

Welcome messages



Prof N P J Kriek

Dean of the Faculty of Veterinary Science, University of Pretoria

It gives me great pleasure to welcome you to our Onderstepoort campus for this special 4-day Conference. As information specialists you represent an essential part of veterinary medicine worldwide, namely the libraries. The veterinary student, lecturer, researcher, and practitioner need your expertise and your library's information sources collections to optimise their learning, teaching and research output and their continuing professional development.

Universities throughout the world are being urged to promote research endeavours. Accreditation practices play an increasing role to enable them to offer quality teaching and research to students and their communities. The library forms an integral part of the accreditation process, recognised by all as a critical factor in how the institution is evaluated.

Ensuring access to relevant information is your most valued role. The Electronic Age has increased the amount of information at our disposal enormously. We have numerous databases of references covering all possible animal health topics as well as the Googles and Yahoos of the World Wide Web. But there is one obstacle, especially for us here in Africa, and that is the problem of inadequate bandwidth. This is a challenge that must be resolved.

On behalf of the Faculty of Veterinary Science, University of Pretoria I wish you a most successful Conference, with much fruitful networking, to share knowledge and learn from each other's experience and expertise.