and only those that do not exceed 15% of information taken from other sources are accepted.

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Professor Sam Takavarasha Jr is the POTRAZ ICT Research Journal's Editor-in-Chief and the Director Research Director of the Research Innovation Postgraduate Centre at Women's University of Africa. Before that, he served as the Dean of the Faculty of Management and Entrepreneurial Sciences at Women's University of Africa. He also worked as a senior lecturer in the Department of Information Systems after his postdoctoral fellowship at the University of Fort Hare, South Africa, in the Department of Information Systems. Sam acquired his PhD in Information Systems at the University of Zimbabwe, where he led three research consultancy projects and championed Zimbabwe's first e-learning virtual lecture project. He has also published many peer-reviewed academic papers and a book. His editorial experience includes being a special issue journal editor at the International Journal of Information Systems (IJISPM) and the Electronic Journal of Information Systems in Developing Countries (EJISDC) and IEOM Journal.



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Ms Fungai Nora Mukora is the Dean of the Faculty of Computer Engineering, Informatics, and Communications at the University of Zimbabwe (UZ). She holds a master's degree in computer science and is pursuing a PhD in Engineering. With over 15 years of experience, Fungai has significantly contributed to developing ICT education and digital transformation in Zimbabwe. Fungai holds leadership positions in the ICT Association of Zimbabwe and the POTRAZ ICT Journal Editorial Committee, and she serves on the board of Metbank. Her research interests include the Fourth Industrial Revolution, Digital Transformation, ICT Adoption, and the education needs of children during emergencies.



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Engineer Freddy Gweme is a seasoned professional in the ICT industry. He currently serves as the Director of ICT at the Scientific and Industrial Research and Development Centre (SIRDC) in Zimbabwe. His academic qualifications include a BSc (Eng) Hons, an MPhil in Computer Engineering, and an Executive MBA. With over two decades of experience, Eng F. Gweme has been instrumental in developing innovative ICT products and systems. His contributions to national e-waste management policy and his extensive publications in ICT underscore his expertise and influence in the field.



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Professor Philimon Nyamugure holds a PhD in Operations Research, an MSc in Operations Research and Statistics, BSc (Hons) in Applied Mathematics, and a Post Graduate Diploma in Higher Education. He is the Executive Dean-Faculty of Applied Science at the National University of Science Technology. He is a former Fulbright Research Award for African Scholars recipient, during which he developed a Data Science and Analytics programme. His research interests include the development of optimisation algorithms, statistical surveys, big data analytics, and analysing non-deterministic polynomial challenging problems.



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Professor Walter Matli is an associate professor at the University of South Africa Business School, specialising in ICT for Development (ICT4D). His research delves into critical issues such as the digital divide, ICT access and utilisation for development in African societies, remote working, AI in education and healthcare, digital work, and the challenges faced by young people not in education, employment, or training (NEETs). A strong advocate for harnessing technological advancements to drive Africa's development, Matli focuses on empowering disadvantaged communities, ensuring that rapid technological growth does not exacerbate societal inequalities.



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Dr Gardner Mwansa is a Senior Lecturer at Walter Sisulu University in South Africa. He specialises in agile methodologies, cloud computing, the Internet of Things (IoT), cybersecurity, and educational technology. His pioneering research focuses on integrating agile development with cloud environments to enhance adoption and utilisation in South Africa. Dr Mwansa's ongoing projects explore secure and efficient IoT deployment in resource-constrained environments.



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Professor Maxwell Sandada is a Professor of Business and Deputy Director of Research and Development at the Postal & Telecommunications Authority of Zimbabwe (POTRAZ), a distinguished scholar, global authority on Strategic Management and a technocrat with over seventeen (17) years of extensive experience including lecturing, research and publications, policy advisory and consultancy work in Strategy and Innovation. As an academic, he has supervised several Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) degrees to successful completion and several other postgraduate students in the field of Business. He has examined numerous doctoral theses (Ph.Ds.) and published extensively in the field of Business Management. He is an external examiner of many institutions in Zimbabwe and beyond.



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Dr. Gilford Hapanyengwi is currently the ICT Director at the Zimbabwe Council for Higher Education. Before that, he was at the University of Zimbabwe as the Director of ICT and lectured in various Computer Science and Information Systems-related courses. He has experience leading teams that have successfully rolled out solutions involving infrastructure, systems, people, and processes. He is a researcher who has published internationally, regionally, and locally in several fields that include Database Systems, Data Analytics, the Internet of Things, Information Systems, the Use of ICTs in teaching & learning, and the Use of ICTs in business.