Sabinet’s roots are in library support services, where it is recognised for providing central platforms for collaboration and resource sharing amongst libraries.
FRIENDLY
- Doing what we do with a smile.
- We are an accommodating bunch who are happy to be of service to our clients and each other.

RELIABLE
- Doing what we said we would do.
- By staying true to our word we build the trust - for our clients and among ourselves.

ENTHUSIASTIC
- Doing what we do with great energy.
- We realise that enthusiasm is infectious and that nothing great was ever achieved without a little enthusiasm from someone.

LOYAL
- The Sabinet family bond.
- Loyalty is what makes us a happy and proud family.

TIMEOUS
- Delivering on what we have to do in the said timeframe.
- We realise the importance of meeting deadlines and the impact they have on our clients.

The essence of any organisation is reflected in its values, in the depths of its being. If you know what is important to us, you will know who we are.
Over the past 30 years, our commitment to facilitating access to information has seen us flourish from providing purely library support services – central platforms for collaboration and resource sharing among libraries – to offering customised information-centric services for libraries, corporates, small businesses, students, the media and researchers.

The South African Bibliographic and Information Network, or Sabinet, was established in 1983 to provide a library network and a national union catalogue which would facilitate resource sharing among South African libraries.

The principles behind the establishment of the organisation were, and continue to be:
1. the system should be as simple as possible within the framework of a networked central library system,
2. participation in the network should be cost effective for libraries,
3. the purpose of the system should be to serve the user and not only the librarian,
4. the autonomy of local library systems and computer centres should always be taken into account,
5. the system should lend itself to the creation of a central database with high integrity, and
6. the central database should provide good coverage of materials in participating libraries.

In 1997, a new private company, Sabinet Online (Pty) Limited, was formed with the objective of addressing the changing needs of the online information community and to keep pace with the rapidly changing technology.

Sabinet Online functions in a business environment where the Internet and the World Wide Web have become integral to the delivery of information. There is greater focus on product development, client support and training, and marketing.

Our philosophy is to:
1. develop products and services that will ensure optimal satisfaction of clients’ needs,
2. offer our staff opportunities for personal growth and development, and
3. make a significant contribution to the development and upliftment of the South African community at large.

Solid partnerships have been a hallmark of our 30-year heritage as evident in our affiliation with OCLC (Online Computer Library Centre), a global membership computer library service and research organisation dedicated to furthering access to the world’s information and reducing information costs.
The management team

Mr Steven Venter
Manager: Finance and Administration

Mr Hennie Rautenbach
Manager: ICT

Mr Marco McKenzie
Manager: Systems Development

Ms Paula Miller
Manager: Human Resources

Ms Rosalind Hattingh
Managing Director

Ms Cathy Naidoo
Manager: Corporate Communications and Marketing

Ms Sanet Vos
Manager: Information Services

Mr Pierre Malan
Director: Client Services
We have built a well-deserved reputation for reliability, credibility, accuracy and relevance, both locally and internationally.

Our established client base includes a wide array of local and international libraries, as well as public and private organisations, who have all partnered with us over the years to design and implement customised solutions tailored to meet their specific needs. This partnership and the ongoing dialogue we develop with our clients is key to our success.

At Sabinet, we consult with our users to understand their day-to-day experience and expectations, developing new, and enhancing existing, product and service lines, so that they address real issues, challenges and needs.

In addition, our long-standing partnership with OCLC enables us to meet our vision of providing world-class products and services to libraries around the globe.

Our extensive local and global knowledge, combined with our ongoing research and development and our knowledgeable team of information experts, help us to anticipate what the future of information brings, to ensure that our clients are one step ahead of the curve, and stay up to date and relevant.

Company overview

As recognised leaders in the South African information industry, Sabinet has spent over three decades bringing the world’s information to Africa and Africa’s information to the world.

Our product and service range ensures that our clients:

- operate effectively and efficiently, minimising costs and optimising workflows;
- have easy access to credible, accurate and up-to-date information; and
- save costs by reducing the duplication of effort.
Our innovative library service offering includes collaborative cataloguing, interlending and end-to-end library management systems. Highly effective and easy to use, our library solutions provide an extensive range of services to all types of libraries, simplifying and streamlining processes and maximising cost efficiencies.
CATALOGUING & ACQUISITIONS

Sabinet offers cataloguing and acquisitions services for libraries, designed to simplify and support your collection development process. The SabiCat service encompasses a range of products and services that allow libraries to manage their electronic collections end to end, including: acquisitions, subscription management, automatic management of holdings and records in the library catalogue and accessibility to electronic resources.

RESOURCE SHARING

A web-based resource-sharing service for Southern African libraries, the ReQuest interlending service facilitates access to the resources hosted by libraries, by enabling borrowing and lending between institutions.

Our international interlending service connects your users to the collections of thousands of libraries through the largest interlibrary loan network in the world.

The Article Exchange document-sharing service provides a single, secure location where lending libraries worldwide can place requested documents and library users can retrieve articles or book chapters obtained for them via interlibrary loan.

LIBRARY MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS

A range of systems are available to manage all aspects of libraries’ workflows and collection management.

DIGITAL COLLECTION MANAGEMENT

Store, manage and track your electronic material easily. The process controls the life-cycle of all documents generated within your institution – how they are created, reviewed and published – and, longer term, how they are stored and preserved or disposed of.

DISCOVERY SERVICES

Enabling cutting edge research through the discovery of your libraries’ collections and those of libraries worldwide.

You can connect to more than 1.8 billion electronic, digital and physical resources with access to WorldCat and a central index of more than 2100 e-content collections representing 285 of the world’s top publishers. Borrow or connect to full text with integrated delivery options to choose from: link directly to full text, link to your OPAC, or borrow from another library.

AUTHENTICATION MANAGEMENT

Authentication is an important issue for libraries and information seekers. Where required we provide authorised access and remote access without obstacles.

VIRTUAL REFERENCE

QuestionPoint is a virtual reference management service that enables academic libraries to respond to enquiries in real-time using online chat and co-browsing.
As an aggregator and provider of African journal and South African legal content, we continuously source and make available new online content pertaining to, or originating from Africa. With new content and information made available as it is published, and an archive of electronic journals dating back over a century, users are able to access cross-referenced material from the convenience of their desktop, laptop, tablet or mobile device. Comprised of a massive database of bibliographic and citation references, legal information, news archives and a growing collection of more than 500 aggregated premier African journals and publications, it is one of the largest and most easily accessible collections of its kind today.
LEGAL INFORMATION SERVICES
Sabinet is one of the leading suppliers of online legal information in South Africa, providing an assortment of reliable, up-to-date and accurate legal information services. This user-friendly legal service offers easy Google-like search functionality as well as intuitive menu options to assist users in finding their required information as quickly as possible. Services offered include:
- South African Online Legislation service (NetLaw)
- Bill Tracker and Parliamentary Documents
- Provincial Legislation (Provincial NetLaw)
- Cabinet Monitoring Services
- Cabinet Legal Registers
- Municipal By-Laws
- Sabinet Labour

ONLINE JOURNALS
Sabinet African Journals has been available online with great success since 2001. This service is the most comprehensive, searchable collection of full-text African electronic journals available on one platform which focuses on information originating from or pertaining to Africa.
African Journals offers more than 500 African journals, including the African Journal Archive. It is not only the largest collection of its kind, but also easy to use.

SA GAZETTES
The South African Government & Provincial Gazette is an easily-accessible online collection of South African gazetted information. Sabinet offers timeous online access to up-to-date board notices, legislation, regulations, proclamations, deceased estates, legal notices, liquor notices, liquidations and road carrier permits. The collection is updated daily and includes complete Government and Provincial Gazettes from 1994 to date, as well as Parliamentary Bills from 1999. SA Gazettes is further complemented by Retrospective Gazettes, which contain the Government Gazettes from 1910 to 1993.

NEWS RESEARCH SERVICES
Sabinet offers a comprehensive online news research service to meet the diverse needs of public and government libraries, universities, various private and government institutions as well as researchers. Using these online resources, you can explore over a million searchable, current and archived, full-text news articles. Our News Research Services comprises of SA Media and African News Agency.

THESES AND DISSERTATIONS
The collection comprises the African Digital Repository and current and completed research. The current and completed research database provides information on approximately 150,000 South African current and completed research projects, including theses and dissertations.

AFRICAN STUDIES COLLECTION
The African Studies Collection is a comprehensive collection of a wide range of specialist journal, media and legislative content emanating from the African continent.

ONLINE TENDERS
An agreement with TradeWorld Business allows us to provide subscribers with access to all formal tender advertisements, either published or received by TradeWorld Business. This includes tenders issued by municipalities, government, semi-government and the private sector.

SPECIALISED REFERENCE DATABASES
Sabinet’s Specialised Reference Databases are easily accessible online or via your intranet by means of login code or IP authentication and comprises SA Citations, SACat Plus and the African Digital Repository.

THE DIGITISATION OF EVERYTHING
With over two decades of knowledge gained from managing our own digitisation projects, and those of clients, the team at Sabinet has extensive experience in specialised and customised digitisation services that can help make content in just about any format available electronically.
We are able to truly participate in the upliftment of our country through a number of activities and projects made possible by our Chairperson’s Fund.

We focus on promoting and supporting community development by working with organisations that specialise in our operational areas, and by motivating our employees to increase their involvement in social responsibility initiatives. We have also opted to focus on a select number of established and well-run non-profit organisations (NPOs).

We have recently extended our focus to include projects that concentrate on improving library infrastructure through the supply of ICT equipment or services to community libraries in South Africa.

Here are some of the initiatives the Sabinet Chairperson’s Fund has supported recently:

- Programme for Technological Careers (Protec), based in Atteridgeville, Tshwane, this programme aims to assist learners in pursuing careers in the so-called STEM subjects of science, technology, engineering and maths.
- Adult Basic Education and Training, in partnership with Tshwane Community Library and Information Services, we offer an annual tutoring programme that accommodates approximately 100 adult learners in a basic literacy course.
- Mzansi Libraries Online, a project that aims to supply ICT infrastructure to community libraries, enabling them to transform and redefine the services they offer.
- Bibionef, supported on an ongoing basis, is an innovative book donation non-profit organisation that provides children from underprivileged communities with access to children’s books.
- Sabinet is a proud member of Nation Builder - helping to build a better South Africa.
The value of Sabinet

Sabinet proudly partners with libraries to find solutions that enable them to operate cost-effectively, productively and efficiently.