Embedded in online learning VRM 811

Research Methodology

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Embedded Librarianship Seminar
31 October 2012

Purpose of VRM 811

- To equip candidates with the ability to:

1. Professionally plan and undertake a research project

2. Collect and analyse data

3. Apply a scientific style of writing in the presentation of research

4. Prepare effective oral presentations

5. Write successful grant applications

VRM 811 before 2005

- Prof Boomker / Penzhorn module co-ordinators
- Post Graduate Stuc
- Compulsory modul
- Library training
- Students just listen
- No hands-on exper
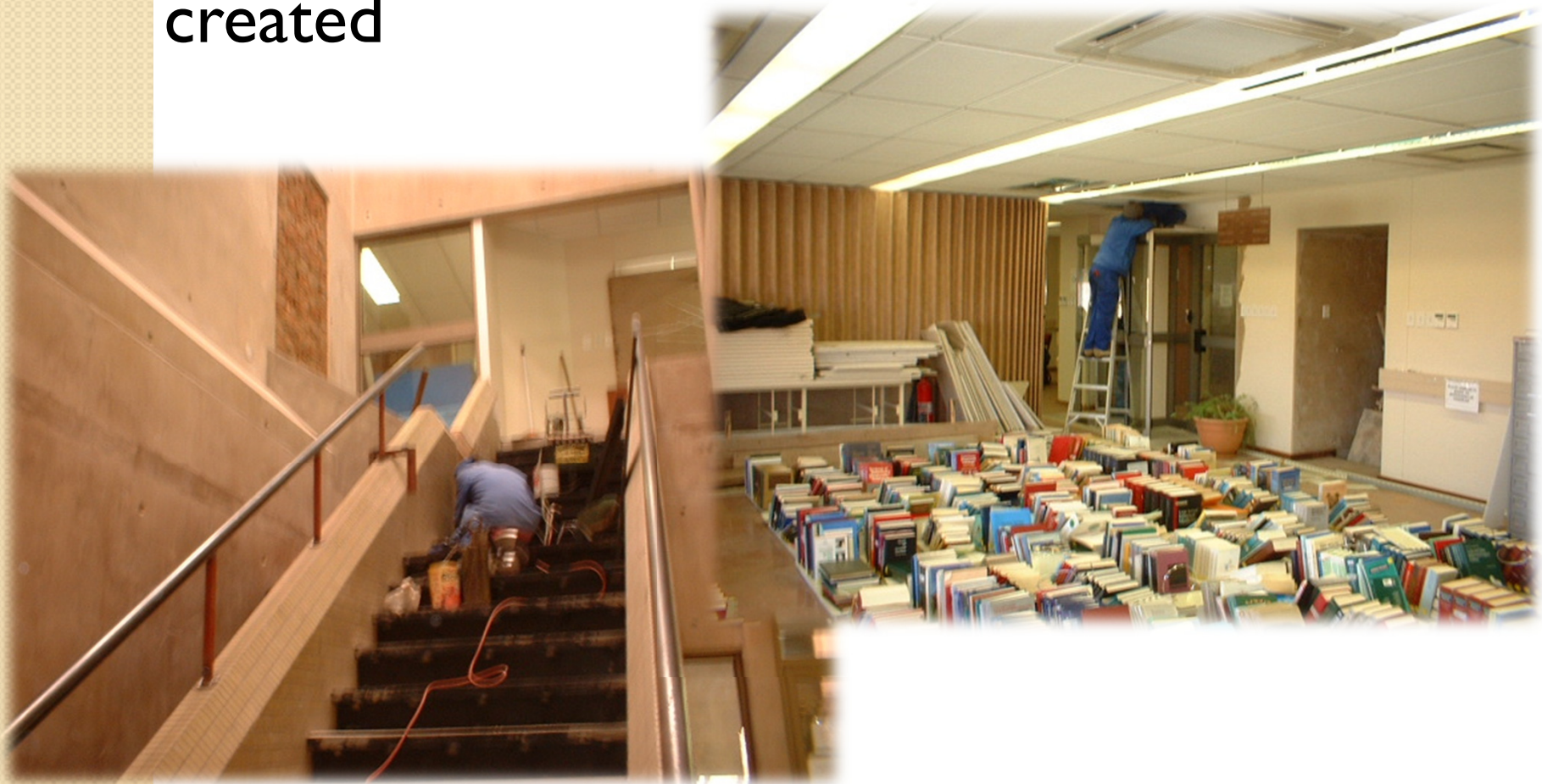
VRM 811 before 2005

- In 2002 a new Computer Laboratory was created

VRM 811 before 2005

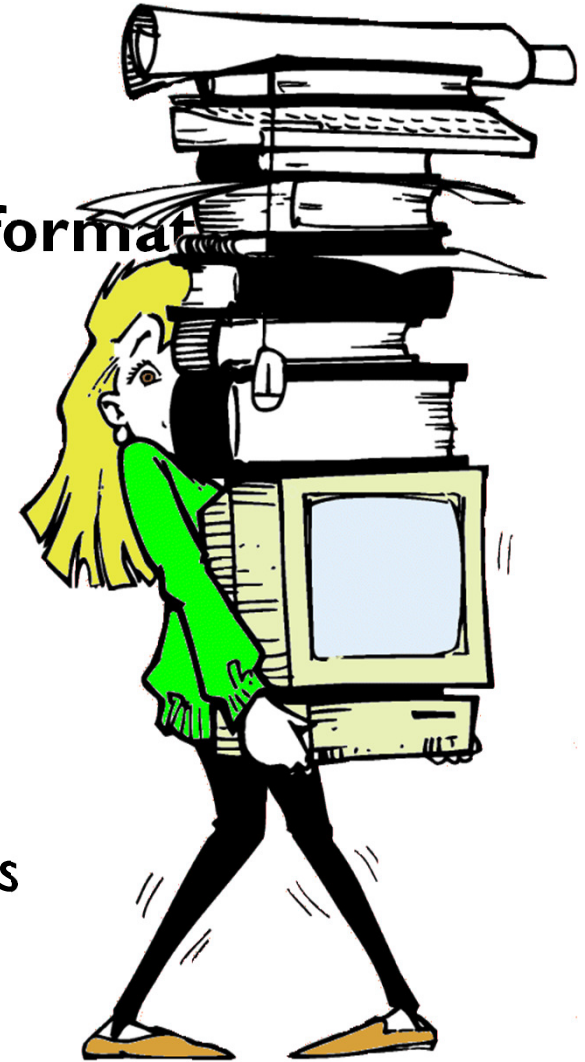- 2003 & 2004 computer lab available - much better

2005 ClickUP !

- In 2004 for starting in 2005
- Visit from Prof Boomker
- Erica and I compiled a study component for the library
  - **Purpose**
  - **Learning outcomes and assessment criteria**
  - **Activities**
  - **Learning resources**

- VRM 811 – 7 Outcomes and 8 Assignments

VRM 811: 2005 -

- Outcome 1: "On being a scientist"

- **Outcome 2: Retrieve and manage informat**

- Outcome 3: Experimental design

- Outcome 4: Scientific writing

- Outcome 5: The research protocol

- Outcome 6: Oral and poster presentations

- Outcome 7: Grantsmanship

VRM 811: 2005 -

- 8 Assignments
- **Assignment #1**
- Submit a brief outline (not more than one page) of the envisaged research. This should include a brief statement on the methods to be employed. Mention the name of your supervisor. (Note: this assignment is compulsory, but will not be graded. IF YOU DO NOT SUBMIT THIS OUTLINE BY THE SPECIFIED DEADLINE, YOU WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO CONTINUE WITH THE MODULE.)

- **Assignment #2**
- Study the case reports in "On being a scientist.pdf".
  - ◦ Discussion 2.1 and 2.2 Study the case reports in "On being a scientist". Take part in the two online discussion sessions as scheduled in the Course Schedule.

Assignment #3:

- Study the PowerPoints on how to use CAB Abstracts, Medline, Zoological Record, Wildlife & Ecology Studies Worldwide and Refworks.

  - Tasks 3.1 – Do a literature search on the above mentioned databases. Select some references and export it to Refworks but also mail it to me

  - Task 3.2 – Create a lists of the references exported to Refworks

  - Task 3.3 Use the provided paragraph and insert about 7-10 citations from your Refworks folder. Create a bibliography at the end of the paragraph

  - Task 3.4 Visit the UPeTD website and list 2 theses / dissertations done in the VTD dept.

Assignment #4

- Study the two sets of course notes provided, the two published papers and submit the answers to the set of questions supplied.

- **Assignment #5**
- A reference list will be provided. The list has to be redrafted in the format stipulated by three other scientific journals:
  - Journal of the South African Veterinary Association
  - Onderstepoort Journal of Veterinary Research
  - Veterinary Parasitology.

- **Assignment #6**
- Prepare a protocol for your proposed research, according to the specified format.
  - ◦ Written assignment 6.1 (Stage gate 1): Submit a first draft of the protocol.
  - ◦ Written assignment 6.2 (Stage gate 2): Submit the final version of the protocol.
  - ◦ Format of the protocol: Is supplied in study guide

- **Assignment #7**
- Prepare a PowerPoint presentation of your protocol, as it would be presented for discussion in an open forum. The presentation must not exceed 4MB in size.
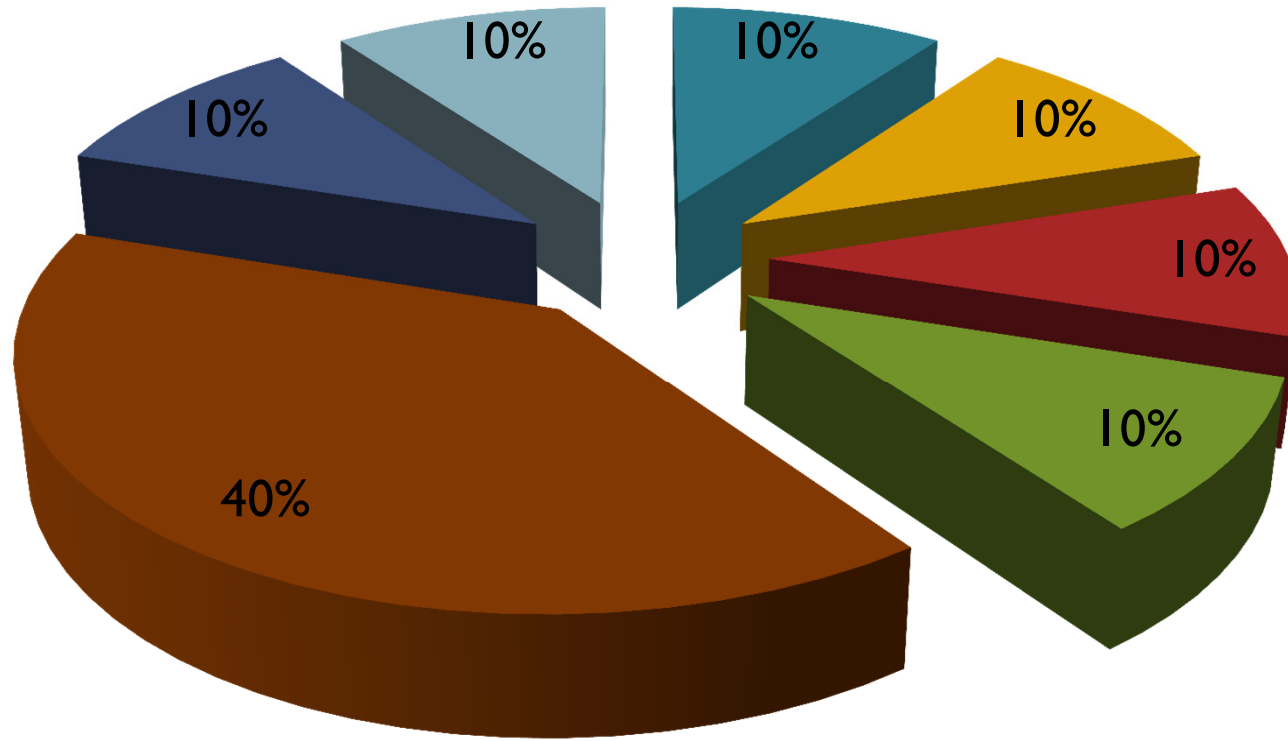
Assignment #8

- Visit the website of the International Foundation for Science (www.ifs.se). Scroll down to "Apply for a research grant". Click on "How to apply" and study the requirements.

- Download the application form to your computer. Fill in the application form – make sure that you provide all the detail required. DO NOT SUBMIT THE APPLICATION FORM TO IFS!

- Upload the completed application form

- Submit a list of ten requirements for a successful grant application.

Allocation of marks

- Discussion 2
- Library assignment 3
- Written assignment 4.1
- Written assignment 5.1
- Written assignment 6.2
- PowerPoint presentation 7.1
- Written assignment 8.1

Teething problems

- Students had register manually with the library
- Slow Internet access
- No electricity
- Computer literacy
- Language barriers

Solutions

- Automatic registration with the library
- Provide students with a CD
- Computer literacy is a prerequisite

Lecturers involved in 2012

- Dr Henriette van Heerden Module co-ordinator
- Dr D Knobel
- Ms Antoinette Lourens
- Dr Darshana Morar
- Prof Marinda C Oosthuizen
- Prof Banie L Penzhorn
- Dr Melvyn Quan
- Dr Kgomotso Sibeko

Student numbers

VRM 811				
	1st semester		2nd semester	
Year	Degree	CE@UP	Degree	CE@UP
2005	15		29	4
2006	39		13	3
2007	47	20	22	16
2008	43	35	15	
2009	33		9	
2010	27		15	
2011	24		21	
2012	32		19	
Total	260	55	143	23

Countries of origin

Cyprus · South Africa · Germany · Sudan · Mozambique · Namibia · Zimbabwe · Saudi Arabia · United Kingdom · Dem Rep Congo · Netherlands · Swaziland · Kenya